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As attached

Kind regards

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The Swedish Government appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposal to transition the stewardship of IANA. We commend the process and in general support the proposals as presented by ICG.

We do have concerns relating to the transparency in the operations of a reformed system.

We emphasize that the role of the NITA in the management of the root-zone is one of equally practical and symbolic significance. The symbolic significance is to act as a party external to IANA and the Root Zone Maintainer (RZM). We believe the symbolic aspects to be important to build global trust in the integrity and neutrality, and ultimately the legitimacy of a reformed model where NTIA have exited from the model where it today has separate relations with IANA and the RZM respectively.

The report by the ICG regards the relation between NTIA and IANA, and we suggested comments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the Names communities report, proposing that changes to the root zone should be made publicly available to replace the oversight by NTIA with the oversight of interested parties of the general public.<sup>1</sup>

Since then, the relation between NTIA and the RZM has been discussed in the report “Root Zone Administrator Proposal Related to the IANA Functions Stewardship Transition” where ICANN proposes how NTIA may exit also the relation with the RZM by replacing practical functions but disregarding the symbolic ones.

The CWG-Stewardship response to our call for external compliance checking was that:

*“...the verification performed by the NTIA staff for authorizing changes to the Root Zone was usually limited to verifying that IANA confirmed that policy was followed for making the request. This was the basis for the CWG-Stewardship recommending that the authorization of changes to the Root Zone be discontinued post transition.”*

We maintain the significance of the symbolic role NTIA has, that verification that processes, procedures, and policies are followed is relevant and substantial, and that any reformed model should take into consideration how transparency should be employed to support verification and a trusted model of governing the internet root zone.

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<sup>1</sup> #292: <http://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-cwg-stewardship-draft-proposal-22apr15/msg00016.html>