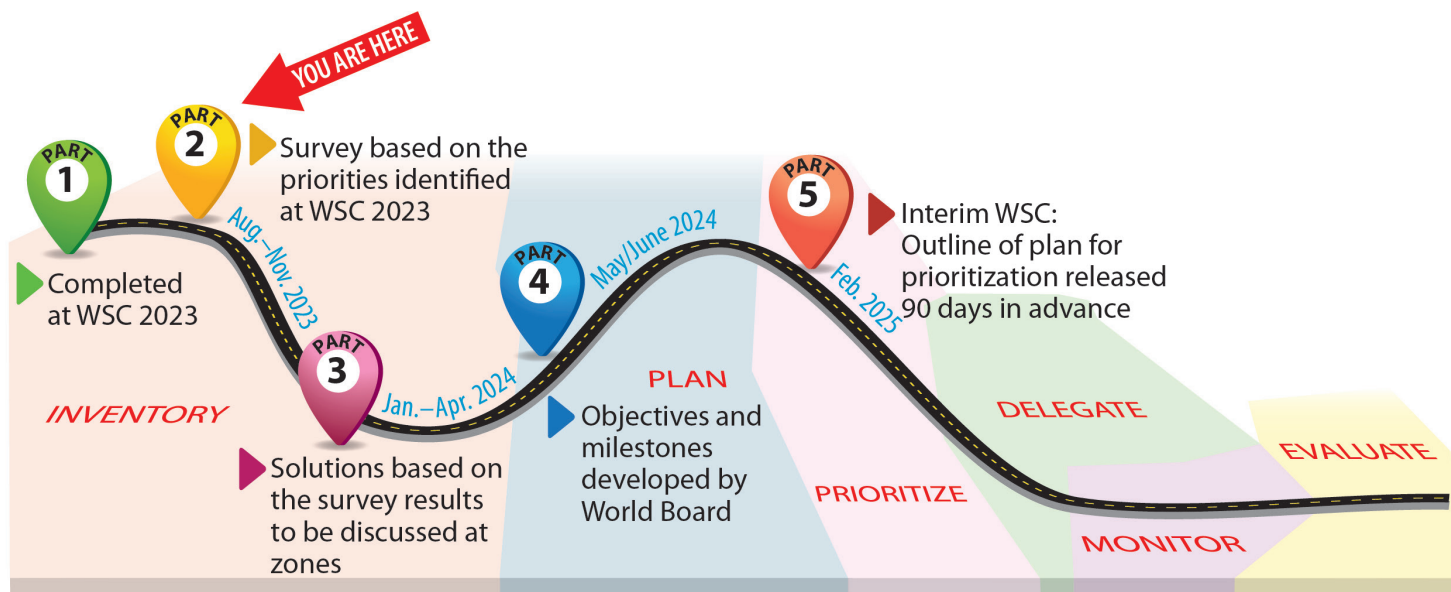


2023–2024 Environmental Scan Survey for Delegates

Deadline: 15 November 2023



Background

The World Board has worked this past year to begin to redesign strategic planning into a much more collaborative process. Conference participants began at WSC 2023 by identifying the factors within NA and in the external environment that could most impact our ability to achieve our Vision. That was the first part of the “inventory” phase for this new planning cycle.

The results of this survey will be gathered and fed back to you for further discussion and analysis at zonal meetings. NA World Services will be asking for time at zonal meetings twice next year to advance this new collaborative planning process. The results of this work will help determine where NA World Services and the WSC prioritizes its time and energy in the future. Your participation is vital in helping us understand how we can better support the Fellowship in carrying the NA message.

We expect that service bodies will complete this survey by different means. It may be accomplished during a workshop in your service body, or the delegate team may complete the survey. Once the results are collected and summarized, we will be asking zones to make time on their agendas for the next step – possible solutions.

There are more great ideas than we have the time or resources to address. We hope that this process will help us create common goals that will best serve the Fellowship, whether that be at the region, zone, or World Service level. Please help us in Creating our Future!

Part 1: Completed at WSC 2023

Conference Participants at WSC 2023 began this process with Part 1: identifying and then prioritizing the factors within NA and in the external environment that might affect our ability to achieve our Vision. This survey is focused on those results and is the next part in this process. We hope to gain greater insight into the external and internal trends/issues identified at WSC 2023 with your help.

Part 2: Survey based on the priorities identified at WSC 2023

Rate each lettered factor based on what is happening in your service body:

Little to No Impact / Some Impact / High Impact

Only the lettered items under Questions 1 and 3 are included in the survey. Details called out by conference participants at the WSC under each of these are included in this cover as a reference for discussion and are not included in the survey instrument itself.

1. External factors (outside of NA) prioritized at WSC 2023 that are shaping the environment in which NA strives to achieve its vision.

a. Evolution of technology (pros and cons)

Evolving technology has increased opportunity for service and delivery efforts. This includes the expansion of our global reach to addicts. At the same time, access to this technology is not available for all members, and the use of technology has, in effect, decreased in-person attendance not only for our groups but in service efforts.

