



Short-term consultant

Terms of Reference

Responsible to: ARTICLE 19 Head of Digital

Key relationships: ARTICLE 19 Censorship Project Programme Officer

Location: Global; remote

Duration: 15 days work within 3-4 months, starting in January 2022

Project title: ICANN and Human Rights Research

Introduction

ARTICLE 19 is a global organization promoting and defending freedom of expression and information. The realization of our vision and mission is underpinned not only by freedom of expression and information, but through other rights including belief, privacy, participation, assembly and association and more. With offices in London, Bangladesh, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal, and Tunisia, and in collaboration with partners across the world, we strengthen national and capacities, and build or reform institutions and policies.

ARTICLE 19 works for a world where all people everywhere can freely express themselves and actively engage in public life without fear of discrimination. ARTICLE 19 does this by working on two interlocking freedoms which set the foundation for all our work. The right to freedom of expression concerns everyone's right to express and disseminate opinions, ideas and information through any means, as well as to disagree with and question power-holders. The right to information concerns the right to demand and receive information by power-holders in support of transparency, good governance and sustainable development. When either of these rights comes under threat, ARTICLE 19 speaks with one voice, through courts of law, through global and regional organisations, and through civil society.

2. Research timeframe, budget, and methodology

ARTICLE 19 seeks a consultant to conduct research and draft a report on the nexus between ICANN Workstream 2 Recommendations and Human Rights. ICANN is the international non-profit organization that brings together various stakeholders to create policies aimed at coordinating the Domain Name System

(DNS). Some of these stakeholders include representatives from government, civil society, academia, the private sector, and the technical community.

During the November 2019 International Meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in Montreal (Canada), the ICANN board adopted by consensus the recommendations contained within the [Work Stream 2 \(WS2\) Final Report](#). This report was generated as part of steps towards accountability after the September 30th 2016 U.S. government handing over of its unilateral control over ICANN, through its previous stewardship role of the Internet Assigned Names and Numbers Authority (IANA).

The Workstream 2 Recommendations on Accountability are seen as a big step forward in the incorporation of human rights in ICANN's various processes, with over 100 recommendations on aspects ranging from diversity to transparency.

Areas of research include the following:

- Identify linkages between International Human Rights Law and the following WS2 Recommendations:-
 - Recommendations to improve ICANN transparency,
 - Recommendations to increase staff accountability,
 - Recommendations to increase SO/AC accountability
 - Guidelines for good faith
 - Recommendations for improving the Office of the Ombudsman
- Identify the key ICANN bodies and entities that are involved in the implementation of relevant WS2 Recommendations so far and current status of implementation of each relevant recommendation
- Identify similar international organisations that have implemented similar recommendations and best practices that would be relevant to the case of ICANN
- Key recommendations to ensure full implementation of relevant WS2 Recommendations that are still outstanding

The consultant will be encouraged to work closely with ARTICLE 19 to further refine these areas of research or develop alternative areas of research.

Timeline

All activities and outputs described in these terms of reference must be completed no later than 21 April 2023.

Budget

The consultant will provide a bid with a draft budget, taking into account the full requirements in the ToR.

3. Outputs and Collaboration with ARTICLE 19

ARTICLE 19 seeks a collaborative approach with the selected applicant to ensure smooth delivery of the research outputs. The selected applicant is expected to:

- Work closely with ARTICLE 19 staff on all stages of the process, including scoping research, methodology development, report structuring, and the interviewing process.
- Commit to brief check-in calls (twice a month) to check the status of the project and provide space for questions and feedback.

The Consultant will be expected to deliver the following:

- A first draft of a report addressing the research questions above.
- Collaboration with ARTICLE 19's Regional Offices and Digital Teams in revising and finalizing the research (committing to a minimum of two rounds of revisions based on ARTICLE 19 feedback).
- A final draft of the report no longer than 20 pages, that incorporates both rounds of feedback. ARTICLE 19 is responsible for formatting the report and ensuring the report complies with its house style. ARTICLE 19 is responsible for dissemination of the report.
- Raw data collected through the research process, including consent forms where applicable.
- Participation in at least one ICANN event to disseminate the findings of the research.

Submission of expressions of interest

Interested individuals, groups or coalitions should submit an expression of interest and budget to ephraim@article19.org **by 30 December 2022**.

The expression of interest should be no longer than three pages and address the following matters:

- Composition of research team, of all research team members;
- One example of past unedited work relevant to the current TOR;
- Proposed research methodology, including manner of collecting information, and type and number of stakeholders engaged;
- Detailed timeline of research;
- Discussion of how gender and diversity will be mainstreamed into the project;
- Discussion of how ethical and security considerations will be identified and managed; and
- Contact details for at least one reference person who can speak to previous research output.

ARTICLE 19 will notify applicants of the status of their applications no later than 16 January 2022. After reviewing expressions of interest, ARTICLE 19 will work with the selected applicant to refine the research plan and budget prior to signing a contract.