

General Approach to Review Team Member Selection for the SSR DNS and WHOIS Review Teams

Co-Selectors of the SSR DNS and WHOIS Review Teams
Chair of ICANN GAC, Heather Dryden
ICANN CEO, Rod Beckstrom
September 3, 2010

The activities of the first Accountability and Transparency Review Team are now well under way in line with ICANN's Affirmation of Commitments. Some lessons have already been learned from this process as well as from other review experiences. At this point in time, it seems useful to share the current co-Selectors' (Chair of GAC and ICANN CEO) thoughts on how to handle the selection for the next two Review Teams (the Security, Stability and Resiliency of the DNS Review Team and the WHOIS Policy Review Team).

Experience from the SSR DNS and WHOIS RTs can also be drawn upon to inform and refine the approach of the RT co-Selectors in the future.

Objectives: to establish teams of dedicated volunteers who seek to objectively review ICANN according to their respective terms of reference, in order to assess recent performance, versus other similar or comparable organizations wherever possible, and to make recommendations on areas for improvement.

Challenges:

1. The Affirmation of Commitments calls for “representatives” of ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees to serve as Volunteer Review Team Members. Such community members may have specific organizational interests that compete with the AoC requirement for impartiality. Yet at the same time, experienced such community members have subject matter expertise and organizational history to contribute to the review efforts.
2. Truly independent parties or experts are, by definition, not engaged in ICANN's Supporting Organizations.
3. These reviews are time-consuming, require a significant amount of (pro bono) work.
4. The AoC Review Teams are not intended to serve as repositories for complaints, or for reporting individual experience.

General Guidelines the Co-Selectors intend to follow:

1. to seek to appoint the independent experts in addition to the representatives endorsed by the ICANN communities.
2. to request that all candidates declare conflicts of interest. The co-Selectors must take into account existing, demonstrated, material conflicts of interest in making the selections.
3. to duly consider diversity in making the selections
4. to be guided by, the Supporting Organizations' and Advisory Committees' endorsement of candidates
5. To document the Selectors' decisions by publishing individual statements for all considered candidates, in the interests of accountability and transparency.