EN

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Comment on
the Draft ICANN FY25-29 Operating and Financial Plan,
the Draft ICANN FY25 Operating Plan and Draft ICANN FY25 Budget, and
the Draft IANA FY25 Operating Plan and Budget

Staff Introduction

On 12 December 2023, the Public Comment opened for the [Draft ICANN FY25 Plans](#).

Between 31 January and 02 February 2024 the primary penholders Ricardo Holmquist, Claire Craig, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Marita Moll, Jonathan Zuck, and Justine Chew drafted this ALAC response. Other At-Large Community Members also contributed to this comment as well including Judith Hellerstein, Sebastien Bachollet, and Bukola Oronti. The draft was discussed and reviewed by both the Operations, Finance and Budget working group (OFB-WG) and the ALAC's Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) detailed below:

The OFB-WG discussed the draft statement on the calls held on [11 January 2024](#), [18 January 2024](#), [25 January 2024](#) and [01 February 2024.](#)

On [31 January 2024](#), the CPWG discussed the final draft statement.

On 6 February 2024, a four day ALAC vote was opened as part of the ALAC ratification.

On 12 February 2024, staff confirmed the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with15 out of 15 votes in favor. 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. Please note 100 % of ALAC members participated in the poll. The ALAC members who participated in the poll are (alphabetical order by first name): Aziz Hilali, Bill Jouris, Bukola Oronti, Claire Craig, Eduardo Diaz, Joanna Kulesza, Jonathan Zuck, Justine Chew, Lilian Ivette De Luque, Marcelo Rodriguez, Pari Esfandiari, Eaihanath Gbadamassi, Satish Babu, Shah Zahidur Rahman, Tommi Karttaavi. You may view the results here: https://tally.icann.org/cgi/results?e=76479136a7f

As a result of these community and Advisory Committee processes, the ALAC submits the statement below.

Contents

1.0 Executive Summary

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the At-Large Community appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft ICANN FY25-29 Operating and Financial Plan, the Draft ICANN FY25 Operating Plan and Budget, and the Draft IANA FY25 Operating Plan and Budget. **The ALAC is also taking this opportunity to submit its FY25 At-Large Funding Request (AFR) proposals**.

Additionally, we wish to also highlight our complementary submission for the Public Comment Proceeding on the Draft PTI FY25 Operating Plan and Budget.

2.0 Introduction

The ALAC and the At-Large Community provide the following input for consideration in ICANN org's annual budget and planning process as we recognize the importance of such community participation as a foundation for ICANN's public accountability. In support of this best practice in organizational transparency, we continue our long-standing engagement in these matters.

We appreciate that, as stated in the call for Public Comments,

> *...ICANN developed the Five-Year Operating and Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2025–2029 and the One-Year Operating Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 by utilizing a forward-looking methodology for funding that incorporates "base" scenario funding projections. This methodology strives to identify predictions about future funding conditions while utilizing a set of base assumptions that are expected to result in a realistic outcome.*

> *ICANN's Operating Plan includes Operating Initiatives, which are key activities to achieve the Strategic Plan, and Functional Activities, which support the processes and mechanisms that permit the community to complete its work. Some Operating Initiatives in the Operating Plan incorporate multi-year goals outlined in the blog titled "ICANN Interim President and CEO Shares Goals for Fiscal Year 2024," and these goals will be noted where applicable. The Operating Initiatives and Functional Activities provide what can be considered ICANN org's statement of intention, outlining planned activities while acknowledging the challenges and dependencies that could impact ultimate delivery.*

3.0 ICANN FY25-29 Operating and Financial Plan

3.1 General Comments

We appreciate the presentation of the budget breakdown by activity, especially within each activity because this allows easier understanding of fund allocations.

We note that the Budget and Strategic plans still have some deficiencies:
  ○ Missing alternative texts for the images/graphs
  ○ Poor color contrast, and
  ○ Poor tagging

These deficiencies limit accessibility by persons with disabilities, effectively hindering their participation in the comment process. Care ought to be taken to institute accessibility checks, for example, by relying on accessibility checkers found in *Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Word* or *Excel*.

