SOPC update
12 May 2021

The SOPC submitted its feedback to ICANN FY22-26 Operating and Financial Plan. While ICANN should be commended for the improvements of the Plan, the SOPC reiterated several points that have been at the core of the SOPC feedback since its early years.

On 19 April, the SOPC chair circulated a document that contains the SOPC comments and ICANN responses. Overall, ICANN responses can be considered as partially satisfactory as the elements of making the Plan and the overall process more accessible and the inconsistency in the way metrics and milestones are represented remain the main weakness.

On 21 April the SOPC held a teleconference with the SCBO (its equivalent for gTLDs). The agenda focused on three topics:
- Where ICANN org said it would undertake actions or improvements (i.e., "develop a better report" or "will improve [planning documents]"), how should the SOPC and SCBO monitor or ensure accountability?
- How can the SOPC and SCBO help ICANN org develop better Fiscal Year Budgets and Operating & Financial Plans?
- The community need to better understand how the new Project Management Framework will enable better prediction of staff levels and budgeting for consultants, facilitators or subject matter experts.

The call started with the findings of the exercise of ranking of Operating Initiatives and Functional Activities done both by the two Committees. It is clear that the gTLDs assign high priorities to policy related initiatives/activities while the ccTLD have IANA and other technical functions at the top of their list.

ICANN Finance gave a presentation on their work to address all the comments and on the progress for the approval of the Plan and the next steps.

The two groups agreed to further work together on the discussion topics and schedule a call to plan future cooperation.

The SOPC will e-meet at ICANN71.