

Future role and activities of the SOPC

1. Introduction

SOPC is one of the committees of the ccNSO, meaning it was established to perform recurring tasks!
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/about/committees.htm>

Membership is open to all ccTLDs and the Charter of SOPC has been recently updated (2020), however due to circumstances (no in person meetings, change of leadership, effort to provide meaningful feedback on documents) a review of activities is warranted.

2. Role of the SOPC

According to the Charter <https://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/sopc-charter-30jun20-en.pdf> :

1. Description and Objective

Facilitate Comments on ICANN Planning documents. The aim of the Committee is to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in the strategic and operational planning processes and related budgetary processes of ICANN and Public Technical Identifiers (PTI).

Submit Rejection Action Petition. The Committee has the right to submit a Rejection Action Petition, where appropriate, against the ICANN and IANA budgets, as well as their strategic and operating plans under the procedure for exercise of the empowered community's rights to reject specified actions defined in the ICANN Bylaws, Annex D, section 2.1 (f) ICANN budgets, (g) IANA budgets, (h) operating plans and (i) strategic plans to the ccNSO as Decisional Participant (as defined in section 6.1(a) of the ICANN Bylaws as amended 28 November 2019).

2. Scope

In achieving its objective, the Committee will undertake, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- Organising ccTLD-focused strategy and operation sessions at ICANN events. These events shall be open to the public.
- Disseminating and summarising information relevant to ICANN's Strategic and Operating Plan.
- Commenting on ICANN and PTI's Strategic and Operating Plans and Budgets.

The Committee may liaise with ICANN and/or other supporting organisations and advisory committees.

The Committee will proactively seek out and foster participation and input from ccTLD managers and provide regular feedback to the ccNSO on the strategic and operational planning processes.

3. Issues

1. One of the SOPC main activities during the year is to review the ICANN's Operating Plan and Budget for the upcoming Year and the 5-year Operating and Financial Plan (Plans) and submit comments during the Public Comment period. This is approximately 300 pages document which

requires the substantial amount of effort, both as group and for individual members, for example just the time to read and understand a 300 page document.

2. The volunteers “burn out” effect. This effect makes it difficult to ensure the full review of documents and the preparation of high-quality comments
3. SOPC chair has received the request from ccNSO Council Chair whether the SOPC Charter needs to be updated. The request was not answered.

4. Questions to discuss

- For whom is the work of the SOPC intended? ccTLD community only or broader community including ICANN Board and Org?
- What is the role and the scope of SOPC? Does it need to be adjusted?
- How does the SOPC intend to do what is supposed to do?
- What is required to be able to fulfil the duties?

In particular:

1. Should SOPC keep doing things as it used to do or should we do something differently? Are there any changes needed in current approach?
2. Are there any specific parts of Plans where SOPC must focus?
 - Focus at strategic level, not at minor details?
 - Focus on ccTLD community priorities? If so, what are they?
 - Focus on permanent issues (i.e. increase in staff costs and headcount)?
 - Focus on major projects/ areas of expenses?

Goals of the forthcoming meeting, starting 27 April meeting and expected outcomes

- Meeting 27 April, May 2022: Agree on approach to future work
- ICANN74: Discussion with ccTLD what they expect from SOPC, input to ICANN’s planning effort. What provides value to ccTLDs?
- Post ICANN74 Update charter based on SOPC workshops & ICANN74 results
- ICANN75 (September 2022): Present basic (Yearly) Plan of activities

Input for (Yearly) Plan of activities that will include:

- Preparing comments
- ccTLD-focused strategy and operation sessions at ICANN events (or outside ICANN events? See example of ccNSO News session which are currently run not in ICANN week but a week before. What are the topics for the next year?)
- Dissemination and Summarizing information relevant to ICANN’s Strategic and Operating Plan (for instance: strategy and operation sessions, monthly reports to ccNSO Council, letters to ccNSO community, etc)

- Other activities that may arise. For example from the past: SOPC commented on Reserve Fund replenishment. Current example: Prioritization exercise

Next meeting (May) – TBD later based on results of Apr, 28 meeting

- 1) SOPC charter – confirm the no changes needed or approve the updated text
- 2) Plan on future SOPC activities and engagement
 - a. Consultation with community at ICANN 74
 - b. Other activities to inform/engage ccNSO community
 - c. Collaboration with other groups (ICANN Planning dep, SCBO, ccNSO Council, ccNSO Triage committee)
 - d. approach for the next Plans and Budget review process (timeframe etc)
- 3) Discussion on how to increase engagement
 - a. As an example: rotating sub-team coordination among SOPC members, supported by experienced SOPC members (former sub-team coordinators)
 - b. Create a map of the origin of each SOPC member → Understand the geographical spread and focus on topics in this areas
 - c. Does the SOPC reflect the competencies required? What competencies are required?
 - d. Sharing documents
 - e. Share tasks with other groups from the beginning?