

# Issue Brief: Draft ICANN Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021 - 2025

deadline for comments: Feb.11

The strategic planning process for FY21-FY25 began with an analysis of the operative FY16FY20 plan's structure and effectiveness. Feedback from the community, Board, and ICANN organization informed the Board's direction on which aspects of the strategic plan framework and process to keep, and what changes to strengthen to framework.

# What's at issue?

## Strategic Plan – 2021-2025 – Strategic Objectives

1. Strengthen the security of the Domain Name System and the DNS Root Server System.
2. Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance.
3. Evolve the unique identifier systems to continue to serve the needs of the global Internet user base.
4. Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single and globally interoperable Internet.
5. Ensure ICANN's long-term financial sustainability.

## 2. Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance

.TO ACHIEVE THIS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE, ICANN SEEKS TO:

.2.1. Address the increasing needs of inclusivity, accountability and transparency, while at the same time ensuring that work gets done and policies are developed in an effective and timely manner

. **2.2 Strengthen ICANN's multistakeholder decision-making process.**

. 2.3 Strengthen the inclusivity and openness of ICANN's multistakeholder model by improving and sustaining diverse representation and active, effective participation.

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# Targeted outcomes - Strengthen ICANN's multistakeholder decision-making process.

- Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) make timely and effective decisions that are in the global public interest.
- Processes are in place and consistently utilized to resolve impasses and reach consensus-based decisions in the global public interest.
- Decision-making processes ensure input from all stakeholders is equitably considered.
- Multistakeholder model processes – such as policy development and reviews, among others – continue to evolve in an efficient and accountable manner.

# Strategic risks - Strengthen ICANN's multistakeholder decision-making process.

- .Progress grinds to a halt and scarce resources are wasted due to polarized positions that do not represent the collective interest.
- Larger, more complex groups make consensus-building increasingly difficult.

## 2. Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance

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- .2.1. Address the increasing needs of inclusivity, accountability and transparency, while at the same time ensuring that work gets done and policies are developed in an effective and timely manner
- . 2.2 Strengthen ICANN's multistakeholder decision-making process.
- . 2.3 Strengthen the inclusivity and openness of ICANN's multistakeholder model by improving and sustaining diverse representation and active, effective participation.

# Targeted outcomes - Strengthen the inclusivity and openness of ICANN's multistakeholder model by improving and sustaining diverse representation and active, effective participation.

- Representation across all stakeholders continues to reflect the evolving functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet.
- Geographical presence and international strategy continues to effectively support ICANN's global community.
- Meaningful volunteer participation increases, as does the knowledge and skill levels across the pool of available volunteers.
- Widespread understanding of the ICANN multistakeholder model is established through increased communication with relevant organizations and institutions.
- The ICANN community establishes mechanisms, such as accurately measuring community participation, to equitably distribute volunteer workload.
- ICANN community members are more effectively engaged in multistakeholder model processes.
- Community members are equipped with basic knowledge of the DNS as well as ICANN policy and advisory processes.

Strategic risks - Strengthen the inclusivity and openness of ICANN's multistakeholder model by improving and sustaining diverse representation and active, effective participation.

- Trends toward multilateralism, as well as changing economic, societal and governmental interests result in increased pressures on the ICANN multistakeholder model.
- Stakeholder-specific interests preempt Internet policy or governance discussions, impairing the ICANN multistakeholder model.
- Increased workload on the ICANN community and ICANN org impact the ability to effectively support ongoing work, resulting in community fatigue or volunteer drop-outs.
- Divergence of interests inherent to ICANN's multistakeholder model, as well as a perceived lack of global representation, fuel doubts about ICANN's effectiveness.



# What's at stake (2)

Opportunities and Challenges for ICANN: (from a Strat. Plan backgrounder)

- .Increased focus on role clarity, decision-making structures, and skill-building.
- . Need to evolve international strategy to increase diversity and efficacy of participation, and address volunteer and staff fatigue.

# Proposed At-large Positioning

- .Position 1 – Not an enduser issue so no need to respond
- .Position 2 – Respond to some of the strat plan that are relevant
- .Position 3 – Respond to all of the plan

# Discussion