

Planning Questions Received via Planning Mailbox

Prepared By:	Planning Team		
Public Comment Proceeding Information		Important Information Links	
Open Date:	14 December 2022		Public Comment Proceeding
Close Date:	13 February 2023		
Staff Contact:	Planning Team	Email:	planning@icann.org
Section I: General Overview			
The below questions were received via the planning@icann.org mailbox, all questions were submitted by Michael Palage.			

#	Question	Response
1	Can we get an extension on the timeline for the public comments submission. Is this something that needs to go through Board approval?	Due to the Bylaws and timeline to prepare for Board adoption and to begin the Empowered Community process before the next fiscal year, an extension on the timeline for the public comment submission for the Draft FY24 Operating and Financial plan is not possible. We provided a 61-day long public comment period, significantly in excess of the required minimum, to help the community be able to review the significant volume of information shared.
2	(via email) Alex referenced third party studies as part of ICANN's economic modeling. Are these studies publicly available? If so, where? If they are not publicly available can they be made available?	The FY24-28 five-year Forecast Funding Assumptions is a supporting document available and published with the Draft FY24 Plans. It contains forward-looking information that represents ICANN organization's attempt to conservatively estimate its future levels of funding. ICANN provides a summary of the noted third-party research provided in the five-year Funding Forecast Assumptions, in Section 1, Industry Context. This is a link to the funding assumptions: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/funding-forecast-assumptions-fy24-28-2022-en.pdf .
3	(via email) Is your team also responsible for the strategic outlook program whose work usually takes place between February through April 2022. If this is not your team could you please point me in the right direction of the ICANN Org team responsible for that work.	Yes. The Planning team is responsible for organizing the Strategic Outlook Program. ICANN's Strategic Planning webpage contains information on the FY24 Strategic Outlook Program: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/strategic-engagement-20

		13-10-10-en if you are interested in learning more about this program.
4	(via email 1.15.23) Can you share the number of community members that attended each webinar. I will be doing my part over the coming months to try and encourage other people to get involved in the Strategic Plan and Budgetary Process. However, the process is somewhat intimidating given the tight inter-relation between planning and budgetary cycles.	The ICANN org planning team does not publish the number of community members that attended each webinar. However, ICANN shares the number of participants who attended the Strategic Outlook Trend Identification sessions as part of the supporting rationale of the Board resolution, see example (https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-special-meeting-of-the-icann-board-16-11-2022-en); ICANN also states the list of webinars hosted during the Operating Plan and Budget process as part of the supporting rationale of the Board resolution, see example (https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-special-meeting-of-the-icann-board-26-05-2022-en#2.a.rationale).
5	(via email 1.15.23) During the December webinar Victoria Yang when speaking about the Strategic Plan made reference to thousands of data points as part of the Trend Identification. Are these data points available, if so where, and if not can they be made available?	During the December Webinar , the planning team covered some of the key planning assumptions. Slide 11 is about the Strategic Plan. ICANN's Strategic Planning webpage contains information of the FY24 Strategic Outlook Program: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/strategic-engagement-2013-10-10-en , including the community trend identification session data, trend impact assessment and the final report.
6	(via email 1.15.23) During the December webinar Kristen Crownhart showed a slide with 2012 new gTLD revenue and expenses. My questions specifically relates to the 2022 actual expenses (6 million dollars) and the 2023 forecast expenses (4 million dollars). 1. Can ICANN Org confirm that the expenses shown on Slide 32 are only in connection with those applications that have not yet signed a Registry Agreement? 2. Can ICANN confirm that once an applicant signs its registry contract that any expenses incurred by ICANN are no longer expensed against these funds, if that is not the case can ICANN Org please explain when expenses associated with a contracting party are debited against this funds 3. Can ICANN Org please identify the number of TLDs applications which have not signed a contract, and or those Registry Operators that have signed a registry agreement which accounted for the expenses in 2022 and 2023. 4. Can ICANN Org please identify what portion of these funds were allocated to legal expenses, e.g. internal allocation costs to ICANN legal, external legal costs (Jones Day), experts opinions associated with legal proceedings, IRP panel fees, etc.	The December Webinar , slide 32 illustrates the New gTLD Program 2012 Round overview. The New gTLD expenses include the following: costs to process remaining applications including, but not limited to application change requests, communicating with applicants, contracting processes, support systems for TLD launches, the Trademark Clearinghouse and Trademark Database, legal fees and the EBERO program which is in place in the event of a registry failure. Once an applicant signs a Registry Agreement, all normal operations associated with that Registry are funded through ICANN operations and not through the funds for the New gTLD Program. There are approximately 29 applications for a number of strings that are yet to be delegated and for which no registry operator has signed a Registry Agreement. For more information on the TLDs for which a Registry Agreement has been signed please refer to the New gTLD website where information on TLDs and their status can be found. Legal expenses along with other hard-to-predict and unforeseen expenses are captured in the contingency line of expenses as presented in the December webinar. For clarification, in past presentations this line item was presented as risk expenses. All contingency(risk) funds have already been collected through the application fees received, and this line item captures easily identifiable expenses as incurred. No forward-looking estimates are produced for this item, but rather we display the unforeseen and hard to predict expenses as incurred and are funded by the remaining new gTLD funds available.

