

To: Michael Karanicolas

Date: 2 March 2018

Re: Request No. 20180201-1

Thank you for your Request for Information dated 1 February 2018 (the Request), which was submitted through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP). For reference, a copy of your Request is attached to the email forwarding this Response.

Items Requested

Your Request seeks the following documentary information related to the ICANN Regional Fellowship Program:

1. The criteria for selection regional fellows for ICANN62 by Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE).
2. The budget allocated for ICANN62 regional fellows.
3. The total number of regional fellows that are being selected for ICANN62.

Response

I. Background on the ICANN Meeting Fellowship Program

The ICANN Meeting Fellowship Program (the Program) is one example of how ICANN is supporting the next generation of community members. To continue in its mission to build capacity within the ICANN multistakeholder model, this Program seeks to create a broader and more diverse base of knowledgeable constituents. (See <https://www.icann.org/fellowshipprogram>.) Priority is given to candidates currently living in underserved and underrepresented communities around the world, those who represent diversity of gender, sector, region, experience, and expertise, and/or have established financial need. Participation in the Program at an ICANN meeting is a "fast-track" experience of engagement into that community model, with presentations designed to facilitate understanding of the many pieces and parts of ICANN while providing opportunities to network and promoting interaction with ICANN community and personnel. (*id.*)

A. Who may apply for and be awarded a fellowship?

Candidates from all regions and sectors are welcome to apply to the ICANN Fellowship Program. (See *Fellowship Application Process*, <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/terms-conditions-2012-02-25-en>.) The Program is targeted at individuals who show awareness of, but are new to the ICANN environment; are familiar with ICANN but have yet to attend a face-to-face meeting;

have started participating in ICANN through other means but need travel support and/or an additional Fellowship opportunity to broaden their knowledge and deepen their engagement. (<https://www.icann.org/fellowshipprogram>.) Candidate backgrounds are diverse: government, the ccTLD community, civil society, academia, legal, technical, security, commercial and non-commercial sectors. These individuals must NOT be involved in or associated with other ICANN supported travel programs at time of selection. (*id.*) Information about the Fellowship Program Applicant Selection Criteria is available on the Program webpage at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/fellowship-applicant-criteria-2016-09-08-en>.

For the ICANN policy forum public meetings, which is the second meeting in the three-meeting annual cycle (<https://meetings.icann.org/en/future-meeting-strategy>), the Program is open only to Fellowship Program Alumni, those who have previously completed an ICANN Fellowship. (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-3-2017-11-27-en>.) Newcomers are not eligible to apply as fellows to the policy forum public meetings due to the nature and focus of the meeting on policy development. (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/regional-newcomers-fellowship-pilot-2018-03-02-en>.)

B. The Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot

In June 2017, ICANN organization developed the Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot (the Pilot Program) at the ICANN59 Policy Forum in Johannesburg. (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/regional-newcomers-fellowship-pilot-2018-03-02-en>.) The Pilot Program aims to strengthen regional engagement by providing an opportunity for newcomers who can contribute to ICANN's policy work to participate at an ICANN public meeting in their own region. (*id.*) For both the 2017 Policy Forum and the 2018 Policy Forum in Panama City, ICANN selected 15 participants for the Pilot Program. The Pilot Program selectees are integrated with the rest of [Fellowship Program](#) participants for the duration of the ICANN meeting. (See *id.*; see also <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/johannesburg59-attendees-2017-07-09-en>.) The 15 slots for the Pilot Program are counted towards the total number of annual Fellowship Program slots. (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/regional-newcomers-fellowship-pilot-2018-03-02-en>.)

As posted on the [Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot](#) page, to be eligible for the Pilot Program, an applicant must:

- Be a Newcomer (never attended an ICANN Public meeting in the past).
- Be a national from a region where the ICANN Policy Forum takes place.
- Be currently involved or have the potential to contribute to ICANN's policy work.
- NOT be involved in or associated with other ICANN supported travel programs at the time of selection.

- If selected, be able to attend the ICANN Policy Forum and required activities. Participant is expected to be engaged prior to the meeting through coaching process, participate in ICANN Fellowship sessions during the ICANN meeting, network and interact with program alumni and community members.
- If selected, submit a post-meeting report.
- If selected, participant is encouraged to actively contribute to ICANN policy development processes and Fellowship alumni network upon completion of the Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot. (*id.*)

Application and selection processes are carried out by ICANN's regional Global Stakeholder Engagement team from the region in which the meeting takes place. (*id.*)

II. Your Request

Item 1 seeks “the disclosure of the criteria for the selection of regional fellows for ICANN62 by the GSE.”

As part of ICANN's processing of your Request in line with the [DIDP Response Process](#), ICANN identified that the Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot was an area of ICANN's operational activities for which there was little information available publicly. While material was available on the participants of the first Pilot Program at ICANN59 in Johannesburg (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/johannesburg59-attendees-2017-07-09-en> and <https://community.icann.org/display/trvlconstit/Travel+Report>), there was no central place to identify what the Pilot Program is or who it is intended to serve. As part of ICANN's commitment to transparency, and in line with the DIDP, ICANN has developed and posted general information about the Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot on the Fellowship webpage, including information regarding the eligibility requirements and selection criteria. (*id.*) Because of your Request, we now have information publicly available on this program.