- Accessibility to virtual resources in some countries
 - Internet speed and bandwidth
 - Cost
- Increased opportunity for unity, access to meetings
- New and increased opportunities for PR, H&I, and FD
- Decrease in in-person attendance
- Increased global awareness of NA and NA's global reach among members

b. Geo-political dynamics

The impact of government policies, national disasters, or political conflicts has a different effect on our ability to meet and operate; from court-ordered attendees and discriminatory views, to requirements and permissions from governments on our literature disbursement and ability to meet and operate.

- War
- National disasters
- Inability to obtain visas
- Lack of PR
- Government policies
 - People court ordered to meetings
 - Court-ordered addicts in meetings creates larger groups than 7th Tradition can support
 - Customs, taxes, etc. and effect on getting literature into some countries
 - Anti LGBTQ+
 - Making it difficult for NA to operate and to meet
 - Requiring groups to reapply for government permission to meet
 - NGO status requirements

c. Generational/cultural differences and societal discrimination

How we experience the differences, generational and cultural. The ways in which massive shifts in our society shape how members engage our Fellowship. What those changes and different expectations bring that we will need to address or accommodate as a Fellowship.

- Gender issues
- Class issues
- Stigma and its effect on our reputation
- Women not being seen, access to meetings
- Racism, sexism, and homophobia

d. Harm reduction models or approach

Harm reduction models and approaches to treat the disease of addiction, including DRT/MAT, have been affecting the efficacy of our message for decades.

- Such as DRT/MAT
- Non-NA language, confusion about cleantime, taking service positions
- Decrease in stigma around addiction (pro)
- Sober companions
- Prescription medication and over the counter psychiatric medications

e. Increasing financial constraints

The financial crisis on a global scale influences our 7th Tradition.

- Financial crisis due to COVID
- Global financial crisis and effect on 7th Tradition
- Meeting space availability post-pandemic

f. Legalization of drugs

Decriminalization and legalization of drugs in our society as an external factor creating different ways for members to find the need for recovery.

g. Alternative programs for addicts

Our relationship with other twelve-step groups, religious organizations, or other entities that offer a program of recovery can be competitive or cooperative and collaborative.

- Sober living programs
- Recovery houses

h. Recovery for profit

Treatment centers using NA for financial gain or NA members owning rehab programs, halfway houses, etc.

- NA members owning rehabs
- Treatment centers using NA for financial gain

2. Are there any other factors not on the list that are prevalent in your service body?

3. Internal factors (within NA) prioritized at WSC 2023 that are impacting the ability to achieve our vision.

a. Generational preferences for engagement, communication, etc.

The generational gaps and differences in expectations and perceptions create varying preferences for engagement from our members.

- Generational difference in how to approach and carry out service (paperless, etc.)
- Strong personality issues – control of groups, members, “we’ve always done it this way” attitude

b. Disruption or bottlenecks in the flow of funds

Disruption and/or bottlenecks in the flow of funds from the individual to the service system at all levels.

- 7th Tradition—foster culture of giving

c. Development and organization of trusted servants

Not only identifying trusted servants but cultivating, recruiting, training, supporting, and retaining them. Then how we organize them, how we put them in task forces and committees and groups, etc.

- Human resource bottlenecks
- Lack of trusted servants and new members getting involved in service
- Getting younger people involved and their natural ability with technology
- Atmosphere of recovery in service bodies and ways to enhance it – sharing sessions and step work

d. Sense of safety, welcomeness, and inclusion

Racial discrimination, predatory and disruptive behavior, discrimination against members on DRT/MAT, etc. are all factors that create a barrier to a sense of safety, welcomeness, belonging, and inclusivity.

- Racial discrimination
- Sexual predators
- Predatory and disruptive behavior
- Discrimination against members on DRT/MAT
- Disruption of court-ordered members
- Homophobia
- Groups splitting due to resentments
- Religion and government not supporting NA or making it difficult to develop

e. Redundancy and lack of cohesion in the service system

The current focus on tackling the planning process stems from the recognition that planning is carried out in various ways and to varying extents within the service system. While diversity in planning approaches is acceptable, there is a need to establish unity and alignment in order to achieve our goals. It is important to avoid redundancy and overlapping roles within the service system, as this can impede efficiency. By identifying areas of overlap and separating them, we can potentially enhance our effectiveness and streamline operations. Taking a holistic view, we need to analyze who is responsible for what, where services are being delivered, and identify opportunities for greater efficiency. We must determine where consistency is necessary and where it may not be required.

- Redundant service models and lack of cohesive service efforts
- Increased group independence post-pandemic
- Zonal forums being more involved

f. Impact of illicit literature

The use of illicit literature impacts communities throughout NA. From disrupting unity in our groups to hampering our ability to deliver our message in our service efforts.

- Availability and accessibility of our approved literature
- Allowing development and distribution of illicit literature (ex. Books that look like the Basic Text but content is gray form)

g. Impact of the rise of virtual NA

How we have been operating both virtually and in-person has been impacted by the rise of virtual NA.

- In-person meeting attendance decline
- Resistance to change

4. Are there any other factors not on the list that are prevalent in your service body?