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# ICANN and Human Rights

1998 – ICANN's *Articles of Association*

*Art. 4*

.XXX IRP Decision

Binding commitment to international law

Leaves open the question of which laws

# ICANN and Human Rights

## Transition

Accountability

Ultimate accountability

- To universally accepted standards of respect for human rights

Human rights relate to the relationship between

- Human beings
- Public authorities (governments)

# ICANN and Human Rights

## Private corporations

Have no legal human rights obligations

*(except ICANN might have – see Art. 4 – vague)*

ICANN is also public benefit corporation.

## Accountability work

Means it is necessary to entrench basic standards and obligations before US Government should let go

# ICANN and Human Rights

How?

Fundamental By-Law

e.g.

- “ICANN will respect human rights”
- “ICANN will respect internationally accepted human rights as per UDHR@
- “ICANN will acceded to the UN Principles on Human Rights for Busines ('Ruggie')

# ICANN and Human Rights

## Agreement?

No. The Board politely rejected the whole idea as 'premature'. (If not now, when?)

Concerns about Ruggie in context of ccTLDs

CCWG has WP4 (Nigel, Leon)

Consensus in favour of highlevel status in WS1 and detailed development in WS2

# ICANN and Human Rights

What next?

Depends on Accountability work.

ICANN has no credibility if it rejects that human rights are relevant to its work.

Multistakeholderism means shouldering some of the obligations that would otherwise be borne by governments. (See Art 3!).