

13 February 2018

Questions About the Draft Plans

	Question/Observation	Contributor	Response / Action to be taken
Section Summary: Questions are provided verbatim on the left along with responses on the right.			
1.	What is the cost of supporting a Fellow/NextGen participant to attend an ICANN conference?	Maryan Rizinski/ ICANN Org. Webinar	In the Draft FY19 Operating Plan and Budget, we have included assumptions on supported travelers travel rates for each ICANN Public meeting. In the Draft FY19 Operating Plan Document #4 on page 21, the amounts for the Fellow/NextGen participants for each ICANN Public meeting is listed. The average cost for Fellow participants to attend an ICANN meeting is US\$3,348.00 and the average cost for NextGen participants to attend is US\$2,683.00.
2.	How do you comment personnel costs going up from \$69.5 million in 2017 to \$76.8 million in 2018, while increasing ICANN staff from 400 to 425? This is roughly \$180K per ICANN employee.	Maryan Rizinski/ ICANN Org. Webinar	Per section 2.3. (page 16 and 17) of the Draft FY19 Budget Document #2, total personnel costs are increasing by US\$8.1M resulting from the full year impact of people hired in FY18 on the FY19 budget with an increase in personnel costs due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 personnel estimated to be hired in FY18 working a full year in FY19 versus a partial year in FY18 • Personnel costs increases (merit, taxes and fringe benefits) • Impact of FY19 planned hires: four new hires
3.	If you can clarify in the documents published online how much is spent on support for fellows/nextgens, that would be helpful for the entire community	Maryan Rizinski/ ICANN Org. Webinar	In the Draft FY19 Operating Plan and Budget, we have included assumptions on supported travelers travel rates for each ICANN Public meeting. In the Draft FY19 Operating Plan Document #4 on page 21, the amounts for the Fellow/NextGen participants for each ICANN Public meeting is listed. The average cost for Fellow participants to attend an ICANN meeting is US\$3,348.00 and the average cost for NextGen participants to attend is US\$2,683.00.
4.	Question on leveling ICANN income – are we looking at shrinking operating budget or at stabilizing the budget? FY17 Budget at the same level as FY18.	Olivier MJ Crepin- Leblond/	When you compare our expectations for the Draft FY19 Budget to FY17 Actuals and the FY18 Forecast, the Budget is

	Question/Observation	Contributor	Response / Action to be taken
		ICANN Org. Webinar	stabilizing. The FY18 Forecast is lower than the FY18 Adopted Budget.
5.	Question on personnel attrition FY20 (section 2.7)	Olivier MJ Crepin-Leblond/ ICANN Org. Webinar	The table 2.7 in the Draft FY19 Budget Document #2, reports an assumption about Attrition for FY19. This assumption accounts for the departures of personnel throughout the year whose positions remain unfilled for a period of time during the fiscal year. We have assumed that the cost of 5%-10% of all positions will not be filled at one time during FY19.
6.	How was reserve fund target considered for preparation of the budget.	Heather Forrest/ ICANN Org. Webinar	The Reserve Fund was included as part of the FY18 Forecast and the Draft FY19 Budget and a projection of the Funds Under Management balances at the end of FY18 and the end of FY19 are included in the Draft FY19 Budget Document #2 in Section 5.3.1.
7.	Additional budget requests cut by 50% what will not be included?	Heather Forrest/ ICANN Org. Webinar	The process for the SO/AC Additional Budget Requests is as follows: once the requests were submitted by the due date of January 31, 2018, the ICANN organization assessment and evaluation teams review the requests and provide recommendations to the Board for approval.
8.	Timing of additional budget requests is out of line with publication of the draft budget.	Heather Forrest/ ICANN Org. Webinar	The timeline and process for the SO/AC Additional Budget Requests is similar to the process for FY18 where the requests are due by the end of January and the review and recommendation to the Board for approval is mid-May.
9.	How much funds from the core ICANN budget have been set aside for the FY19 Budget Request process?	IPC	The Draft FY19 Operating Plan Document #4 in Module 2 (page 21) includes the estimated envelope for the SO/AC Additional Budget Requests of US\$212,735.00.
10.	"The GAC seeks clarification on the precise number of core travel support slots that are being proposed in the draft plan to be allocated to the GAC for each ICANN Public Meeting in FY19. Based on differing interpretations of various stakeholders, the number appears to be 40, but could also be another number.	GAC Chair	Section 2.5.2 in the Draft FY19 Budget Document #2 and the section on Module 2 in the Draft FY19 Operating Plan Document #4 have been updated to reflect the following: The number of funded seats for SOs/ACs constituent travel support and costs remain stable at the same level as FY18. The number allocated to GAC for each ICANN Public meeting in FY19 is 40.

