

Summary of discussions and action items FY26-30 Strategic Plan Development Community Engagement

21 February & 6 March – Board Engagement sessions

On 21 February, the Board held a Community Engagement session that included three breakout rooms hosted by different Board members, each covering a different topic. This covers Topic 1, where the Board, through the BSPC, solicited input from participants on the development of the FY26-30 ICANN Strategic Plan. A Strategic Plan Development Community Consultation was also held on 6 March 2024 at ICANN79. Additional consultations were held with SO/AC constituents at ICANN79.

Both sessions started by reviewing the current strategic plan development approach. An update on the environmental scan, including the main themes identified, was then shared. The Board co-chair then provided an overview of the Develop Strategies Phase, including sharing the Working Draft Vision Statement with the community. The community provided their initial feedback on the main themes and the draft vision statement through discussion in the 21 February session and through an interactive poll and discussion in the 6 March session. Lastly, the group was thanked for their input and interest. Here are the key takeaways from the community consultations that will be incorporated into the development process.

- **Draft Vision Statement:** Collectively, the group indicated that the vision statement felt aspirational and succinct, and clearly outlined ICANN’s work and how it can be successfully achieved, and its role in the larger Internet ecosystem. Some community participants noted the vision like the mission is timeless, but measured outcomes and periodic assessments would be needed. Others commented that the vision statement addressed the critical nature of keeping a single, global interoperable internet, particularly in light of recent geopolitical events. The use of the word “steward” was commented on, and finding a way to help facilitate that in emerging markets for the unique identifier systems. 67% of those who participated in the poll felt the vision statement resonated with ICANN’s mission and values, was clear and easily understood, and would stay relevant in the long term, by FY2030. 56% of those who participated in the poll felt that the vision statement inspired a sense of purpose or aspiration and captured the essence of what was trying to be achieved. However, only 44% of participants felt the vision statement reflected a shared “vision of the community, board and Org.
- **Environmental Scan Themes:** Some dialogue was exchanged on the level of specificity of the objectives. There was a suggestion that themes or categories be ranked by importance and that risk management should be integrated into the strategic planning process. 90%: These themes are very relevant to the current needs of ICANN, are within ICANN’s mission and are aligned with the draft vision. 52% of participants felt the explanations of each theme aligned with their understanding.
- **Building Accessibility and Transparency:** The importance of data visualization,

particularly graphs, was mentioned, to help with understanding complex topics and to better visualize how ICANN works. The need to simplify content was emphasized to improve accessibility and transparency.

- **Collaboration and Capacity Building:** Collaboration, engagement, and capacity building within the community was also highlighted. The idea of breaking down silos through collaboration amongst SO/AC leadership and finding new ways to engage (e.g. the Board led community breakout sessions in prep week) were commended. Some comments include finding ways to use the Strategic Plan as a lens to look through at the work that is prioritized and worked on within the ICANN ecosystem on a consistent basis. Community engagement through the development of the Strategic Plan was discussed, including feedback through webinars and meetings to ensure dialogue before finalizing the plan.
- **Ongoing Evaluation of the new Board and Community Engagement Format:** Additional feedback was shared on the new Board Create a framework that allows periodic review and adjustments to account for changing circumstances. There was a request to set up mechanisms for regularly updating and communicating progress regarding the plan, and share pre-reading materials and clear session guidelines to support efficient session management.

Next Step and Follow Up Actions

The insights from this session will be incorporated into the strategic planning process, to create a more robust, adaptable, and effective plan that engages and involves Community, Board and org. The community encouraged the org and Board to continue finding innovative ways to engage in this process.

The development of the strategic plan is a collaborative effort involving the community, Board, and org. The next important opportunity for active participation in this process is by joining the upcoming community input and update sessions, and reviewing/ submitting public comments once the draft plan is complete.