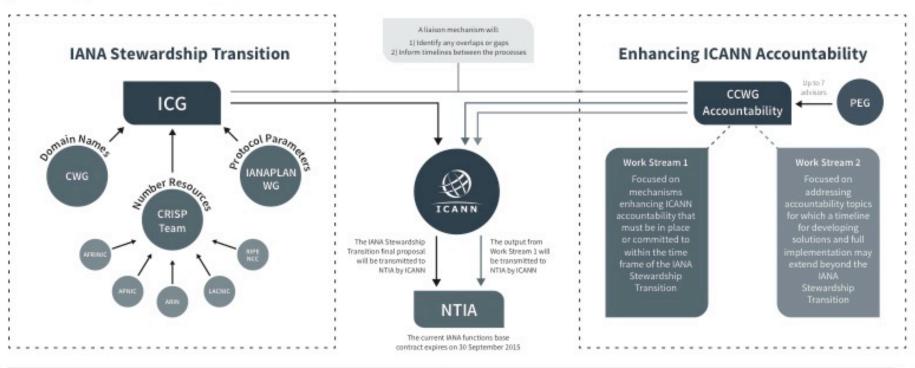




## High Level Overview of the IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability Processes



### Assessing accountability within the two processes

#### IANA Stewardship Transition Final Proposal

Assessment of each operational community's respective oversight and accountability to the IANA functions

#### **Enhancing ICANN Accountability Process**

Assessment of ICANN's accountability in light of its changing historical relationship with the U.S. Government

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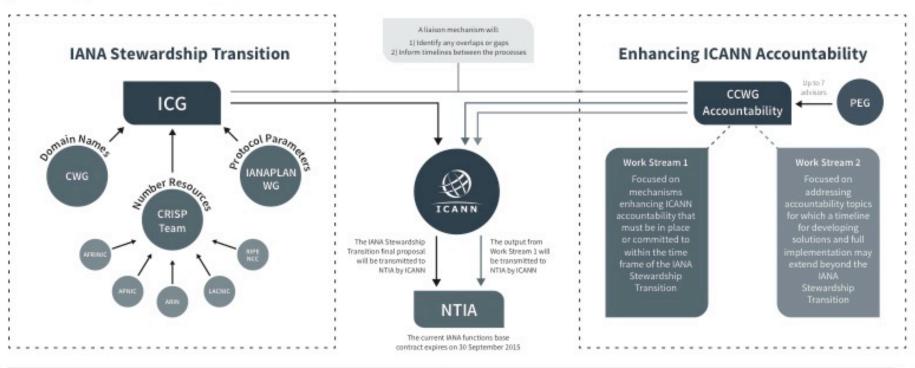
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# ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE IANA TRANSITION

REMARKS FOR

ICANN 52

SINGAPORE, 8 FEBRUARY 2015

JAN SCHOLTE

## **CONTEXT OF THESE REMARKS**

- (unpaid) (academic) advisor on accountability issues in the IANA transition
- driven by intellectual curiosity plus 'third mission' vocation
- not an Internet or ICANN expert
- aim to promote clear, reflective, creative thinking on accountability

# TWO CORE QUESTIONS

Track 1: How can accountability for the execution of IANA functions be best constructed for the post-NTIA circumstance?

Track 2: How far are answers to '1' bound up with wider issues of accountability in global Internet governance?

# NINE SUB-QUESTIONS

- 1. What is accountability?
- 2. What makes up accountability?
- 3. What purpose does accountability serve? What do you want it to achieve?
- 4. Who is accountable?

# **NINE SUB-QUESTIONS**

- 5. To whom are they accountable?
- 6. Through what mechanisms?
- 7. How effective are the mechanisms?
- 8. How equitable are the mechanisms?
- 9. How accountable are those who exact accountability?

# 1. What Is Accountability?

processes whereby the IANA contract holder answers to affected people for the ways that it does (or does not) fulfil the IANA functions

# 2. What Comprises Accountability?

How well do new governance arrangements for IANA functions incorporate transparency, consultation, review, redress?