	Question/Observation	Contributor	Response / Action to be taken
	<p>Set forth below, the need for clarification is described with specific citations to documents, text, tables and charts that are part of the ICANN FY19 draft operating plan and budget package. But while that background information is helpful, the bottom line is that the GAC seeks a short definitive answer to the question, how many supported traveler slots are proposed to be allocated to the GAC community for each ICANN public meeting in FY19? The definitive answer to that question will enable the GAC to formulate any comments it may develop on the overall FY19 draft budget proposal.</p> <p>Causes for Confusion:</p> <p>Document 4 of the draft operating plan package (see https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/proposed-opplan-fy19-19jan18-en.pdf) seems to have some inconsistent information that should be clarified before the community prepares any comments on the draft budget and operating plan. In particular, the charts on page 21 of Document 4 indicate that the GAC is to be allocated 40 supported traveler seats for each ICANN public meeting in FY19 budget. That number, 40, would seem to be consistent with the number of seats for the current ICANN FY18 and the preceding FY17 fiscal year (see https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/report-comments-fy18-budget-02jun17-en.pdf at page 38, reference #82).</p> <p>Unfortunately, the text and accompanying table of Document 4 at page 20 and also Document 2 (page 22) of the draft operating plan package make reference to “a reduction” in GAC community travel support for FY19.</p>		

	Question/Observation	Contributor	Response / Action to be taken
	<p>Document 4 Details:</p> <p>The text on page 20 of Document 4 (see https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/proposed-opplan-fy19-19jan18-en.pdf) reads,</p> <p>“Expected changes from FY18 to FY19 in Constituency Travel SO/AC: While no reduction is suggested to the historical core travel support provided to SO/ACs, some increases in the number of “travel seats” (one return trip to an event) tentatively granted in the FY18 Budget are not carried forward in FY19 This results in a reduction of the number of seats of approximately 10% for the affected groups.”</p> <p>Document 4 then provides a table titled with the header “Reductions vs FY18 budget and FY19 net allocation by group:” which features a column titled “# of seats proposed in FY19 and a second column titled “# of seats reduced by (from FY18)”. For the GAC travel support line, the first column “proposed in FY19” indicates 40 travel slots BUT the next column “reduced from FY18” is 10.</p> <p>Thus, the text and accompanying table in Document 4 of the Draft FY19 package appear to contradict the charts set forth on the very next page of Document 4. Does that mean the ICANN calculation started at 50 travel slots to get to 40 (which would be factually incorrect) or that the allocation number is supposed to be 40 minus 10, resulting in 30? Either option seems to ignore the tables showing the number “40” on page 21 of Document 4.</p>		

	Question/Observation	Contributor	Response / Action to be taken
	<p>Document 2 Details: Comparably, the text in Document 2 (see https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/proposed-total-budget-fy19-19jan18-en.pdf) also seems to contradict the page 21 charts in Document4. Document 2 at page 22 reads,</p> <p>Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs): Some increases to the number of “travel seats” (i.e., one return trip to an event) tentatively granted in the FY18 budget have not been carried forward in FY19. The number of funded seats has been reduced by 10% in some SO/ACs to keep constituent travel costs stable at \$2.5 million, which is the same as FY18. This is primarily due to more expensive meeting locations in FY19. Document 2 then provides a table identified as “affected organization” which indicates one column titled “# of seats proposed in FY19” and a second column titled “# of seats reduced by (from FY18)”. For the GAC line, the first column “proposed in FY19” indicates 40 travel slots BUT the next column “reduced from FY18” is 10. Does that mean the ICANN calculation started at 50 to get to 40 (which would be factually incorrect) or that the allocation number is supposed to be 40 minus 10, resulting in 30? Either option seems to ignore the tables showing the number “40” on page 21 of Document 4. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these questions to you in order to clarify the information outlined above. Resolving this matter will substantially streamline any information processing and potential drafting for the comment effort. If you need any additional information regarding this clarification request, please alert gac-staff at ICANN.org.”</p>		

	Question/Observation	Contributor	Response / Action to be taken
11.	One more comment -- page 19 of your current presentation -- \$135 - \$128 is not \$6 (page 18)	Olivier MJ Crepin-Leblond/ ICANN Org. Webinar	The figures in the draft FY19 Operating Plan and Budget may display scale and arithmetic inconsistencies due to rounding to the nearest million.
12.	Does the GSE Budget contribute to fund constituent travelers, for any purpose or program?	Ayden Férdeline on behalf of the Standing Committee on ICANN Budget and Operations (SCBO)	No. In the past, the use of these funds made available for the Community Regional Outreach Program were approved by the GSE Regional VPs in each region but was part of the constituent travel budget line item. With regards to funding for supported travelers to attend capacity development opportunities in the regions, such as the GAC Capacity Development Workshops or regional DNS events, this funding is part of regional engagement strategies, such as the Latin American and Caribbean Strategy and Africa Strategy. These two are examples of bottom-up, community-driven strategies, each of these has capacity development as part of their core.
13.	Is the CROP (Community Regional Outreach Participation Program) included in the FY19?	Ayden Férdeline on behalf of the Standing Committee on ICANN Budget and Operations (SCBO)	No. In considering the cost of support to constituent travelers in the draft FY19 budget, as the locations of ICANN Public meetings in FY19 are more expensive than in FY18 and ICANN's resources are stable, ICANN has suggested to preserve the core constituent travel support to SOs/ACs to participate in ICANN Public meetings but eliminate the fund of the CROP, among other reductions.