Summary and Analysis of Comments for Strategic Plan 2010-2013

The draft ICANN Strategic Plan was posted for public comment on 1 December 2009 and public comment closed on 21 January 2010.

Following is a summary of comments received, broken into general comments about the plan as a whole and then specific comments about each of the four focus areas of the plan.

All comments can be found at: http://forum.icann.org/lists/stratplan-2010/

General comments

There were two schools of thought in regard to the document as a whole. Some respondents commended work (Uduma), thought that it was a "well elaborated document" (RySG), "well written and in great detail" (Lundh). Others saw the document as "goals not a plan" (Claffy) and lacking in detail (auDA, COA).

There was support for the new approach with four focus areas (Nominet, auDA) and a high level plan (Nominet). Two respondents suggested that the plan should be more concise with fewer initiatives (CIRA) and more focus (AFNIC).

Some suggested that there was a need to consider resource implications (Nominet) and wanted an opportunity to comment on a further draft of the plan (auDA).

For the plan to be successfully implemented, ICANN should establish clear metrics for compliance (Carrera).

One respondent expressed the view that ICANN needed to strengthen technical competence in its processes (EBW).

One respondent suggested that ICANN should consider the environmental impact of its activity, especially its face-to-face meetings and look to use online meeting technology wherever possible (Aerts).

Comments on "Preserve DNS stability and security"

There was very strong support for ICANN's initiatives in the area of stability, security and resiliency (CIRA, Nominet, DANSK, LegalNetworks, auDA, JANET, AFRALO, CADNA, Nazario, ALAC, JAS, PCH) and no comments against. In particular, there was support for collaborative response (DANSK) and CERT (LegalNetworks), and also a reinforcement that this work needs to be done in partnership (Nominet).

Any activity in this area needs to be needs to include all the infrastructure of the DNS (ALAC).

Some respondents suggested that there needed to be more explanation and greater clarity for metrics in this area (AFNIC, COA)

Several respondents raised the issue of budget allocation for security. If security is so important, why does it only get 10% of the ICANN budget (CIRA, auDA)?

Comments on "Promote competition, trust, choice and innovation"

There was general support for initiatives in this area (Nominet and many respondents to the online survey), although most raised issues with individual items.

There was support for the implementation of IDNs (CIRA, auDA, DANSK, ALAC), and also a suggestion that implementation must involve training (CIRA). Some such support will also be needed to implement other changes that are taking place (new TLDs, DNSSEC, etc) (auDA). Some respondents were specific in their support for IDNs, but not new gTLDS (DANSK, CADNA). There was also a concern that new gTLDs may not provide competition (ALAC).

Other commentators expressed support for new TLDs (RySG and many respondents to the online survey). Stable operation of new TLDs should be a priority (RySG).

With regard to fees, ICANN should be flexible in the imposition of financial obligations for IDNs and new TLDs (auDA) and try to keep fees low (AFRALO).

There was support for initiatives on IPv6 (AFRALO, ALAC, Carrera) and an acknowledgement of the importance of outreach in this area (ALAC). One respondent questioned whether the transition to IPv6 was worthwhile (Lundh).

There was support for ICANN improving its policy processes (Nominet, ALAC). Part of improving policy processes will need to include outreach and engagement (Nominet) and improving the accessibility and dissemination of information (ALAC). Gathering data on the impact of policy will also be important (EBW).

To build trust in the DNS, ICANN should give to priority to consumer interests (Timmons). It should also add child protection as a priority (Uduma, Carrera).

Comments on "Excel in IANA and other core operations"

There was support for the importance of initiatives in the IANA area (Nominet, auDA, AFRALO) and also a view that there was a need for metrics for IANA (Nominet, auDA). On a similar note, one respondent suggested that there was a

need to define "flawless" with regard to IANA operations (DANSK). There were no comments against the initiatives in this area of the plan.

One respondent expressed the view that ICANN should be trying to reduce costs (AFNIC).

Comments on "Contribute to shaping a healthy Internet eco-system"

There was support for the initiatives in this area (Nominet, AFRALO) and no comments against.

Many respondents gave views on participation. It is very important to increase participation (Nominet) through continued outreach (auDA), especially from developing countries (Uduma). Enhancing participation through At Large is an important aspect of this (AFRALO). There is also a need to identify measures for participation (DANSK) to monitor progress. One possible measure for participation could be to establish an ALS in every country (ALAC).

It is also important to continue to strengthen the multi-stakeholder model (ALAC).

Accountability is very important (Nominet) There needs to be measures for accountability (CIRA) and these should be strictly enforced through audits (auDA). As part of its initiatives in accountability, ICANN should commit to strict adherence to its Bylaws (RySG).

There was support for implementation of the Affirmation of Commitment responsibilities (auDA, CADNA, ALAC) with particular focus on community reviews.

Meeting Affirmation of Commitment responsibilities is very important (AFRALO). ICANN should ensure that its reviews are independent (CADNA).

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