Comment suggestions

ICANN draft operating initiatives
FY24-28 & FY24

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Feb. 2, 2023 OFB call

Operating initiative – Facilitate DNS Ecosystem improvements

Recognize the inclusion of this in operating initiative (it was not there last year)

 At Large has been raising the issue of DNS abuse in multiple fora in the past few years

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*_Does the scope, etc. cover our concerns. Someone on this file should look at it more closely."_

Operating Initiative – Evolve and Strengthen MSM to Facilitate Diverse and Inclusive Participation in Policymaking

Focussing on 3 particular MSM issues

-- **Prioritization**

-- **Complexity**

-- **Roles and Responsibilities of the ICANN Board, Org and Community**

+ misc.

MSM issues - cont'd

Roles and responsibilities of the ICANN Board, Org and Community:

Scope: "The holistic review -- to determine if the existing SOs and ACs continue to have a purpose within the current structure – enjoys a high priority status in the community."

Note our agreement with this and desire to see the work begin

Scope: **"***evolving and enhancing community governance, including revisions to constituency and stakeholder group charters and improvements to election processes* **"**

Do we have a comment to make on this?

MSM Issues – con'd

Prioritization

At Large has had a team addressing prioritization issues from our perspective for some time and are engaging in community wide discussions.

More to say on this???

MSM issues - cont'd

Complexity

The increasing complexity of the work taken on by staff and volunteers at ICANN is mentioned in various areas of the document

"As the policy challenges facing the community become more legally and technically complex, the need for participants in the policy process to have the requisite expertise and experience could result in less diverse participation."

This subject needs to be addressed more broadly.

Complexity - cont'd

Addressing the complexity issue:

-- explore different ways to recognize and incentivize volunteers with an extensive knowledge base -- to encourage continued participation?

-- support and recognize outside learning experiences like the Schools of Internet Governance? (also applies to Functional Activities: Community Engagement and Services

MSM – misc.

Re: Pilot policy transition program to provide fellows and newcomers with specific knowledge about policy issues using subject matter experts

Comment? It would be important to ensure that participants in such programs were exposed to all points of view.

Operating Initiative: Evolve and strengthen the ICANN communities' decision making processes to Ensure Effect.&Eff. Policymaking

It is suggested that implementing training and research opportunities for interested staff could improve writing and analytical skills to support development of community policy recs.

Comment? We would support this but suggest that such opportunities should also be available to volunteers.

Evolve & Strengthen... - cont'd

Agree with a need for more consistent academic quality policy research that may not be available in-house?

"Lack of robust data collection to date means that data-driven policy work has become difficult and time consuming and decisions may be made based on anecdotal rather than comprehensive factual evidence."

Initiative: Geopolitical Monitoring

Constraints

"Possibility of forging an alliance with an organization that takes the contrary position to ICANN's on a common issue."

How should such compromises be monitored and how is the community involved?

"Potential perception from some in the community that reassignment of work might lead to a change in funding or reducing participation in events from a level to which the community previously had become accustomed."

How will the community be involved in such a reassignment decision?

Geopolitical monitoring

Scope: "Need for resources to monitor and compare information across various venues to detect the "weak signals" early enough to identify trends and evaluate actions to address possible challenges. In certain cases, deliberations on issues related to ICANN's mission take place within multilateral settings behind closed doors without much, if any, information being released publicly"

How does this fit in with the MSM and the need for accountability at all levels?

Functional Activities – Policy Development and Support

. Policy development and advice - Resources

"Professional services are a cost-effective, flexible way to supplement full-time equivalents that don't require highly specialized skills, and should be considered along with additional hiring"

Do we think the use of contractors/professional services should be minimized?

Policy Development and Support

Considerations

Possible comment supporting expert staff:

The At Large community realizes the need for expert staff at high levels. The kind of work that is done in the ICANN community, the need to support volunteers that make that work possible cannot be compared with other workplaces or staffing arrangements. It is unique and high levels of expert staff are essential

Functional Activities (FY24) – Community Engagement and Services

Governmental and Intergovernmental Organization Engagement - Activities

"Monitor and report on developments at the United Nations (U.N.), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and other U.N. agencies, dealing with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) +20 review, as well as development of the U.N. Cybercrime Convention and other relevant U.N. and ITU documents."

Suggestion: Supporting MS systems at WSIS+20 will require careful message positioning by ICANN and the community where and when possible. Roles need to go beyond monitoring and reporting.