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## CCWG Accountability Recommendations

### Block 12 - GAC Governance and Accountability Process Session 12.1 - CCWG Accountability Recommendations

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#### Background

The Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability - Workstream 2 (CCWG-Accountability WS2 or WS2) concluded its work at its face-to-face meeting in June 2018 at ICANN 62. Subsequently, the WS2 Final Report and Implementation Guidance was transmitted to the CCWG-Accountability Chartering Organizations (including the GAC) for approval.

In all, there are over 100 specific WS2 recommendations covering eight (8) major topic areas including:

Diversity;  
Guidelines for Good Faith;  
Human Right Framework of Interpretation;  
Jurisdiction;  
Ombudsman;  
SO-AC Accountability; and  
Transparency

The full report of the CCWG Accountability WS2 can be found here - <https://community.icann.org/display/WEIA/Documents>

At The ICANN63 meeting in Barcelona, Spain the GAC commented in the following manner on the recommendations:

“The GAC has considered the CCWG's final report and recommendations and supports recommendations with regard to:

- Improving diversity.
- Framework of Interpretation for Human Rights
- Guidelines for standards of conduct presumed to be in good faith associated with exercising removal of individual ICANN Board directors.
- Improving the ICANN Office of the Ombudsman.
- Increasing SO/AC accountability.
- Improving staff accountability.
- Improving ICANN transparency.

If these recommendations are accepted by the Board, the GAC will work with the community in monitoring their implementation, particularly with regard to diversity, human rights and the impact of transparency recommendations on ICANN's dealings with governments. The GAC is not in a position to approve or reject the recommendations on jurisdiction. Some GAC members support the

recommendations. Other GAC members consider that they fall short of the objectives envisaged for Work Stream 2 and only partly mitigate the risks associated with ICANN's subjection to US jurisdiction. The reasons why these members object to approving the recommendations are documented in the dissenting statement submitted to the CCWG by Brazil." (See GAC Barcelona Communique - <https://gac.icann.org/content/Migrated/icann63-barcelona-communique>)

Based on the collective feedback from its Chartering Organizations, the CCWG-Accountability subsequently forwarded its recommendations to the ICANN Board for consideration on 8 November 2018.

## Recent Developments

The ICANN Board held a public session about the WS2 Accountability recommendations during its 27 January 2019 Regular Board meeting. During that discussion the Board confirmed that several steps will take place before it acts on the recommendations - including:

- Assembly of a Small Implementation Team of WS2 Co-Chairs to assist and provide advice as needed;
- Board convening a "Caucus Group" to monitor WS2 Implementation and report back on progress; and
- Production of an Implementation Assessment Report by ICANN org to help the Board consider the WS2 report and the feasibility of adopting all the recommendations as a package

Significantly, resources have only been allocated to WS2 as a contingency in the draft FY20 budget.

## GAC Action Required

As an official ICANN Advisory Committee (AC) and a member of the Empowered Community (EC) of ICANN, several of the WS2 recommendations have implications for future GAC operations and work methods. The GAC may wish to consider a process for inventorying and evaluating any impactful recommendations and establishing an assessment process for how the committee can address implementation matters in the future.

## Further Information

Web Page of WS-2 - Enhancing ICANN Accountability - <https://community.icann.org/display/WEIA/WS2+-+Enhancing+ICANN+Accountability+Home>

The full report of the CCWG Accountability WS2 can be found here -  
<https://community.icann.org/display/WEIA/Documents>

Session Record (Adobe Connect) of 27 January ICANN Board discussion -  
<https://participate.icann.org/p8wsolrzf59/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal&proto=true>

## Document Administration

<b>Meeting</b>	ICANN64 - Kobe, Japan - March 2019
<b>Title</b>	CCWG Accountability Recommendations - Briefing
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<b>Distribution</b>	GAC Members   Public
<b>Distribution Date</b>	Version 1.1: 5 February 2019