

ICANN Business Constituency (BC) Comment on
[ICANN FY26–30 Operating & Financial Plan, ICANN/IANA FY26 Op Plans & Budgets](#)

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Background

This document is the response of the ICANN Business Constituency (BC), from the perspective of business users and registrants, as defined in our Charter. The mission of the BC is to ensure that ICANN policy positions are consistent with the development of an Internet that:

1. Promotes end-user confidence because it is a safe place to conduct business;
2. Is competitive in the supply of registry and registrar and related services; and
3. Is technically stable, secure and reliable.

BC Comment on DRAFT ICANN FY26 - 30 Operating & Financial Plan, ICANN / IANA FY26 Operating Plan and Budgets and Draft PTI FY26 Operating Plan and Budget

The Business Constituency (BC) is pleased to provide this comment on the [Draft ICANN FY26 - 30 Operating & Financial Plan, ICANN / IANA FY26 Operating Plan and Budgets](#). We are in general agreement of the funding and expense scenarios laid out in the Financial Plans for FY 26 - 30 and FY26. We equally note that expenses will be covered by the available annual funding per the fundamental principles of ICANN's long-term financial sustainability. It is essential to continue monitoring the multi-year draft, and we value the annual public comment requirements that enable community input. The draft documents available for review showcase the substantial effort by the ICANN Financial team, and the BC acknowledges and appreciates their hard work.

Consequently, the BC agrees to the recommended 'base-case' funding forecast of \$141.5 million for FY26, with expectations of increasing to \$144.6 million by FY30 for ICANN Ops Funding; which represents a slight decrease from the previous year's draft. We also recognise that ICANN intends to keep operating expenses at or below the planned budget, utilising designated and available funding sources. Additionally, the BC observes that this funding and expenses represent a reasonable reflection of current and expected activities.

The BC has also reviewed the [Draft PTI FY26 Operating Plan and Budget](#). We note only a marginal increase in expenses for the coming year and believe the plan addresses the priorities and needs to fulfill the IANA functions.

Observations on Issues Important to the BC

The BC wishes to emphasise our perspective on the attention given to the issue of DNS Abuse. Strategic Initiatives identify Improving Cross-Community Collaboration, which addresses, in part

the essential effort for ICANN to improve and protect the trust that consumers and businesses need to have as the internet increasingly becomes the main mode of communication and commerce.

The BC is also pleased to see that the Strategic Initiatives set out in the FY26-30 Operating and Financial Plan and the overall five year Strategic Plan incorporate many issues that our constituency believes are vital to ICANN's continued success. Notable of these are our recent Public Comments on Community Anti-Harassment and How We Meet. These are in addition to our ongoing attention to RDRS, DNS Abuse, NIS2, and other issues of relevance to ICANN's remit.

Strengthening the Security of the Unique Identifier Systems is crucial, and the BC acknowledges the importance of the described partnerships and engagement with relevant stakeholders. Among these stakeholders, ICANN remains committed to hosting the Contracted Parties Summit, which plays a role in ensuring the technical security and stability of the internet. However, the BC emphasizes that this significantly costly gathering should not come at the expense of broader inclusivity within the multistakeholder community. Other key stakeholders, particularly the Non-Contracted Parties House (NCPH), must also be provided with opportunities to convene and engage in meaningful discussions on DNS health and the overall prosperity of the internet beyond security-focused forums.

The BC firmly calls for equal financial support for an annual NCPH Summit, similar to ICANN's financial backing of the Contracted Parties Summit. A balanced and equitable multistakeholder model requires fair representation, ensuring that all constituencies have access to dedicated resources necessary for their effective participation in policy development. Without adequate support, the non-contracted community risks being sidelined in crucial discussions that shape the internet ecosystem.

Reiterating its position from the Strategic Plan, the BC underscores the necessity of an annual NCPH Summit to provide a structured platform for non-contracted parties to engage, collaborate, and contribute meaningfully to ICANN's policy and governance processes. We urge ICANN to allocate specific funding for this initiative in the final budget, reinforcing its commitment to a truly inclusive and representative multistakeholder model.

DNS Abuse Mitigation

The draft states, "The FY26–30 Financial Plan also includes a contribution to support ICANN's efforts to preserve and enhance the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS. This includes activities related to RSS governance, mitigation of DNS abuse, promotion and facilitation of DNS Security Extensions deployment, the mitigation of name collisions, and DNS operations research".

We acknowledge these initiatives indicating significant attention to DNS Abuse; however, ICANN must move beyond general commitments and establish clear, measurable actions in FY26. This includes defining specific enforcement mechanisms, transparency in mitigation efforts, and accountability for non-compliant actors to ensure tangible progress. The BC urges ICANN to integrate these measures into its operational plans to strengthen DNS security and maintain trust in the ecosystem.

FY26 Operating and Financial Plan and FY26 Budget Observations

While the BC is generally approving of the process and planning, and feels the ICANN Financial Team has prepared a thoughtful and well-detailed plan, we have some observations for which we seek further explanation and clarification.

4.4.2. ICANN Public meetings: We note that \$14.4M has been budgeted for FY26. At the time of budget preparation, the most recent confirmed costs for ICANN Public meetings were for FY24 in which \$14.7M was expended on a budget of \$13.3M. With two unconfirmed locations for FY26 and one distant confirmation in Muscat, we question whether 14.4 is realistic. In addition, in every year reported on Page 25 of the Draft ICANN FY26 budget, actuals have always been higher than budgeted. We would seek more insight into the budget proposal and, while not encouraging over-budgeting, or cost-containment, we also want budgets to be realistic—should other areas need to be addressed.

4.6 Contingency: The BC notes a year-over-year increase from \$5 million (where it has remained stable for several years) to \$7.5 million. \$0.5 million is allocated within the IANA budget and continues at the same level as in previous years.

The BC understands that the contingency “...allows for the flexibility to cover the difference between projected and actual costs, expenses difficult to forecast such as litigation costs, or activities that have been confirmed for implementation by the Board after the Budget was finalized.”

We seek clarification on ICANN's rationale for the proposed \$2 million increase in contingency. The draft FY26 budget refers to the [ICANN Rolling Five-Year Roadmap](#) for details, yet many initiatives in FY26 are in the implementation phase, suggesting fewer unforeseen expenses.

To ensure responsible financial planning, the BC requests a detailed breakdown of past contingency usage and projected needs, as transparency on anticipated cost drivers is essential.

Conclusion

The BC appreciates the ICANN Financial Team's efforts in developing a well-structured FY26–30 Operating & Financial Plan and Budget. While we acknowledge the progress made in key areas, we urge ICANN to strengthen its commitments to DNS Abuse mitigation by implementing clear, measurable enforcement mechanisms and ensuring greater transparency in compliance efforts.

Furthermore, ICANN's funding model must reflect its commitment to equitable stakeholder participation. The BC calls for dedicated financial support for an annual Non-Contracted Parties House (NCPH) Summit, ensuring all stakeholders have equal opportunities to contribute to critical policy discussions.

ICANN's long-term financial sustainability must not come at the expense of effective policy execution, security enhancements, and stakeholder balance. The BC remains committed to working with ICANN to ensure a transparent, accountable, and truly inclusive multistakeholder ecosystem.

This comment was drafted by Adetola Sogbesan, Tim Smith, and Segunfunmi Olajide and has been approved in accordance with our [Charter](#).