3.2 Comments on Selected Operating Initiatives

The 15 ALAC members and the Leadership of the five (5) RALOs were recently polled to identify three top priorities from the ICANN org's nine (9) remaining FY25-29 Operating Initiatives in the [Highlights of the Draft ICANN FY25-29 Operating & Financial Plan and FY25 Operating Plan and Budget](#) (at page 4). This resulted in the following priorities being established for the At-Large Community:

1. [3] Evolve and strengthen the multistakeholder model to facilitate diverse and inclusive participation in policymaking.

2. [6] Promote and evolve the DNS through open and transparent processes that enable competition and open entry in internet-related markets while ensuring the stability, security and resilience of the DNS.

3. [4] Evolve and strengthen the ICANN community's decision-making processes to ensure efficient and effective policymaking.

Our comments will, therefore, correspond to the priorities outlined above.

[3] Evolve and strengthen the multistakeholder model to facilitate diverse and inclusive participation in policymaking

Sustaining ICANN's multistakeholder model demands the facilitation of diverse and inclusive participation on an ongoing basis. For this, we recognize two key ICANN programs: The *ICANN Fellowship Program* and the *NextGen@ICANN Program*.

We suggest a review of these two programs using, not only statistics collected by the program managers, but by a deeper dive into various metrics related to past and current Fellows and NextGenners. Metrics which analyze how the respective programs have been successful in, not only identifying, but nurturing, engaging and keeping the Fellows and NextGenners in <u>demonstrably active participation</u> in various parts of the ICANN Community, would be invaluable for improving the programs' utility in sustaining the ICANN multistakeholder model.

Included in the scope of this operating initiative is the intention to evaluate specific community-led initiatives, such as those - that support representation and inclusivity (eg. *"This evaluation will aid the community in determining any additional actions needed to maintain inclusivity and global representation within ICANN policymaking."*) To this end,

we urge that greater attention be given to a third important channel: Schools of Internet Governance (SIGs).

In particular, we propose adding a budget item, allowing for some stable and predictable funding for SIGs. Such a budget item could offer funds to be distributed among the SIGs operating in the fiscal year in some agreed upon prorated manner. Such schools are volunteer-driven, mostly convened by veteran ICANN participants specifically to bring in more volunteers. Some expectation of stable funding would make a significant difference to those who donate their time, energies, and sometimes temporarily guarantee funding personally while they wait for sponsorship resources to materialize. We believe that SIGs are community engagement activities that ICANN should support and we are pleased to hear that similar recommendations are coming from other stakeholder groups. These SIGs are an excellent and cost-effective way to introduce potential volunteers from different regions to the subject of internet governance in general and ICANN in particular.

Facilitating the engagement paths of different levels of community members is seen as ever more critical, given the volunteer burnout that many community members experience. Tools and programs focusing on onboarding, skill building, and leadership development would result in more effective and inclusive participation in policymaking. In this respect, we look forward to seeing positive outcomes for the *Policy Development Accelerator Program* for ICANN newcomers specifically for the *ICANN Fellowship Program* and the *NextGen@ICANN Program* participants and alumni.

[6] Promote and evolve the DNS through open and transparent processes that enable competition and open entry in internet-related markets while ensuring the stability, security and resilience of the DNS

The production of the Domain Name Marketplace Indicators and other supporting analysis remains important to the ALAC and the At-Large Community as indicative means to keep check on the health of the DNS industry. They provide useful data points which can be examined and extrapolated for the formulative of both reactive and proactive steps in ensuring the stability, security and resilience of the DNS.

Commendable also are the commissioning of initiatives such as the *Report of the 2023 Africa Domain Name Industry Study*, and the *Middle East Domain Name Industry Study 2023*, which we support, and we encourage ICANN org to do the same with other regions; noting the last *Latin American and Caribbean DNS Marketplace Study* was published in 2017.