7	<p>(via email 1.15.23) In the Highlights of the Draft ICANN FY24–28 Operating and Financial Plan and FY24 Operating Plan and Budget, Section 2.2 makes reference to the “strong interconnectedness” of ICANN Org’s work. I believe this to be a correct statement in part, as evidenced by the recent delay in the release of the SubPro ODA because of rework involved in the SSAD ODA. Given that there are key ICANN Org members who work on multiple strategic goals, how does ICANN track the performance and time allocation of these individuals working on multiple projects?</p>	<p>ICANN org tracks staff time for some projects and initiatives. For the SubPro ODP, ICANN org has estimated efforts in terms of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by Work Track. These results are posted periodically in Community Updates on the SubPro ODP page.</p> <p>ICANN org intends to similarly estimate efforts on some new initiatives such as the Grant Program and prioritized review implementations. ICANN's FY24 Budget document shows efforts in FTEs for the above initiatives as well as IANA and the 2012 Round of the New gTLD Program.</p>
8	<p>(via email 1.15.23) Could ICANN Org provide any details on how they currently track individual staff time allocations on an individual project/task basis? If this has been experimented before in the past, could ICANN Org share those details including why those projects were expanded/terminated? Upon information and belief, ICANN Org is currently looking at a number of internal projects to track individual Community participation in ICANN activities. Does ICANN Org have any future plans to implement such a project to track ICANN Org time allocation?</p>	<p>Please see response to Question No. 10 below.</p>
9	<p>(via email) In reviewing the various public documentation in connection with the draft 2024 budget could you please point me in the direction in connection with the costs associated with the operation of the .INT top-level domain.</p>	<p>ICANN IANA Function operates the .INT top-level domain as part of the IANA Naming Functions; however, ICANN org does not break out costs to an individual service level, only between the three functions: Naming, Numbers and Protocol Parameters.</p>
10	<p>In the Highlights of the Draft ICANN FY24–28 Operating and Financial Plan and FY24 Operating Plan and Budget, ICANN Org makes references to “13 strategic outlook identification sessions with 261 participants from the community, Board, and org.”. Given the key relationship between the Strategic Plan and the Operating Plan and Budget, could ICANN Org please provide a breakdown of the 261 community participants and the 13 strategic sessions that were held in 2022. Could ICANN Org also provide any sessions that have taken place so far this year involving the strategic plan as well as any sessions that have already been planned. Also please advise how best to be made aware of these sessions when they are announced.</p>	<p>ICANN org tracks the number of participants of each Strategic Outlook Trend Identification session. The overall statistics are available as part of the Strategic Outlook Report, and the rationale to the Board Resolution (See response to question #4 above). During ICANN 75 Prep Week, Planning shared the breakdown of all participants by ICANN Board, ICANN Community and ICANN org (see slide 39 of the deck: https://75.schedule.icann.org/meetings/Xpdx5Lmo5b8CZsC2F). However, ICANN does not provide participant statistics breakdown by session.</p> <p>ICANN has not kicked off the FY25 Strategic Outlook Program. When that begins, the planning team will publish an announcement via the community digest. ICANN org works with community stakeholder groups to schedule sessions. All participants will participate via an ICANN Community stakeholder group.</p>