As part of ICANN's engagement and transparency efforts, Rodrigo de la Parra, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director - Latin America & Caribbean, has also issued a [blog](#) that identifies information that is responsive to your Request. The blog, titled “Strengthening LAC Community Involvement in ICANN's Policy Development Work”, details the application and selection processes for the ICANN62 Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot that was carried out by ICANN's regional GSE team. There are likely other publicly available documents about the selection processes, such as the [31 January 2018 email](#) from Daniel Fink to Renate Aquino seeking applicants for the program, but those are not directly responsive to the Request.

Item 2 seeks the disclosure of the budget allocation for the ICANN62 Regional Newcomers Fellows. Information responsive to this item can be found in the published [FY18 Operating Plan & Budget](#) (FY18 OP&B), which covers the operating activities and budgets for the revenues and expenses for the fiscal year beginning on 1 July 2017 and ending on 30 June 2018, which includes ICANN62. (See

<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/planning-en.>) Under the FY18 OP&B, the Fellowship Program budget is divided into two parts. The first part covers travel support for fellowship participants can be found under section 1.3.2 entitled “Reinforce Stakeholder Effectiveness, Collaboration and Communication Capabilities” with Project ID 152986. The second part of the budget covers planning and administrative support for the fellowship participants and can be found under section 5.3.2 entitled “Supporting Stakeholder Participation” with Project ID 151962. (See *FY18 Budget by Project and Portfolio*, <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/planning-en>) According to rows 92 and 390 of the FY18 Budget by Project and Portfolio, \$532,264 USD is budgeted for fellowship travel support while \$106,798 USD is budgeted for fellowship planning and administrative support for a total of \$639,062 USD. (See *id.*) ICANN62 will be one of the three ICANN public meetings that will take place in FY18 and therefore approximately a third of the total FY18 fellowship budget is allocated to the ICANN62 Fellowship Program. As noted above, the Regional Newcomers Pilot Fellows for ICANN62 will be integrated with the regular [Fellowship Program](#) participants during the Policy Forum, and detailed budget allocations specifically for the Pilot Program are not developed or available within ICANN. (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/regional-newcomers-fellowship-pilot-2018-03-02-en.>)

Item 3 seeks the total number of regional fellows that are being selected for ICANN62. As noted above and within Rodrigo de la Parra’s blog, 15 applicants are selected to participate in the ICANN62 Regional Newcomers Fellowship Pilot. (*id.*)

In responding to this DIDP request, ICANN interviewed the relevant members of ICANN organization and collected available documentary information, consisting primarily of emails. As a result of the DIDP Request and process, documentary information has been developed and made available to provide transparency on the operational program. For the additional documentary information reviewed, ICANN organization has determined that those emails that may be responsive to items 1 and 3 of this Request are subject to the following DIDP Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure and are therefore not appropriate for public disclosure:

- Internal information that, if disclosed, would or would be likely to compromise the integrity of ICANN's deliberative and decision-making process by inhibiting the candid exchange of ideas and communications, including internal documents, memoranda, and other similar communications to or from ICANN Directors, ICANN Directors' Advisors, ICANN staff, ICANN consultants, ICANN contractors, and ICANN agents.

ICANN notes that the documentation collected was primarily internal communications and updates on the status of the efforts to select the Pilot Program participants, and also do not appear to be fully responsive to the Request.

- Information exchanged, prepared for, or derived from the deliberative and decision-making process between ICANN, its constituents, and/or other entities with which ICANN cooperates that, if disclosed, would or would be likely to compromise the integrity of the deliberative and decision-making process between and among ICANN, its constituents, and/or other entities with which ICANN cooperates by inhibiting the candid exchange of ideas and communications.

ICANN notes that some documentation was to and from the external entities and parts of the broader ICANN Community that were providing inputs into the selection processes, and also do not appear to be fully responsive to the Request.

- Drafts of all correspondence, reports, documents, agreements, contracts, emails, or any other forms of communication.

ICANN notes that some draft documentation was circulated for the development of the public posting and if produced, would be duplicative of what has already been made available publicly.

ICANN has also evaluated whether, for any of the documentary information for which a Defined Condition for Nondisclosure applies, the public interest in the information outweighs the harm caused by the release. Particularly here, where the information subject to the Defined Conditions for Nondisclosure is neither as comprehensive or responsive to the Request as the information that ICANN has made publicly available, the public's interest in the information is very low and does not weigh in favor of release.

About DIDP

ICANN's DIDP is limited to requests for documentary information already in existence within ICANN that is not publicly available. In addition, the DIDP sets forth Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure. To review a copy of the DIDP, please see <http://www.icann.org/en/about/transparency/didp>. ICANN makes every effort to be as responsive as possible to the entirety of your Request. As part of its accountability and transparency commitments, ICANN continually strives to provide as much information to the community as is reasonable. We encourage you to sign up for an account at ICANN.org, through which you can receive daily updates regarding postings to the portions of ICANN's website that are of interest. We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further inquiries, please forward them to didp@icann.org.