# 2. What Comprises Accountability?

- more on review and redress than transparency and consultation = happy with existing T & C?
- review and redress are about learning as well as punishment

# 2. What Comprises Accountability?

- 'checks & balances' and 'independence'
- more desired qualities of accountability processes rather than core components of accountability itself

## 3. Accountability for What Purpose?

# For what is the IANA contract holder held to account?

- legal and procedural compliance?
- technical delivery?
- financial management?

## 3. Accountability for What Purpose?

- democratic participation and control?
- distributive justice?
- moral probity (e.g. human rights)?
- other ends?
- relative priorities among the aims?

# 4. Accountability by Whom?

Who is/will be responsible for the IANA functions?

- ICANN
- Another Entity?
- If ICANN, who within ICANN?

# 5. Accountability to Whom?

Who is the IANA contract holder's public; into what constituencies does it fall?

- commercial actors (entrepreneurs)
- civil society associations (advocates)
- governing bodies (rulers)
- individuals (users)

## 6. Accountability by What Mechanisms?

What (combination of) mechanism(s) can best advance accountability for IANA functions?

- hegemonic veto (USG/NTIA)
- intergovernmentalism (ITU or new IGO)
- direct election by netizens (2001)

## 6. Accountability by What Mechanisms?

- multistakeholder arrangements (but in what form?)
- outside deliberation and mobilization
- judiciary (e.g. court, inspection panel, ombudsperson)

## 7. Effective Mechanisms?

How far will the accountability arrangements for IANA functions deliver the desired types, degrees and outcomes of transparency, consultation, review and redress for the various stakeholders?

# 8. Equitable Mechanisms?

How well do the accountability arrangements for IANA functions include all interests and balance them fairly?

preferences regarding accountability are connected to identities, interests and power, which are inevitably diverse and conflicting

# 8. Equitable Mechanisms?

- talk of an 'ICANN Community' and 'the public interest' can mask divergences of needs and priorities?
- talk of 'bottom-up' processes 'on an equal footing' can mask exclusions and hierarchies of power?

# 8. Equitable Mechanisms?

- who is and is not in the 'ICANN Community'?
- uneven accountability on lines of country, region, language, nationality, class, gender, race, faith, age, disability, sexuality, etc.?
- where are the 58%?

# 9. Accountability of Accountability?

 How are those who seek to make the IANA contract holder accountable themselves answerable for their (in)actions?

 transparency, consultation, review and redress of those who (claim to) represent affected publics

# 9. Accountability of Accountability?

- unpacking 'representation', 'members', 'delegates'
- > speaking for (explicitly mandated)
- > speaking as (claiming certain credentials)
- > speaking with (how deeply and systematically)
- > speaking about (on what grounds)

# 9. Accountability of Accountability?

How to forge accountability of the 'ICANN Community' to the wider 'global community' of current and prospective Internet users?

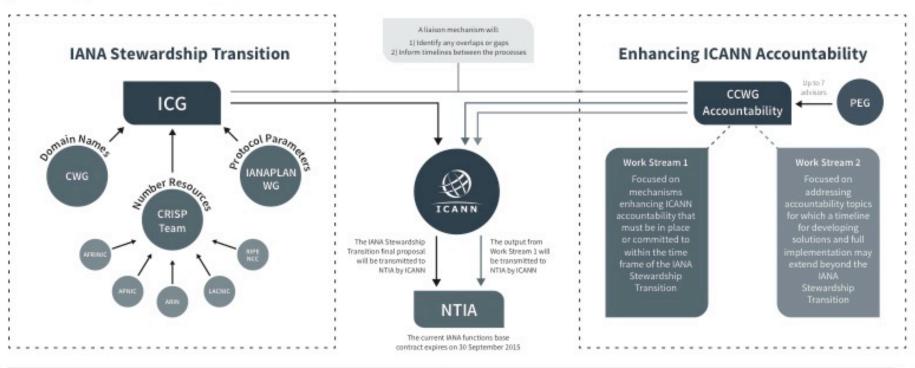
## CONCLUSION

## **GOOD DELIBERATIONS!**

GOOD LUCK!



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