WIth the planned launch of the next round of New gTLDs targeted for Q2 of 2026, we understand that the execution of capacity development, outreach and engagement, and global communications and awareness plans for the New gTLD Program will gain increasing priority in terms of planning and budgeting. We hope that ICANN org will indeed continue to carefully manage its planning and budgeting in consideration of several factors:

- Reasonably conservative assumptions in the demand of new TLDs;
- Flexibility in engaging contractors and temporary staff as opposed to permanent ICANN staff to support the upcoming application round; and
- Not compromising the planning and implementation of the operational infrastructure (systems, processes, and people) needed to support the ongoing operations of the New gTLD Program, especially for compliance monitoring.

In respect of Universal Acceptance (UA), we appreciate that ICANN org has taken steps to ensure that all of its customer/user-facing interfaces/systems are UA-compliant, and its continual support for the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) and the UA Day initiative. We also look forward to progress by ICANN org (and updates thereof) in requiring, selecting and/or migrating to system vendors that comply with UA in its procurement practices, to further champion UA.

[4] Evolve and strengthen the ICANN community's decision-making processes to ensure efficient and effective policymaking.

The ALAC and the At-Large Community have been eagerly awaiting the rollout of the "Community Engagement System (CES) to evolve stakeholder participation", which we cautiously note now appears to be a greater ICANN priority for fiscal year 2024, as noted by ICANN's senior management personnel (ICANN Interim President and CEO Shares Goals for Fiscal Year 2024). We believe this CES is a crucial tool to help the community make more effective use of its active volunteer workforce, and that it is a vital piece to the ALAC's ability to deliver on Recommendation 16 of the Second At-Large Review, which has to do with the establishment and collection of consistent performance metrics for At-Large Community members. As such, the rollout of this CES for the At-Large community is of paramount importance to us.

Concurrently, we look forward to receiving access to uniform project and program management tools to better track and manage not only ALAC and At-Large projects and activities, but also our participation in ICANN projects and activities, for better overall volunteer resource allocation to meet workload demands from existing projects and activities and those in the pipeline.

Another key consideration that ought to be included under this Operating Initiative [4] is to address the ALAC's repeated call for more effective collaborative tools such as Slack to be adopted by ICANN org in support of our community's work.

3.3 Comments on Functional Activities

Policy Development and Advice

Suitable support for the ICANN Policy Development Processes, as well as the support of the advisory work of ICANN Advisory Committees, is core to ICANN's Multistakeholder Model of operation and a considerable but absolutely appropriate and required use of resources. Moreover, metrics tracking is an important aspect of transparency and accountability in the deployment of these resources and ALAC and the At-Large Community support this. However, we also note that such tracking to be effective and useful will also take significantly more resource allocation.

Similarly, part of the ICANN Community that benefits greatly from the provision of suitable and effective resourcing, including Policy Support staffing for its activities, is insufficient to permit much, if any, expansion to additional policy-related projects or activities in support of either volunteer efforts or comply with organizational requirements or new activity planning.

We also note that suitable, and preferably experienced, staff are needed to fill the current void. Even if budgeted, this action still needs to be done promptly to not slow down the progress of work plans, which has not always been the case. Therefore, this may require some further preparatory work, including formulating a list of pre-approved consultants.

Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs

The ALAC and the At-Large Community notes the importance of specific Policy Research in various stages of ICANN Policy Development and implementation of various Board-approved recommendations (like the Continuous Improvement Program and the Pilot Holistic Review). In addition, we also note that several Specific Review Teams have called for, and have had variable success to appropriate study and research requests. While we recognize these activities are demanding on ICANN resources, consideration of and budgeting for Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs at an appropriate degree that better provide for fact-based decision-making is

important and will allow for greater predictability in those processes, stability and overall effectiveness of the outcomes.

