

SOAC Accountability review of comments, Johannesburg, Jun-2017

Link to our public comment page: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/soac-accountability-2017-04-14-en>

Link to our report: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ccwg-acct-ws2-draft-recs-improve-soac-accountability-29mar17-en.pdf>

On Slide 4: summary of recommendations posted for pub comment.

Note the published report was shaped by discussion at our March plenary in Copenhagen. highlights:

Clarify we are looking only at activities within ICANN, so we are not looking at NRO and IETF outside of ICANN.

For best practices instead of saying "should consider", we say "should implement, to the extent these practices are applicable and an improvement..."

Suggest that future ATRTs may examine the extent to which best practices have been implemented.

Recommend an optional mutual accountability roundtable at annual general meetings, at the option of SO/AC chairs.

Add 5 examples of reasons to close a meeting to public observation

Make best practices more consistent regarding meeting notes and minutes

Add the dimension of diversity to outreach best practices.

And, the call for Public Comment included this explanation:

Note: A minority of CCWG members prefer that the optional annual Accountability Roundtable discussion described on page 32 be expanded to include "mutual" accountability, where each SO/AC is held accountable to the other SO/ACs.

Slides 6,7, and 8 explore qualified support:

Slide 6: ATRT to review imp of Best Practices?

Board was among those not supporting this, and suggested it be done in Org Reviews (apply to all SOACs, except the GAC)

Slide 7: Track 1 on reporting

(p.6) SO/AC/Groups publish an annual report on how they improved accountability, transparency, and participation.

Slide 8: Track 1 on meeting transparency.

Slide 9: Track 2 (Accountability Roundtable)

that ICANN meeting planning staff take the following steps prior to each Annual General Meeting (AGM): (p. 9)

ICANN staff should ask the chairs of all SO/ACs whether they want to hold an Accountability Roundtable to discuss SO/AC accountability.

If a majority of SO/AC chairs agree, ICANN staff would schedule a 90-minute public session at the next AGM, open to all SO/AC/Group chairs, and joined by ICANN CEO and Board Chair. The ICANN board chair would designate a moderator for the session.

Slide 10: track 3 (IRP)

Board agrees IRP not a good fit, and asks about other means.

Our report (p. 11) said “there are easier alternative ways to challenge an AC or SO action or inaction, such as an Ombudsman complaint.” → outside review recommendations.

Slide 11: Next Steps

Final note: ICANN Board:

Acknowledges our strong focus on indiv SO/ACs, but “lesser focus on accountability of the collective SOACs”, when acting as the Empowered Community.

EC Decisional Participants should be accountable to the community as a whole, not just their respective SO/AC.

3 Rapporteurs do not agree with the board on that perspective, and will discuss with our sub-team.

Welcome board members attending to provide ideas for how this might be done.