



3 January 2018

Subject: SSAC2018-02: SSAC Comments on the CCWG-Accountability-WS2 Draft Recommendations to Improve Diversity

To: Co-Chairs of the CCWG-Accountability

On 26 October 2017, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) opened a public comment forum to obtain input on the Cross Community Working Group (CCWG)-Accountability Work Stream 2 draft Recommendations to Improve Diversity.¹

Per its Charter,² the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) focuses on matters relating to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems. This includes operational matters (e.g., pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the root zone publication system), administrative matters (e.g., pertaining to address allocation and Internet number assignment), and registration matters (e.g., pertaining to registry and registrar services). The SSAC engages in threat assessment and risk analysis of the Internet naming and address allocation services to assess where the principal threats to stability and security lie, and advises the ICANN community accordingly. The SSAC has no authority to regulate, enforce, or adjudicate.

While there are no associated security and stability aspects, the SSAC does wish to thank the Diversity Sub-Group for its effort and for this comprehensive report. The SSAC is generally supportive of the recommendations and notes the observation that the elements of diversity identified in the report may have varying importance in different contexts, situations or groups within ICANN. The SSAC also notes the specific request to provide further input and comment on the concept of establishing an Office of Diversity to independently support, record and keep track of issues including complaints from the community on diversity issues, rather than have this function performed by existing ICANN staff. The SSAC is not convinced of the necessity for a dedicated and independent Office of Diversity and is concerned about the cost of resourcing such an office. A preferred approach is to review the support provided by ICANN staff after an initial 12 month period and assess whether issues have arisen that would justify the implementation of an Office of Diversity.

Rod Rasmussen
SSAC Chair

¹ See <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/accountability-diversity-2017-10-26-en>

² See <https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac/charter>