**Preamble**

The purpose of this preamble is to offer overarching guidance for the application and selection of projects to which auction proceeds may be allocated.

Projects are required to be in alignment with any criteria needed to maintain ICANN's U.S. tax-exempt status, and therefore must be in areas that are relevant to and support mission statement[[1]](#footnote-1) and core principles. Members and participants of the Cross Community Working Group Auction Proceeds (CCWG AP) believe that it is helpful to relate ICANN's mission to the broader Internet “(concept). ICANN's Mission Statement will therefore set the key parameters for the fund application and selection process.

The ‘fund’ must not be used to support projects that are inconsistent with an “open and interoperable Internet[[2]](#footnote-2)”. The concept of “open and interoperable Internet” can be described from many angles, technological, business, political, social and cultural and may have different meanings in different communities. This preamble does not provide a definitive description, as the Internet continues to evolve at every level.

However, the CCWG believes that, at a technical level, the IP routing and numbering systems, the Domain Name System, the root server system, as well as the development of open standards, have historically served an open and interoperable internet because of the opportunities they have provided to participate, innovate and compete without impediments. At this technical level, the operating principles are interoperability, openness, decentralization, and scalability.

Therefore, the CCWG considers the following to be important guidelines to applicants seeking auction proceeds funding. Projects should:

* Be aligned with ICANN's mission and core principles
* Support ICANN's community activities and consensus-building processes
* Create social and economic values for an “open and interoperable Internet” that are in the benefit of the whole Internet community.
* Support an internet (or network of networks) that is stable, scalable, agile, secure, sustainable and ultimately equitably supports open access, future oriented developments, permissionless innovation and open standards.

1. “The mission of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("**ICANN**") is to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems as described in this Section 1.1(a) (the "**Mission**").”

   <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article1>) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The use of this terminology does not imply any support to any other standing use of this terminology [↑](#footnote-ref-2)