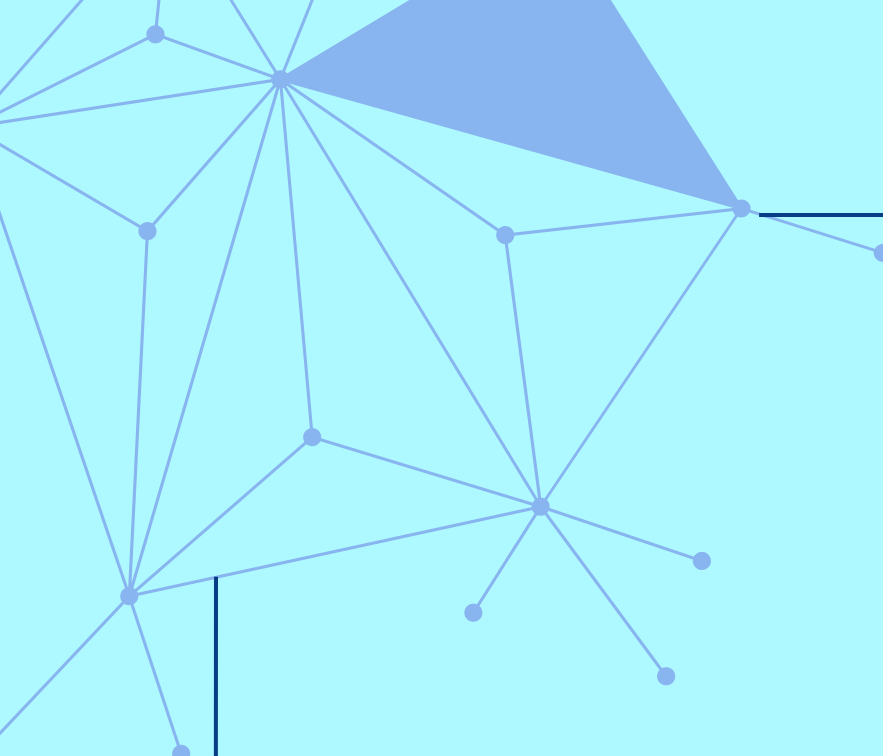
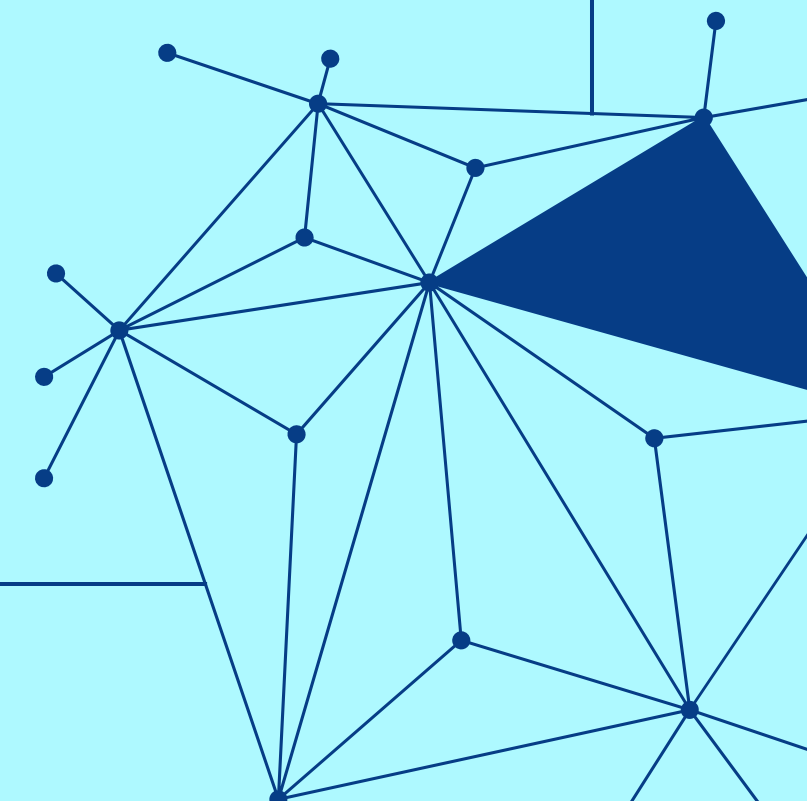




MIRA GILLIS

ACCOUNTABILITY IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Putting Principles into Practice



AGENDA

- Unpacking the meaning of accountability
- From principle to practice: how values become actions
- Improving implementation and closing the accountability gap



WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY?

“the quality or state of being accountable [answerable]”

““an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one’s actions”

-Merriam-Webster Dictionary



ACCOUNTABILITY

THE VALUE

- encouraging trust, reliability, and confidence
- fosters collaboration both internally and externally leading to improved decision-making



THE ACTION

- implementing measures and frameworks
- establishing clear objectives and expectations
- publishing records where possible



WHEN VALUES AREN'T PUT INTO ACTION: PERFORMATIVITY

- Accountability is often discussed, but not followed through
- acknowledges the necessity of accountability without needing to implement measures
- wants the societal/organizational benefits without the role

ACCOUNTABILITY

TRANSPARENCY

- publishing documents, where possible
- moving from “need to know” to “right to know”
- open communication

Useful to those within a field/organization



ACCESSIBILITY

- ease of understanding, navigation, and use
- language that is clear and direct

Useful to those outside a field/organization

WHAT ICANN DOES RIGHT

- Multi-stakeholder governance model: Inclusive processes with governments, private sector, and civil society
- Accountability Mechanisms: Independent review panels, public comment processes, and transparency reports
- Introductory Resources: ICANN Learning Courses, ICANN for Beginners, Programs



HOW TO GO A STEP FURTHER

- Outreach and promotion are needed to engage a broader, more diverse audience outside the field of Internet governance
- Simplify language and processes across ICANN materials and public engagement tools where possible



TAKEAWAYS

- Accountability requires action, not just commitment
- Closing the accountability gap means focusing on not just *who* is responsible, but *how* they are held to it
- Accessibility is a critical, often overlooked component of accountable governance





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THANKYOU

Accountability in Internet Governance: Putting Principles into Practice

