

ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

This Accountability Framework ("AF") is between:

STICHTING INTERNET DOMEINREGISTRATIE NEDERLAND, an organisation incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, with its registered seat in Arnhem, Netherlands 'SIDN',

And

THE INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS, hereinafter referred to as 'ICANN',

jointly to be referred to as: 'parties' and individually to be referred to as: 'party'.

A. Recitals

1. The parties want to demonstrate their commitment to further enhancing the stability, security and interoperability of the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS) from a global perspective and for the benefit of the local and global Internet community in an evolutionary manner on the basis of a peer relationship.
2. The .nl Top Level Domain is being run on behalf of the Netherlands local Internet community since 1986, and has been delegated to SIDN since 1996. SIDN is a non-profit, private foundation, based in the Netherlands, which executes its operation on behalf of its local Internet community.
3. Following its commitment to its local Internet community, SIDN performs functions regarding the stability and interoperability of the DNS, amongst which:
 1. Maintaining and keeping maintained name servers for the .nl domain;
 2. Generating updates to .nl zone file when changes occur and propagate those changes to all public authoritative name servers for the .nl domain; and
 3. Ensuring continued and stable domain name system interoperability with the global Internet.
4. ICANN is a public benefit non-profit corporation formed in 1998 and ICANN is responsible for providing technical-coordination functions for the management of the system of unique identifiers of the global Internet, including the DNS. Among ICANN's responsibilities is to oversee operation of the Internet's Authoritative Root Server System. As part of ICANN's responsibilities ICANN enters and maintains data in the Authoritative Root database and generates updates of the root zone file.
5. ICANN:
 - a) Coordinates the allocation and assignment of the three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet, which are:
 1. domain names (forming a system referred to as "DNS");
 2. Internet protocol ("IP") addresses and autonomous system ("AS") numbers; and
 3. Protocol port and parameter numbers.
 - b) Coordinates the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system.
 - c) Coordinates policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions.

B. Mutual Acknowledgement

1. **Acknowledgement of SIDN.** ICANN acknowledges that, independently from this AF, SIDN is the manager and sponsoring organization of the .nl Top Level Domain, and as such is responsible to its local Internet community for maintaining and keeping the .nl Top Level Domain stable and globally interoperable in a manner that is consistent with SIDN's Mission and Core Values as reflected in its bylaws, subject to national law of the Netherlands.
2. **Acknowledgement of ICANN.** SIDN acknowledges that ICANN is the entity responsible for maintaining and keeping the root of the Internet DNS stable and globally interoperable in a manner that is consistent with ICANN's Mission and Core Values as reflected in its bylaws.

C. Commitments

1. Commitments of ICANN.

ICANN shall use its best endeavours to:

- a) **Authoritative-Root Database** maintain a stable, secure, and authoritative publicly available database of relevant information about .nl, the Delegated country code Top Level Domain, in accordance with ICANN's publicly available policies and procedures. The Authoritative Root Database shall contain, and will be limited to information for the public authoritative name servers for .nl, contact information for .nl, the designated administrative contact(s), and the designated technical contact(s) as notified to ICANN;
- b) **Update of Name Server Information** implement on notification by SIDN a change to the domain name or IP address(es) of the name servers for .nl as recorded in the Authoritative-Root Data for .nl in the Authoritative-Root Database according to ICANN's publicly available policies and procedures. The initial format and technical requirements for such a change are set out in ICANN's publicly available policies and procedures;
- c) **Publication of Root-zone Whois Information** publish data maintained in the Authoritative Root Database about .nl which shall include at least the names of SIDN as the Sponsoring Organization, the administrative contact(s), the technical contact(s), and the domain names and IP addresses of the authoritative name servers for the domain;
- d) **Operation of Authoritative Root Server System** coordinate the Authoritative Root Server System so that it is operated and maintained in a stable and secure manner; and cause the Authoritative Root Server System to publish DNS resource records delegating the Top Level Domain .nl to the name servers recorded in the Authoritative Root Database and to inform the named administrative contact(s) and technical contact(s) of the published changes to the name servers for .nl.
- e) **Maintenance of Authoritative Records and Audit Trail** maintain authoritative records and an audit trail regarding changes to .nl delegations and records related to those delegations and shall inform SIDN of the status of a requested change related to .nl in accordance with the policies, procedures and format as made publicly available by ICANN; and
- f) **Notification of Contact Changes** notify SIDN of any changes to ICANN's contact information no later than seven days after the change becomes effective.