<u>Technical Services</u>

The ALAC and the At-Large Community recognize and agree that, as stated, '...additional staff and resources will be [needed to] ensure that the following is implemented:

- EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 implementation.
- Operational readiness planning to support future gTLD applications and operations.
- Increased responsibilities, e.g., Centralized Zone Data Service, Registry System Testing, Technical Onboarding re-platforming, implementing the Registration Data Access Protocol amendment, and implementing changes related to the Registration Data Policy.

It is important, if not critical, that sufficient resources, including staffing, are available so this function is not impaired.

<u>Functional Support for Strategic Initiatives</u>

This essential support for ICANN's core functions, strategic initiatives as stated and agreed to, and specific stakeholder and community activity support are important. We trust that it has been carefully provided for in planning and budgeting. What is important is that if another necessary and supported work is also needing to be undertaken, it can be provided for **without** negatively affecting the support for Strategic Initiatives.

<u>Constituent and Stakeholder Travel</u>

We note the proposed activity to review and update the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines (TSG) and that there will be a specific opportunity to provide input in to the TSG and possibly, to the practices of ICANN's travel team and contracted travel management service provider, and look forward to providing more extensive input then. In anticipation of that, we wanted to highlight the following feedback.

- ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines

We are asking that the TSG include greater flexibility in how the ALAC allocates the existing travel envelope. The ALAC is in the process of developing a travel policy that

incorporates utility, recognition and diversity to ensure that there is more effective use of the available travel funding and maximum participation of At-Large volunteers. This would include a more fungible approach to when the total number of ALAC travel lots for any one fiscal year are used. For example, the more flexible policy might result in fewer At-Large representatives receiving travel support at one meeting and more during the AGM. This is so that travel to an ICANN meeting can be viewed as recognition for volunteer contributions rather than an entitlement based on position held. This flexibility would also allow for more extensive At-Large regional engagement in ICANN activities during ICANN Meetings.

If there is more flexibility in the TSG, then the ALAC and the At-Large Community could, at short notice, make better use of otherwise unused or lost travel funds. Specifically, it should be possible for the funds that become available through canceled travel to be quickly reallocated to support other active participants who might be available for in-person participation at the event.

- ICANN's Travel Team and Contracted Travel Management Service Provider

The ALAC and the At-Large Community is concerned that the current deadlines to finalize travel plans for approved travelers is often very short despite being announced in advance. This results in those At-Large members with day jobs who are allocated travel support little time to get leave approved in time to meet the deadlines. This leads to an increased risk of some cancellations for various unforeseeable reasons close to the event date.

Further, for several travelers it takes many weeks or months to get a visa and sometimes people are not successful. This often happens too late to substitute another funded traveler. Therefore, we ask that the travel process start sooner so that people could get the visas needed. Also, if these visas cannot be obtained there be additional time allocated to substitute another traveler.

Travel and Meetings

Separately, we would like to understand the rationale for the Travel and Meetings budget projection of a fixed USD 13 million per year for the next 5 years[1] even though post-pandemic travel cost has seen a sharp increase.

Global Stakeholder Engagement

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[1] See: Draft ICANN FY25-29 Operating and Financial Plan. at p.125.

The ALAC and the At-Large Community through its RALOs have, over many years, developed close and complementary working relationships with Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE). As such, we consistently see and appreciate the complementarity and importance of the work they do and we continue to stress that sufficient support be provided for them to function at an optimal level, and they are able to support some specific RALO activities.

Engagement Programs

The functional support for ICANN's engagement programs dovetails with or complements greatly in many cases, the engagement efforts that are planned or carried out under the ALAC and the At-Large remit.

In the cases where community engagement and capacity development occurs through Regional Schools of Internet Governance (SIGs) organized by active members of ICANN constituencies, we have made the case earlier in this comment for a new specific budget item to provide for a more predictable ICANN contribution to these efforts.

Global Meetings Operations

The ALAC and the At-Large Community appreciate the benefits of regular, well-planned and globally distributed meetings; suitable logistics, contracting and even sourcing of suitable and accessible venues, inclusive of sufficient accommodation options. These factors are a critical contributor to what we believe is a unique and invaluable aspect of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model that reflects a rare openness to the general population and stakeholder or interested party engagement via both the annual public meeting cycle and the various regional and sub-regional supported activities.

