Public Comment Summary Report

PTI / IANA Governance Proposal

Open for Submissions Date:  
Tuesday, 16 May 2023

Closed for Submissions Date:  
Wednesday, 5 July 2023

Summary Report Due Date:  
Monday, 7 August 2023

Category: Governance

Requester: ICANN org

ICANN org Contact(s): planning@icann.org


Outcome:  
ICANN received five submissions to the PTI/IANA Governance Proposal Public Comment Proceeding: four from organizations and one from an individual. Commenters voiced general support on the proposed planning process improvement.

The comments are each briefly summarized, and an analysis is provided for each. This Public Comment summary report includes the ICANN org staff summary of the comments and observations on the topics raised by the submitters in relation to the proposed planning process improvements.

ICANN appreciates the time, dedication, and participation in this proceeding and is grateful to those who provided their feedback.

Section 1: What We Received Input On

The purpose of this Public Comment is to seek community feedback on the proposed PTI Bylaw amendment to reduce complexities and improve the PTI-related planning processes with the overall ICANN planning process.

The proposed PTI Bylaw amendments include:

- Modifying the timing for the initial delivery of the PTI Operating Plan & Budget to the PTI Board, which is currently set to nine months prior to the start of the fiscal
year, to a 90-day window. This will allow better alignment with the remainder of ICANN’s planning processes.

- Moving PTI from a four-year strategic planning cycle to a five-year strategic planning cycle, which will enable alignment with ICANN's five-year strategic planning work.

These proposed planning process improvements and PTI Bylaw amendment are aligned with the principles defined by the community during the IANA Stewardship Transition, that funding for performance of the IANA Functions is assured by ICANN and that ICANN and its affiliate are recognized and maintained as separate entities.

Section 2: Submissions

Organizations and Groups:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Submitted by</th>
<th>Initials</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Constituency</td>
<td>Rajiv Prasad</td>
<td>BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>ccNSO Council</td>
<td>Alejandra Reynoso</td>
<td>ccNSO Council</td>
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<td>ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC)</td>
<td>Andreas Musielak</td>
<td>ccNSO SOPC</td>
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<td>Registries Stakeholder Group</td>
<td>RySG</td>
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Individuals:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation (if provided)</th>
<th>Initials</th>
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<td>James Olorundare</td>
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Section 3: Summary of Submissions

The five submissions include 10 comments. These comments are categorized into four themes: (1) support; (2) general observations; (3) suggestions; and (4) expressed concerns. Section 4 includes ICANN org’s response to each theme.
Section 4: Analysis of Submissions

4.1 Supportive

The BC, ccNSO Council, ccNSO SOPC, and the RySG expressed their support for the proposed planning process improvement. In particular, the BC commented “the proposed PTI Bylaw amendments seem relatively minor and reasonable” and the BC “is generally supportive of these proposed PTI Bylaws amendments; the ccNSO Council mentioned that “the proposed amendments and the reasons are clear and reasonable;” ccNSO SOPC indicated “SOPC is supportive of the proposed changes;” in addition, the RySG was pleased to see the proposed amendments, particulars, as the RySG has mentioned about the misalignment of the Five-Year ICANN Strategic Plan and the Four-Year PTI Strategic Plan in previous Public Comment Proceedings, and the RySG expressed its appreciation to ICANN org for evaluating and recommending the well scoped changes to the PTI Bylaws.

4.2 General Observations

ICANN appreciates the BC’s acknowledgement and satisfaction with the IANA services.

James Olorundare indicated the “lack of clarity about how the audit findings will be shared with the public.” It is unclear what Olorundare means by “audit” in the context of this Public Comment. This Public Comment proceeding is about a proposed PTI Bylaws amendment related to the planning process ; it is not part of nor related to the IANA audit program, nor is the annual release of the independent auditor’s review of PTI’s financial statements.

The ccNSO Council strongly supports assurances and explicit confirmation by PTI that the safeguards on the separation of ICANN and PTI and ICANN’s obligation to fund the IANA functions are maintained as basic principles and are not affected. ICANN confirms that PTI will continue to have its Strategic Plan, Operating Plan and Budget, separate
from the ICANN’s Plans. In addition, one of the key planning principles for PTI and IANA is that funding for the IANA functions and the activities laid out in the Operating Plan always remain a priority for ICANN. This planning principle is always emphasized in the Operating Plan, such as the PTI FY24 Operating Plan and Budget. Further, we note that the minimum timing specified for the delivery of the PTI Budget is 90-days before the new fiscal year. When read together with the timing requirement of the IANA Budget as specified in the ICANN Bylaws (45 days), this is another signal of the commitment of both ICANN and PTI to consider the PTI Budget first.

4.3 Suggestions
The ccNSO SOPC suggested ICANN org should publish the draft plans in early December to enable the community to effectively contribute to the planning process. ICANN understands the ccNSO SOPC’s suggestion and will consider it for the annual planning timeline as part of future process improvements.

4.4 Expressed Concerns
James Olorundare expressed concerns about the 90-day window, as the Bylaw amendment proposed modifying the timing for the initial delivery of the PTI Operating Plan & Budget to the PTI Board, which is currently set to nine months prior to the start of the fiscal year, to a 90-day window.

Note that this 90-day window is the minimum timeframe within which the PTI Budget could be presented, though ICANN is in the practice of providing the PTI Budget far in advance to allow for consideration and approval by the PTI Board in advance of it being incorporated into the IANA Budget for consideration by the ICANN Board and the start of the fiscal year. As further example, within ICANN’s Bylaws the timeframe for delivery of the IANA and ICANN Operating Plans and Budgets must be presented within a shorter time frame of 45-days prior to the commencement of each fiscal year.

In practice, the initial delivery of the draft Operating Plan & Budget has been published for Public Comment five or six months prior to the commencement of each fiscal year, which provides sufficient time for Public Comments, Board consideration for Adoption, and the Empowered Community period. ICANN and PTI will continue publishing all annual draft plans five or six months prior to the commencement of each fiscal year moving forward.

Section 5: Next Steps
ICANN appreciates all community input and support for this Public Comment proceeding. ICANN reviewed and responded to all comments received via the Public Comment Summary Report.

Following the publication of the Summary Report, and in accordance with the associated PTI Board resolution, ICANN org will provide the Public Comment analysis to the PTI Board for its consideration.
If the PTI Board adopts the PTI Bylaw Amendments, the ICANN Board, as sole member of PTI, will then be asked to consider the PTI Bylaws amendment for adoption.