

Regarding the “How We Meet” paper

31 July 2024

To: Sally Costerton, Interim CEO and President ICANN
Cc: Mary Wong

Dear Sally,

Thank you for the follow up on the question of how the ICANN community makes best use of its meeting time together. On receipt of the community discussion paper from Mary Wong in early July, I forwarded the paper and email to the ccNSO Council, which discussed this matter at its meeting on 18 July 2024.

You proposed this approach to discussing the issue to the gathered SO/AC leaders during a brief meeting in Kigali in June. Mary followed up with a cover note and paper on 8 July.

It is our understanding from the cover note that the conversations about “How we meet” were suggested to be done with a few SOAC Leadership calls from late/end-July to end-August/early September, concluding with a review of an agreed way forward.

It is certainly timely to take a look at our approach to meetings. The enduring lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic were not available to us last time the Meetings Strategy was reviewed. The impact of the climate crisis and broader sustainability issues mean we must all take a careful look at activities, such as ICANN in-person meetings.

The Council reflected on this proposal and would like to suggest a different manner for taking the issue forward.

The Council's view is that this issue is of significant importance to the whole ICANN community. Discussing and resolving changes to how we meet solely through the SOAC Leaders is not appropriate.

Instead, the way forward should be driven by changes to the agreed Meeting Strategy, last reviewed through an open, transparent, cross-community process in 2014, with the ICANN Board adopting the changes for implementation in 2015.

To update the Meeting Strategy the ccNSO Council's view is that an open, transparent and inclusive process is required.

We would be happy to work with other SOs and ACs to charter a Cross-Community Working Group to review the Meetings Strategy and prepare recommendations for formal community consultation.

We recognise and acknowledge that a cross-community process will take longer than your proposed approach, and consume greater ICANN staff and community resources. We also acknowledge that such a process will not deliver short term savings in costs, for ICANN as an organization or for the ICANN community.

Nonetheless, it is the only appropriate manner to tackle this issue.

If you wish to discuss this process, please feel welcome to contact me.

Best Regards,

On behalf of the ccNSO Council,

Alejandra Reynoso
ccNSO Chair