



29 October 2012

ICANN Consolidated Meetings Strategy Proposal

Please accept the following comments in response to the call for Public Comment regarding the ICANN Consolidated Meetings Strategy Proposal.¹ Go Daddy reserves the right to future comments on this issue and our positions include, but are not necessarily limited to, the text herein.

Overview

As regular participants at ICANN conferences, we welcome the opportunity to contribute to this proposal, and address some specific points with regard to the proposed selection process for ICANN meeting locations.

Locale

We recognize that choosing a locale is a difficult process and the location must be accessible to all participants. However, all regions should be represented on an equitable basis. Our suggestion is for a rotation for all regions. North America, Europe, APAC would rotate each year, while AF and LAC will rotate as a pair, every other year. An example would be:

2014: EU, AP, and LAC or AF

2015: NA, AP, and LAC or AF

2016: EU, NA, and LAC or AF

2017 and beyond: (Repeat the cycle)

Airline Service Providers

Currently ICANN seems to focus on individual airline service providers for candidate locations. Instead, we recommend that ICANN compare the degree of service by airline networks/alliances (Star Alliance, One World, Sky Team, etc.). While both airlines and networks/alliances are subject to change over time, it is less likely that multiple airline networks or alliances would drop a city at the same time. We recommend that ICANN set the criteria that a potential conference locale must be serviced by at least two airline alliances to ensure accessibility.

City Transportation

As part of the future selection process, we recommend that ICANN ensure meeting attendees have ample transportation services within the host city, including to and from the primary airport.

Technology

We also suggest that each venue be assessed for sufficient Internet access to accommodate attendees, and most importantly support remote participation. Similarly, the host city and venue should have sufficient mobile voice and data coverage, preferably through multiple providers.

Medical

We applaud ICANN's current efforts to have emergency medical services available to attendees at all times during the conference. We would also encourage ICANN to adopt a policy of moving or cancelling a venue if the World Health Organization (WHO), US Center for Disease Control (CDC), or similar organization issues a warning, advisory, or alert for the host city or surrounding region.

Conclusion

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on this topic, and look forward to working collaboratively with others in the Community and ICANN staff to develop a future meeting strategy.

Thank you,

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1. <http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-02oct12-en.htm>