Questions for the Record
Senator Klobuchar
"Preserving the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance"
February 25, 2015

Question 1. Mr. Chehadé, you mentioned stress testing as a way to ensure that accountability processes are structured properly in advance of the transition. Can you expand on how these stress tests would be conducted and analyzed?

Answer:

Within the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, a sub-group of members has identified 25 different stress tests to date against which the recommended solutions of the CCWG will be tested.[1] These stress tests are grouped into five areas, including Insolvency, Failure to Meet Operational Obligations, Legal/Legislative Action, Failure of Accountability to others within ICANN community (including "capture" by a specific entity or interest group), and Failure of Accountability to External Stakeholders.

For each stress test, the sub-group has identified the specific scenario as an example against which they propose to test, the anticipated consequence (or impact to the community) if the scenario were to occur, structures that are currently in place within ICANN to help mitigate against either the occurrence of the scenario or the severity of the impact, and then a mapping to the proposed accountability enhancements that are currently under discussion within the full Cross-Community Working Group.

Many of the stress tests are related to satisfying the criteria that NTIA set out for the transition:

- Support and enhance the multistakeholder model;
- Maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;
- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services;
- Maintain the openness of the Internet; and
- Not replace NTIA's role with a government-led or an inter-governmental organization solution.

These criteria, against which the transition proposal will be judged, shape the scenarios that are being tested.

An example of where the stress tests align with these criteria are in the series of scenarios focused on the balance of power among the ICANN stakeholder participants. Prior to implementation, proposed accountability enhancements will be tested against the following questions:

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[1] The work of the sub-group addressing the stress tests can be followed at
https://community.icann.org/display/acctcrosscomm/ST-WP+--+Stress+Tests+Work+Party.

- Do they make ICANN more susceptible to "capture" (or the assertion of undue influence) by one stakeholder or group of stakeholders?
- Can any individual or group make use the redress and review processes in a way that paralyzes the work of ICANN?
- Does any group of stakeholders have the ability to modify its internal procedures in a way that shifts how it interacts among the rest of the stakeholders within ICANN?

Thank you for your interest in ICANN. We would be happy to answer any additional questions you may have on this or any other ICANN-related issue.