Government and Intergovernmental Organization Engagement

The importance of ICANN in the ecosystem of Internet Governance makes it essential to engage in the international activities listed such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UN committee discussions on cybercrime, as well as engaging in educational/consultational activities arising from legislative activities at national levels. It is acknowledged that this will strain resources and potentially require an increase in headcount. Given that discussions and decisions made at these levels can have a profound effect on ICANN and the Multistakeholder Model, there is little choice but to accept the risk that this could result in continuous work not previously anticipated.

Global Domain Division (GDD) Accounts and Services

Adequate and stable support for this activity, in particular in preparation for the next round of New gTLDs, is necessary so that the current and baseline operations supporting the last round of new gTLDs are not compromised.

Global Communications and Language Services

The ALAC and At-Large Community are long-term supporters and beneficiaries of ICANN's provision of language services and the skills and expertise of global communications. In recent times, our regular use of real-time transcription (RTT) and other forms of captioning has become an indispensable tool during our meetings and online activities such as webinars, allowing attendees whose first language is not the one being primarily used in the activity, and/or who have limited connectivity or technology issues (bandwidth, connection stability, etc.,) or who have a disability to maintain communications and participation.

We greatly appreciate the work of Language Services and having RTT incorporated in the core budget for At-Large Meetings as this has resulted in a significant increase in attendance on our calls and meetings. As opposed to the automated/machine captioning on Zoom, RTT is available on a separate stream text link, which is the preferred mode for persons with disabilities, persons with low bandwidth, and persons whose first language is not English. Our survey data has shown that over 90% of all users have said that RTT on calls has allowed them to participate better. Human Captioning/RTT enables them to listen and then to read and re-read what has been said, to get a better understanding of what is being said. This not only increases their engagement but also their ability to participate in the topics, and consequently, increasing their understanding of the topics being discussed.

RTT in general advances ICANN's goals of developing a globally diverse culture of knowledge participants and also enhances inclusivity, transparency and accountability which are critical tools to being trusted by its stakeholders. In our original pilot project we had RTT in English, Spanish, and French and the pilot worked well. However, once RTT became part of the core budget ICANN only provided this in English stating that they were unable to provide the other languages on a daily or weekly basis. We found that odd as we had no issues with the vendor who operated our pilot project.

Ombuds Office

We noted the statement regarding the Ombuds Office, "*Work Stream 2 of the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability issued recommendations[2] that have been accepted by the Board. The accepted recommendations include wording relating to the Office of the Ombuds. The Office of the Ombuds supports and contributes to the implementation of Ombuds-related recommendations*"[3], and believe that the final implementation must include (before any selection of a new ICANN Ombuds Office (IOO)) the recommendation already accepted by the ICANN Board: 5.8 (Implementation Guidance). All the other recommendations to be finalized or already implemented with the previous IOO must also be taken into consideration. Therefore an "Operation Initiative contributions" must be set up for that purpose.

4.0 ICANN FY25 Budget

We appreciate the Budget breakdown by activity, especially within each activity; this eases understanding where funds are allocated.

Our concern is with the actual budgeted cost of handling two funds, the Supplemental Fund for Implementation of Community Recommendations (SFICR) and the ICANN Grant Program. In the SFICR, the cost of handling is about USD 2 million. However, the only function budgeted is to allocate 75% of the fund to the New gTLD program, with no comment for the remaining amount. Additionally, it is unclear whether this fund will be replenished once the New gTLD round is in place and generates money.

Although the fund is much larger for the ICANN Grant Program, only USD 10 million is expected to be allocated in FY25. However, handling it costs about USD 2 million, or 20% of the expected allocation.

