

Subject: SSAC2026-02: SSAC Public Comment on Review of Reviews Draft Report

This correspondence provides comments from the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) on the Review of Reviews Draft Report published by the Review of Reviews Cross Community Group (Reviews CCG).¹ The SSAC thanks the Reviews CCG, its Co-Chairs, and ICANN staff for the diligence and collaborative spirit with which they have approached this complex and consequential undertaking, and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment. The SSAC is broadly supportive of the refreshed reviews framework proposed in the Draft Report and offers comment on one issue of particular importance to the SSAC's remit.

SSAC Comment

As defined in ICANN's Bylaws, ensuring "the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems" is ICANN's Mission.² This is reinforced by ICANN's first enumerated Commitment to "preserve and enhance...the operational stability, reliability, security, global interoperability, resilience, and openness of the Domain Name System (DNS) and the Internet."³ Sustained attention to security, stability, and resiliency (SSR) is therefore vital to the entire ICANN community, and any refreshed reviews system must preserve the ability to examine ICANN's execution of this Mission.

Throughout the Reviews CCG's deliberations, the SSAC's principal concern has been that, in a system that manages reviews by topic rather than by mandate, SSR topics could be starved of the priority or resources they need. Under such a system, an SSR issue warranting review could remain unexamined indefinitely, not through any deliberate decision, but simply because no mechanism ensures the question is regularly asked.

The SSAC finds that the Draft Report addresses this concern. It provides for a Bylaws-mandated process, conducted by the Reviews Scoping Committee on a specified cadence, to determine whether SSR issues need to be reviewed before the next regularly scheduled Accountability and Transparency Review and, if so, to scope such reviews.⁴ This mechanism ensures that the question of whether outstanding SSR issues warrant review is asked on a predictable, recurring basis and answered visibly, with community participation. The SSAC recognizes that this provision reflects a compromise among differing community perspectives on how SSR should be situated within the refreshed reviews system. On that basis, the SSAC accepts this compromise.

¹ See Public Comment Proceeding: Review of Reviews Draft Report, <https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/review-of-reviews-draft-report-25-06-2026>

² See ICANN Bylaws, Section 1.1(a), <https://www.icann.org/en/governance/bylaws#article1>

³ See ICANN Bylaws, Section 1.2(a)(i), <https://www.icann.org/en/governance/bylaws#article1>

⁴ See Review of Reviews Draft Report, Section 3.2.2.