

The ISPCP Constituency urges the ICANN Board not to ratify, adopt, or approve the current Strategic Plan in its current form.

The current Strategic Plan does not have the consensus of the ICANN Community. Ratifying the Strategic Plan would confer a stamp of authority on the plan that is not appropriate at this time. It would also codify strategic goals which do not have the consensus buy-in of the ICANN community.

Instead, the ISPCP proposes that the current Strategic Plan be received as a working guide and historically significant document for ICANN's continued effort toward a Strategic Plan until a consensus document emerges from the revised planning process underway this week.

Some have suggested that any Strategic Plan is better than none and that a random document will serve as a defense against organizations inclined to point out ICANN's lack of vision for the future. We do not agree. Such organizations will not be deterred from criticizing ICANN because of the mere existence of a document entitled "strategic plan". However, the adoption by the Board of a plan which does not have adequate community support and future abandonment of the so called strategic plan will in fact give these organizations the very evidence they will use to condemn ICANN.

ICANN has an operational plan that takes us through the next year that defines, very clearly, short-term goals for the organization. In addition, an open and participative planning process is currently being developed for the next planning cycle. The ISPCP applauds the current planning efforts underway. The ISPCP constituency remains committed to the strategic planning process and many of our members have participated in this week's group planning process.

However, adopting the current version of the Strategic Plan would be a significant retreat from the basic principle of consensus development of policy and plans for this organization. We urge all members of the board not to adopt or ratify the current Strategic Plan.

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