From the average full-time employees (FTEs) and the Program to Date and Projected Next Round Financials through the FY25 table, there is an estimated 46 FTE for FY25 and a cost of around USD 47.7 million (April 2023 – June 2025). We note that the Financials only include the projected costs. Is there any projected revenue or income estimated for the next round?

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[2] https://www.icann.org/resources/work-stream-2-implementation/improving-ombudsman-en
[3] See: Draft Operating & Financial Plans FY25-29 & FY25, Community Engagement & Services, Ombuds (Office) pages 88 and 207.

5.0 IANA FY25 Budget

Within the IANA FY25 budget, we note the following Financial assumptions:

> *The IANA FY25 Budget is $11.5 million, of which $10.9 million is for PTI to perform the core IANA services and $0.6 million is for IANA support activities not performed by PTI. The FY25 PTI Budget is $0.4M higher than the FY24 PTI Budget, primarily because of additional staff, an increase in personnel costs to address inflation, incremental administration for rent and other facility costs, and an increase in capital expenses as ICANN org prepares for the next Key Signing Key Rollover. Lower professional services expenses from a reduced need for third-party contractors partially offset these increased costs. The IANA support activities component is relatively flat compared to the FY24 IANA Budget due to consistent support requirements.*

From the perspective of the ALAC and the ICANN At-Large Community, we appreciate that inflation is being considered this year in the FY25 IANA budget. We also highly appreciate the decrease in Professional Services and the increase in full-time equivalent personnel since these are core functions in ICANN and should be carried out by ICANN org staff.

6.0 FY25 At Large Funding Requests (AFR) Proposals

In response to the proposed streamlining of the FY25 At-Large Funding Request process, the ALAC and the At-Large Community provide the following input for consideration for inclusion in ICANN org's annual Operations, Planning and Budget process. We recognize the importance of such community participation as a foundation for ICANN's public accountability. In support of this best practice in organizational transparency, we continue our long-standing engagement in these matters.

To adapt to the new process, the Operation, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG) revised its approach to the development, review, and implementation of approved AFRs. Submitted AFRs were reviewed based on ALAC Criteria developed by the OFB-WG. Of the proposals submitted, two were approved by the ALAC for further consideration for ICANN's budgetary planning; the details are submitted below.

AFR (1): At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The purpose of the At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting is twofold:

> 1) to allow a dedicated time for the At-Large Leadership, develop strategic At-Large priorities for the upcoming year. The meeting attendees would consist of the 15 ALAC members, ALAC Liaisons (ccNSO, GAC, GNSO, SSAC), and 10 RALO leaders to as well as the 6 Chairs of the three Working Groups: Cross Community Work Group (CPWG), Operations, Finance and Budget (OFB), and the Outreach and Engagement (OE), and

> 2) to facilitate the onboarding process for incoming leaders as well as the integration of the continuing leaders thereby creating a basis for a strong and united At-Large leadership team.

The scope of the At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting would include a one- day face-to-face meeting either the day before the start of the ICANN Annual General Meeting (AGM) or the day following the close of the AGM to allow the leadership team to develop strategic priorities and the process for their implementation. Meeting face-to-face would also allow the At-Large leadership to begin their team-building, engage in training, and provide onboarding activities for incoming leaders.

Alignment of the proposed activity with the [ICANN Mission](#), the [ICANN Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2021-2025](#), the [At-Large top 3 FY25 ICANN Operating Plan and Budget priorities](#), and the [FY25 At-Large strategic priority activities](#).

HOW IS THIS ACTIVITY RELATED TO ONGOING OR ANTICIPATED ICANN & ALAC POLICY WORK?

The At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting will offer a dedicated time for the At-Large Leadership to assess the previous year's At-Large Strategic Priority Activities and develop either updated or new priority activities based on ICANN's strategic priorities related to policy, operations and governance, and community organization.

The At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting will also provide the basis for the strengthening of the At-Large Leadership team, facilitate training, and offer onboarding opportunities and resources.

