

Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG) Response to Next Steps to Improve the Effectiveness of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model

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Next Steps doc:

<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/multistakeholder-model-next-steps-20aug19-en.pdf>

Issue 1 - Prioritisation of Work

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

It seems like ICANN's 5 year strategic planning process would be a logical solution to the issue of work prioritisation, and the RrSG hopes to see improvements as a result. An effort should be made to better illustrate to the community how the planning process is addressing this essential issue and the results should be tracked and regularly reviewed to know if progress is actually being made.

If there isn't a solution that will sufficiently address this issue, who should take on the task of developing a solution?

GNSO Council should be more and better utilised for deciding on the prioritisation of policy related work and ensuring that the priority of any future PDPs (in relation to other work undertaken by the community) is identified at the outset, as well as being regularly reviewed in case something has changed.

How would you prioritize the issue?

The above-mentioned involvement of the GNSO Council in the prioritisation of any future PDP's should be addressed in the Evolving ICANN's MSM Work Plan.

Issue 2 - Precision in Scoping Work

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

Specific to gTLD policy development, the GNSO Council PDP 3.0 is currently developing improved processes to result in more effective scoping of issues within Policy Development Process charters.

How would you prioritize the issue?

Should be discussed and addressed (revisited) at a later time
(More specifically, this issue is currently being sufficiently addressed by the PDP 3.0 work, but should also be revisited to ensure it will have the desired impact on scope)

Issue 3 - Efficient Use of Resources and Costs

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

The solutions proposed should all go some way to addressing the issue of resources and costs, but more could be done.

If there isn't a solution that will sufficiently address this issue, who should take on the task of developing a solution?

The RrSG would like to see an overarching cost/benefits study done by ICANN Org on ICANN programmes, with greater detail on programme output, follow up and breakdown on costs than is typically provided in ICANN budgets & planning. The community would benefit from having an overview at one time rather than surveys/reviews being done on individual programs over a period of time.

How would you prioritize the issue?

Must be addressed in the Evolving ICANN's MSM Work Plan.

Issue 4 - Roles and Responsibilities and a holistic view of ICANN

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

The existing solutions noted are sufficient

How would you prioritize the issue?

This issue is not a priority and need not be addressed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of ICANN's MSM.

Issue 5 - Representation, Inclusivity, Recruitment and Demographics

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

The RrSG is pleased that PDP 3.0 is looking at alternatives to the open working group model and believes this will help address some of the challenges that come out of the need to equally represent and include all opinions on issues that do not equally impact the participants. The RrSG does not believe the existing solutions (ie the Engagement Programs) are addressing the issues of recruitment and demographics, largely due to the fact that the programs themselves are not able to make a significant impact on the issue. The problem typically arises at an organisation level, in their determination of who should participate in ICANN activities, and not at the SG/C level. It is therefore beyond the control of ICANN Org to do something about it, apart from encouraging participating organisations to internally address the number and diversity of their representatives. So it does not seem possible or appropriate to be looking at this particular aspect of the issue. The only focus that ICANN Org can have is on getting newcomers integrated and actively participating, whilst ensuring continued opportunity and support for participants once they are part of the ICANN Community.

If there isn't a solution that will sufficiently address this issue, who should take on the task of developing a solution?

With regards to the Engagement Programs, the RrSG has previously advocated for, and still recommends, that instead of there being multiple ICANN newcomer programs, there should be just one that is broadly engaged with, and supported by, all SOACs (and not just have a few that benefit from it) which would replace the Fellowship & NextGen programs. The ICANN community and work is substantial and complex and the current Newcomer sessions provided at ICANN meetings are not enough to really educate and engage people. ICANN has enough in house competency to give better training (as the RrSG have seen with the Registrar Days).

The website learn.icann.org could also be better promoted, but is currently very theoretical and may therefore be harder to digest. Having good, practical, online training could assist newcomers to learn and become actively engaged much faster.

How would you prioritize the issue?

Must be addressed in the Evolving ICANN's MSM Work Plan.

Issue 6 - Culture + Trust + Silos

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

These are particularly complex and abstract issues for which effective solutions will be difficult to find. That said, the ICANN Engagement Programs are far from sufficiently addressing them. It's a good thing to foster communication and openness in newcomers, but since these programs currently do not engage with many of ICANN SGs, it's hard to see how they could help with the ingrained trust and silo issues within them. However, addressing the other identified issues here *are* likely to have a significant positive impact on the issue of culture/silos/trust and therefore they should be tackled first

If there isn't a solution that will sufficiently address this issue, who should take on the task of developing a solution?

ICANN Org could consider developing or bringing in a training program for its staff and WG chairs on mediation, or having a member of staff that is dedicated to this. The RrSG is conscious of bringing in additional costs to ICANN, but the cost of delays to policy work from not being able to work together effectively or efficiently could be greater.

How would you prioritize the issue?

Should be discussed and addressed at a later time

Issue 7 - Complexity

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

The existing solutions noted are sufficient

How would you prioritize the issue?

Is currently fully addressed by solution being developed in another work stream.

Issue 8 - Consensus

Is there an existing solution or a solution being developed in other work streams that could sufficiently address the issue?

PDP 3.0 seems, for now, to be sufficiently addressing the consensus issue.

How would you prioritize the issue?

Should be discussed and addressed (revisited) at a later time

More specifically, this issue is currently being sufficiently addressed by the PDP 3.0 work, but should also be revisited to ensure it will have the desired impact on consensus.