**Questions to be sent to SO/ACs**

**Preamble**

The newly-adopted ICANN bylaws created several Work Stream 2 accountability subgroups.  The subgroup on SO/AC Accountability is responsible for reviewing how each SO and AC is accountable to its designated community, and potentially to global Internet stakeholders as well.  The background and progress for this group are described [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WTRZZJ9B3Q6BHP6AlDHmoiep8NeshNpomBNM4bBXYpA/edit?ts=57ba7a43).

The new Bylaws charge our subgroup with reviewing and developing recommendations relating to "Supporting Organization and Advisory Committee accountability, including but not limited to improved processes for accountability, transparency, and participation that are helpful to prevent capture”. Moreover, the CCWG-Accountability has recommended that the group “Develop a detailed working plan on enhancing SO and AC accountability taking into consideration the comments made during the public comment period on the Third Draft Proposal.”

To that end, we are asking each AC and SO chair to point us to resources and documents used to maintain accountability to your respective designated community, taking into account the particular or specific working modalities of each SO/AC (and any subgroups).

**Questions** (please respond to all that are applicable to your AC/SO/subgroup)**:**

**Designated Community:**

What is your interpretation of the designated community for your AC/SO, as defined in the ICANN Bylaws and shown below? For example, do you view your designated community more broadly or narrowly than the Bylaws definition?

The designated community of each AC/SO, as defined in ICANN bylaws:

ALAC is “the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual internet users”

ASO is "the entity established by the Memorandum of Understanding [2004] between ICANN and the Number Resource Organization (“NRO”), an organization of the existing RIRs"

ccNSO is "ccTLD managers that have agreed to be members of ccNSO”

GAC is “open to all national governments (and Distinct Economies upon invitation)”

GNSO is "Open to registries, registrars, commercial stakeholders (BC, IPC, ISPCP), and non-commercial stakeholders"

RSSAC "members shall be appointed by the Board” to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet’s Root Server System"

SSAC members are "appointed by ICANN board” to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the Internet’s naming and address allocation systems.”

Answer:

NCUC is part of only one stakeholder group (the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group). Its bylaws section I(B) defines the NCUC’s purpose as: to provide a voice and representation in ICANN processes to non-profit organizations and individuals that serve non-commercial interests and provide services such as education, community organizing, promotion of the arts, public interest policy advocacy, children’s welfare, religion, scientific research, human rights and the advancement of the Internet as a global communications system for all segments of society.

**Accountability related policies and procedures:**

What are the published policies and procedures by which your AC/SO is accountable to the designated community that you serve? Please include, as applicable:

Your questions overlook the single most important aspect of NCUC accountability, namely the fact that we hold annual elections for Chair and Executive Committee members, All appointed offices are also renewed annually. This means that there is a very regular and process for renewing or replacing elected officers. Leaders who are out of touch with or unresponsive to the membership can be dismissed quickly and easily. NCUC has the highest degree of geographic and gender diversity in its elected officials and its membership of all the GNSO constituencies, and there is a high degree of change in its leadership.

* Your policies and efforts in outreach to individuals and organizations in your designated community who do not yet participate in your AC/SO.

NCUC’s membership has tripled in the last 8 years and is still growing, unlike certain other user constituencies. We customarily do the following with regards to outreach:

* + Outreach events before each ICANN meeting
  + Brochures in different languages
  + Exhibitions and booths in various events
  + Maintain a web site
  + Participation in Internet governance related civil society email lists and events, such as the WSIS Internet governance caucus list
* Your policies and procedures to determine whether individuals or organizations are eligible to participate in your meetings, discussions, working groups, elections, and approval of policies and positions.

Answer:

* + Our policies and procedures for membership eligibility are stated in section III of the NCUC bylaws. Any organization or individual that becomes an NCUC member will be able to get involved with all policy matters discussed at NCUC, working groups etc. <http://www.ncuc.org/governance/bylaws/>
  + Each membership application is individually vetted by the NCSG executive committee. There are also new procedures in the recently amended bylaws to ensure that organizations or individuals whose eligibility status changes can be removed if appropriate.
* Transparency mechanisms for your AC/SO deliberations, decisions and elections. Please describe not only your disclosure practices, but also any efforts that you make to explain the meaning of released material, so that they are more effectively transparent to a wider range of stakeholders.

Answer

### All of our deliberations, decisions and discussions take place on mailing lists with open archives, and are accessible for everyone. The chair of NCUC can decide to have closed meetings in accordance to Section XI of the bylaws.

* Does your AC/SO conduct internal reviews of your accountability related policies and procedures?
  + NCUC just conducted a major review and revision of its bylaws. The process started almost two years ago, involved a major redrafting and finally approval by a supermajority of the membership. W
* Were these policies and procedures reviewed and/or updated over the past decade? If so, could you clarify if they were updated to respond to specific community requests/concerns?
  + See above. NCUC just conducted a major review and revision of its bylaws in its late November-early December 2016 elections

**Mechanisms for challenging or appealing elections:**

- Does your AC/SO have mechanisms by which your members can challenge or appeal decisions and elections? Please include any links where these mechanisms can be consulted.

* Yes, see section XX.XX of the new bylaws.

**Any unwritten policies related to accountability:**

- Does your AC/SO maintain unwritten policies that are relevant to this exercise? If so, please describe as specifically as you are able.