2. Commitments of SIDN.

SIDN shall use its best endeavours to:

- a) **Provision of zone file data for .nl** generate regular updates of the .nl zone file data in compliance with relevant standards as set out in paragraph c) and subject to and within the limits of relevant national law and national public policy.
- b) **Provision of Name Service for .nl** operate and maintain, the authoritative name servers for .nl in a stable and secure manner, adequate to resolve names within the .nl domain by users throughout the Internet and in compliance with relevant standards as set out in paragraph c) and subject to and within the limits of relevant national law and national public policy.
- c) **Compliance with standards** comply with all Standards Track RFCs, as published in the IETF RFC library. Additionally SIDN shall take into account as guidance Best Current Practice RFCs and Informational RFCs, as published in the IETF RFC library.
- d) **Accuracy and Completeness of Information** notify ICANN, through ICANN's designated point of contact of:
 1. any change of the contact information of its administrative or technical contact(s), and
 2. any change to the administrative and /or technical contact details about .nl in the Authoritative-Root Database no later than seven days after the change becomes effective. The administrative contact for .nl must be directly associated with SIDN and must reside in the territory of the Netherlands during the entire period he or she is designated as such.

3. Financial Contribution to ICANN.

SIDN shall voluntarily contribute to ICANN's cost of operations in the amount of USD\$85,000 per annum. The parties agree to review in good faith on every anniversary of the date of the AF, the voluntary contribution to ICANN set out above to see if that sum is still adequate. The review of the parties will take into account all relevant circumstances.

4. Review of IANA Service levels

It is acknowledged by both parties that the ccTLD community and ICANN are working together to review IANA service levels and determine satisfactory service levels for IANA.

D. Dispute Resolution

1. All disputes and claimed breaches (explicitly excluding issues in relation to (a) re-delegation, (b) (non) compliancy to ICANN-related policies which are not directly related to mentioned commitments, and (c) section C.3) that cannot be settled between the parties or cured after thirty (30) days written notice to the defaulting party shall be referred by either party to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) by three arbitrators.
2. The arbitration shall be conducted in English and shall occur at a location agreed by the parties or, in the absence of agreement, in Paris.

3. There shall be three arbitrators: each party choosing one arbitrator, with the third chosen by the parties' arbitrators from the ICC list of arbitrators. If the arbitrators cannot agree on the third, that third shall be chosen according to the ICC rules. The parties shall bear the costs of the arbitration in equal shares, subject to the right of the arbitrators to reallocate the costs in their award as provided in the ICC rules. The parties shall bear their own attorneys' fees in connection with the arbitration, and the arbitrators may not reallocate the attorneys' fees in conjunction with their award.
4. Issues of law arising in connection with the interpretation of this AF shall be resolved by the rules of law considered by the arbitrators to be most appropriately applied in all the circumstances; provided that the validity, interpretation, and effect of acts of SIDN and its legal status at the start of the dispute shall be judged according to the laws of the Netherlands and the validity, interpretation, and effect of acts of ICANN and its legal status shall be judged according to the laws of the State of California.
5. A failure to pay all or any part of the contribution set out in 3 by SIDN shall not be a breach of this AF.

E. Termination. This AF may only be terminated in the following circumstances;

1. there has been a determination by arbitration under Section D that a party is in violation of the AF and that party continues to behave in the same manner for a period stated in the arbitration decision, or if no period is stated, twenty-one days;
2. either party will not or is unable to perform its duties under the AF and has given written notice to such effect;
3. a party comes under legal restraint or receivership;
4. by mutual consent of the parties;
5. by either party in the event that a re-delegation takes place, provided that in any re-delegation discussions the existence of this AF shall be taken into account.

F. Effects of Termination. All obligations under this AF shall cease, ICANN and SIDN are still obligated to perform their duties in accordance with this AF to the extent this is within their powers and can be reasonably expected under the circumstances in order to maintain the stability and interoperability of the DNS.

G. Transfer or Assignment. No party may transfer or assign this AF without the prior written consent of the other. This consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

H. Subcontract. The obligations of either party under this AF shall not be diminished or affected by any subcontracting arrangements it may have with respect to its operations.

I. No Change to Liability Positions. Parties agree that this AF does not aim to change the position of either party vis-à-vis the other party where it concerns the issue of liability in connection with the matters dealt with in this AF. Therefore, either party shall be liable to the extent that it would have been liable towards the other party had this AF not been executed.

J. Entire AF. This AF contains the entire agreement of the parties in relation to the subject matter contained within it. No variation of this AF shall be binding unless it is in writing and signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have caused this AF to be executed by their duly authorized representatives

INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS

By 

Dr Paul Twomey
CEO and President

Date 28 June 2007

STICHTING INTERNET DOMEINREGISTRATIE NEDERLAND

By 

Roelof Meijer
CEO

Date 28.6.2007