**Preamble**

The CCWG AP believes it is helpful to define (or to understand) the Open Internet concept to guide the fund application and selection process for the auction proceeds fund. ICANN’s Bylaws define the mission of ICANN (see section 1.1. <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article1>) and set therefore the key parameters for the fund application and selection process.

The purpose of this preamble is therefore to guide the selection of projects in areas that are relevant and that support ICANN’s mission. The fund shall be able to support projects that support an open Internet culture and are related to ICANN’s ecosystem and mission statement.

Open Internet can be described from many angles and may have different meanings for different communities. There are technological, business, political, social and cultural aspects to consider. This preamble does not pretend to be a final definition, as the Internet continues to evolve at every level.

The CCWG agrees that at the technical level, the IP routing and numbering systems, the DNS, as well as the development of Open Standards, have historically been serving an Open Internet because of the opportunities they have provided to participate, innovate and compete without impediments.

From that broad description, the CCWG has considered to offer a definition of the Open Internet that is:

* aligned with ICANN's mission and core principles
* to support ICANN community activities and consensus-building processes
* to create social and economic values for the Open Internet at large
* in need of funding for specific projects, for example in infrastructure areas, like setting up Internet Exchange Pointsin developing countries and territories
* alert Internet users (particularly in developing countries) of the availability of generic TLDs that can equip them with a unique online identity
* support a network (or network of networks) that is stable, scalable, agile, secure, profitable, sustainable and ultimately equitably supports open access, future oriented developments and open standards

Such an Open Internet concept will support ICANN’s mission and will keep the DNS system vibrant. Empowering people to contribute and to participate in building a worldwide culture that opens our hearts and minds by respecting differences. At the technical level, openness refers to how easily machines can connect to each other and how stable, scalable, and secure the network is. The IP routing and numbering systems, the DNS, or the Open Standard process, have historically been serving an Open Internet because of the opportunities they have provided to participate, innovate and compete without artificial impediments.