CATEGORY

> Engagement

Training

OBJECTIVE - AUDIENCE

The audience of the At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting will include the 15 members of the ALAC, the 4 ALAC Liaisons to the ccNSO, GAC, GNSO, and SSAC, and two RALO leadership members from each of the 5 RALOs for a maximum of 29 At-Large leaders.

OUTCOMES

Becoming a full participant in ICANN community activities is a daunting task. Accordingly, the intended objective of a strategic session, similar to those scheduled by other groups in the community, is the full onboarding and orientation of the new leadership team of the At-Large community. The At-Large community is more diverse geographically, economically, culturally, etc., than any other community within the ICANN ecosystem. There is a complex structure of RALOs and ALSs and diverse responsibilities throughout the communications channels that include not only policy participation but outreach, mobilization and message amplification. Ideally a one or two day strategic session would facilitate a well prepared leadership team.

EVALUATION - METRICS

Metrics will include ongoing evaluation of the At-Large strategic priorities and implementation plans developed during this activity, including regular assessment of their implementation..

ESTIMATED FUNDS REQUESTED

The request for the At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting incorporates as many efficiencies as possible.

Given that the activity will take place either a day prior to, or after, the AGM, the requested logistics include a meeting room, accommodation in a hotel connected to the ICANN Public meeting, one day's per diem, and catering are required. Travel costs will not be required as At-Large leaders are already funded to the AGM.

This will also save time on behalf of the At-Large leaders as no additional travel time is needed.

AFR (2): Global End User Survey

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The purpose of the Global End User Survey is to identify end user concerns and to facilitate priorities. As it endeavors to represent the interests of individual end users, the At-Large community employs a number of different tools to assess those interests including discussions, regional feedback, community surveys and outreach. However, it would behooves the At-Large community to go to the end users themselves, on a periodic basis, to assess the level of concern and stakes on a variety of issues related to the DNS. These topics would include DNS Abuse, Universal Acceptance, Geographic Names, representation in the industry and much more.

Ideally, such a global end user survey would coincide with the fourth At-Large Summit (ATLAS IV) and help the community to establish positions and priorities for the coming years. Such a survey would be a random survey, conducted by an outside firm, not the self-selected surveys, in regular use.

Alignment of the proposed activity with the [ICANN Mission](#), the [ICANN Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2021-2025](#), the [At-Large top 3 FY25 ICANN Operating Plan and Budget priorities](#), and the [FY25 At-Large strategic priority activities](#).

This is aligned in a number of ways, not the least of which is incorporating end user feedback into ALAC priorities inside the ICANN ecosystem. In addition, such a survey, if timed well, could contribute to community messaging surrounding the future of the multi-stakeholder model as well as provide insights into message strategy for the new round.

HOW IS THIS ACTIVITY RELATED TO ONGOING OR ANTICIPATED ICANN & ALAC POLICY WORK?

The At-Large community is tasked with representing the interests of end users in ICANN policy development. Nearly every aspect of DNS policy has implications for end users. The upcoming round is a good example. with a better understanding of what end users are lacking, in terms of local and linguistic content, the At-Large community would be in a better position to help evangelize IDNs.

CATEGORY

Research

OBJECTIVE - AUDIENCE

Non-engaged individual end users from around the world.

OUTCOMES

The Outcome will be the prioritization of ALAC activities based on actual feedback from the end user community. Some of these priorities will be policy related, messaging for outside institutions such as the EU and WISIS and some will be educational on issues such as cybersecurity and DNS Abuse.

EVALUATION - METRICS

Ideally, the research would provide some actionable tasks for the At-Large community to advocate within ICANN or to execute ourselves (such as education).

ESTIMATED FUNDS REQUESTED

To be discussed with ICANN org.

7.0 Conclusion

The ALAC and the ICANN At-Large Community hope that our comments above are comprehensible, but we would be happy to provide further clarification on any point, as required. We also look forward to participating and engaging in onward briefings and sessions related to these matters, such as the ones planned for at ICANN79.

Please also note our associated comments on the Draft PTI FY25 Operating Plan and Budget LINK