

ccNSO Council submission to the ICANN FY 2018 Budget and Operational Plan, seeking an increase in the number of ccNSO traveling slots

The ccNSO Council welcomes this opportunity to comment on the proposed ICANN FY 2018 Budget and/or Operational Plan¹, by seeking an increase in the number of ccNSO traveling slots.

This submission has been considered and endorsed by the ccNSO Council, though it does not necessarily represent the consensus view of the ccNSO members, nor other ccTLDs or ccTLD organisations.

ICANN travel support

ICANN provides travel support for selected community members to:

- Advance the work of ICANN;
- Provide support for those who might not be able to afford to attend ICANN meetings otherwise;
- Broaden participation in ICANN's processes.

The [ICANN Travel Support Guidelines](#)² describe the levels and methodologies for travel support for community members. The Guidelines also list the number of travel slots available per supporting organisation. The slots for the ccNSO and the Advisory Committees, for example, are included as part of the annual ICANN budget development process and adopted by the ICANN Board of Directors as part of ICANN's annual Budget. Since the constituency travel funding was introduced in 2008, the number of travel slots for the ccNSO has not changed. ICANN constituency travel posts a [travel funding report](#)³ for each of the ICANN meetings.

ccNSO travel support

As part of the ICANN travel support, the ccNSO has developed its own Guideline⁴ to provide guidance on how to assign the ccNSO travel funding to the ccTLD community members and to ensure that travel support is administered effectively and efficiently, and to honour ICANN's principles of accountability and transparency. All documentation related to the ccNSO Travel Funding Programme, including a list of ccNSO funded travellers per ICANN meeting, is available on the [ccNSO website](#)⁵.

Since 2008, the ccNSO had 12 full funding travel slots per ICANN public meeting. One (1) ccNSO Travel Funding slot corresponds to:

- one "full funding" (flight, economy class ticket to the travel destination + hotel costs for the approved duration of the trip + per diem);
- or two "partial funding" slots:
 - flight, economy class ticket to the travel destination. No hotel, no per diem; or
 - hotel costs for the approved duration of the trip & per diem. No flight.

¹ Request for public comments: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/fy18-budget-2017-03-08-en>

² ICANN Travel Support Guidelines: <https://community.icann.org/display/trvlconstit/Travel+Guidelines>

³ ICANN travel funding report: <https://community.icann.org/display/trvlconstit/Travel+Report>

⁴ ccNSO travel funding guideline: <https://ccnso.icann.org/about/travel-funding-guideline-07apr16-en.pdf>

⁵ Information regarding ccNSO travel funding as published on the ccNSO website: <https://ccnso.icann.org/meetings/ccnso-travel-funding-04dec08.htm>

Per meeting, three (3) out of the twelve (12) ccNSO full travel slots have to be made available to the NomCom appointed ccNSO Councillors. If a NomCom Councillor declines allocated funding, that travel slot is available to the broader ccTLD Community. In addition, and per ccNSO Guideline, one (1) Councillor from each of the five ICANN regions will receive travel funding for an ICANN meeting. If none of the Councillors from a region applies to the allocated funding, the funds for that region will be allocated to the broader ccTLD community. A minimum of four (4) out of twelve (12) ccNSO travel slots will be available for the “Broader ccTLD Community” applicants that submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) to receive ccNSO Travel Funding.

The broader ccTLD Community includes for instance:

- ccNSO Council members
- Speakers / presenters at ccNSO relevant sessions during ICANN public meetings
- Session Chairs at ccNSO relevant sessions during ICANN public meetings
- ccNSO Working Group Chairs actively meeting at the ICANN meeting
- ccNSO Working Group members actively meeting at the ICANN meeting
- Liaisons
- Observers

Request to increase number of ccNSO traveling slots

While ccTLDs receive benefits from ICANN, ICANN also receives benefits from ccTLDs⁶. The table in the [report of the financial working group to the ccNSO council](#)⁷ illustrates the “value exchange model” and includes the financial information provided by ICANN.

After careful consideration the ccNSO Council is of the view that the current number of ccNSO travel funding slots (12) is no longer sufficient to meet the goals for which the travel funding was created. Since 2008 to date, the ccNSO has expanded from 82 to 161 members. With the increased number, diversity, active participation, in particularly to the face-to-face meetings, has become an issue at various levels (at working group level, in terms of presenting and sharing information at meetings, and at the ccNSO council level). By definition, the distribution of ccTLDs across socio-economic measures or Internet usage tends to correlate with the distribution of countries across these standards. Due to the travel costs and time and duration of the meetings, active participation in the ccNSO – including the ccNSO Council has become increasingly challenging for “smaller” ccTLD managers, in particular from the underserved regions.

The ccNSO Council is aware that the ccNSO and ICANN have both subscribed to and support the “2013 value exchange model” and the ccNSO still does this. As part of that model the current travel support is considered directly in support of the ccTLD community and considered specific. However, the ccNSO Council is also aware that new and other groups in the ICANN environment need to be brought into the ICANN environment and their active participation needs to be sustained. In case of the ccTLDs, this needs to be done through more active participation, more “boots on the ground” for the multi-stakeholder model, effectively benefitting the Internet eco-system as a whole.

⁶ ccNSO Council Decision on Guideline Financial contributions ccTLDs to ICANN. (20 November 2013). <https://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/council-decision-cctld-contributions-20nov13-en.pdf>

⁷ Financial Contributions of ccTLDs to ICANN - Report of the Financial Working Group to the ccNSO Council <http://archive.icann.org/meetings/buenosaires2013/en/schedule/sun-finance/presentation-finance-final-17nov13-en.pdf>

The ccNSO Council therefore seeks an increase in the number of ccNSO traveling slots by 14 slots, bringing the total number of ccNSO traveling slots to 26:

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| a) | to ensure travel funding for the ccNSO Council chair and two vice chairs, for each of the ICANN meetings. If the chair or a vice chair does not use the allocated funding, the slot shall be allocated to the broader ccTLD community. | 3 slots |
| b) | to ensure travel funding for each of the 3 NomCom appointed councillors to attend ICANN public meetings. If a councillor chooses not to take the allocated funding, the slot shall be allocated to the broader ccTLD community. | 3 slots |
| c) | to ensure travel funding for each ccNSO councillor from each region to attend ICANN public meetings. If a councillor chooses not to take the allocated funding, the slot shall be allocated to the broader ccTLD community. | 12 slots |
| d) | to ensure travel funding for the ccNSO appointed liaisons to ALAC and GNSO. If either or both liaisons choose not to take the allocated funding, the slot shall be allocated to the broader ccTLD community. | 2 slots |
| e) | to increase the number of selected broader ccTLD community members that will receive funding in order to advance the work of ICANN; to provide support for those who might not be able to afford to attend ICANN meetings otherwise; and to broaden participation in ICANN's processes. | 6 slots |

The ccNSO Council is aware that the requested increase is relatively large and a phased approach could be warranted. However, the ccNSO Council trusts that the above changes will be incorporated in the ICANN's annual travel funding budget by FY 2020. The ccNSO Council also trusts that the increase will be considered a global value category in terms of the agreed value exchange model, thereby not resulting in an increase of an expected voluntary contribution from the ccTLD community.

On behalf of the ccNSO Council

Katrina Sataki