



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Policy and Business Practices

ICC Task Force on Internet and Telecoms Infrastructure and Services (ITIS)

ICC comments on ICANN ‘Meetings for the next decade’ consultation stage one

Meeting location and participation:

- ICC has consistently supported holding at least one if not more of the ICANN meetings in hub cities to facilitate participation and remain sensitive to the time, human and financial resources of all members of the community.
- We recommend that meeting costs can be minimized by using certain regionally diverse hubs on a regular basis which would also make travel faster and more affordable. For example, ICANN could alternate between a meeting in hub cities, and the other meeting(s) could continue to rotate throughout the world.
- Many members cannot participate in more than one ICANN meeting per year given their workloads and resource constraints, and we support mechanisms to involve stakeholders outside the regular three meetings per year.
- Some ICC members who attend only one meeting a year cited location as a determining factor for their participation. They also noted that it is difficult to select which of the three meetings to participate in because there is inadequate information about the agenda and issues to be discussed at an early enough date to make an informed choice.
- Location of the meetings should take into consideration safety and security of the participants; otherwise reduced attendance makes the meeting less useful.
- ICANN should host a meeting once a year where business users can provide targeted input on issues that impact them.
- ICANN may consider reducing the number of annual meetings to two per year in order to facilitate broader participation by a greater number of stakeholders. This would ensure interaction time for participants on a sufficiently frequent basis, which can be supplemented with the use of conference calls and other technology alternatives.
- More regular public meetings by ICANN staff around the world would be productive, though such meetings should not significantly increase future ICANN budgets.
- Meeting venues/facilities that offer adequate meeting rooms for all constituencies and ‘side interactions’ that are essential to increase engagement of all stakeholders should be a priority.

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- We believe the most productive ICANN meetings have been those where there is a main venue hotel, attached to the conference facility or very close to it. The informal interaction among members of the community has been increased at those meetings and participants' can focus on the work at hand rather than logistics and transport issues.
- ICANN should continue to take into consideration meeting dates for other Internet related organizations and processes and attempt to avoid conflicts and maximize those opportunities where possible to facilitate participation.
- Host city considerations: meeting venues with an attached or nearby hotel and adequate meeting facilities are key; hub cities that facilitate travel and reduce costs are important as mentioned above. Other considerations include: visas particularly for participants from developing countries, safety and security, and Internet connectivity.

Meeting preparation and materials:

- Finalizing agendas for the meetings with details that help business and other members of the community prioritize their participation at meetings at least 6 weeks before the meetings both affects decisions to come to meetings and is a critical element to obtain travel authorization. Members identified the fact that if there are critical issues being discussed that impact their priorities and business, they can better prioritize participation. Without programme information they cannot make informed choices.
- Session descriptions should be posted much earlier in advance so participants can review the detailed agenda and consider their participation with the necessary information.
- Synopsis or information papers could be helpful, and even more importantly meeting documents need to be made available three weeks in advance.

Meeting structure and substance:

- In order to encourage business participation, ICANN meetings should be structured to facilitate interaction with the ICANN Board and senior leadership in a manner that enables a candid exchange of views and ideas.
- ICANN meetings also serve a valuable purpose in providing a forum for business participants to interact with other constituencies, including government representatives.
- The structure of ICANN meetings could be improved to facilitate greater opportunities for constructive policy development – taking advantage of the fact that a wide range of stakeholders are present in person. We support a greater focus on interactive sessions with participation by ICANN staff, as opposed to general briefing sessions.
- Focusing the agenda so that business user policy discussions are concentrated in a few days and not sprinkled throughout the week would facilitate broader business participation.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

ICC is the world business organization, a representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world.

The fundamental mission of ICC is to promote trade and investment across frontiers and help business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Its conviction that trade is a powerful force for peace and prosperity dates from the organization's origins early in the last century. The small group of far-sighted business leaders who founded ICC called themselves "the merchants of peace".

ICC has three main activities: rules-setting, dispute resolution and policy. Because its member companies and associations are themselves engaged in international business, ICC has unrivalled authority in making rules that govern the conduct of business across borders. Although these rules are voluntary, they are observed in countless thousands of transactions every day and have become part of the fabric of international trade.

ICC also provides essential services, foremost among them the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the world's leading arbitral institution. Another service is the World Chambers Federation, ICC's worldwide network of chambers of commerce, fostering interaction and exchange of chamber best practice.

Business leaders and experts drawn from the ICC membership establish the business stance on broad issues of trade and investment policy as well as on vital technical and sectoral subjects. These include financial services, information technologies, telecommunications, marketing ethics, the environment, transportation, competition law and intellectual property, among others.

ICC enjoys a close working relationship with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, including the World Trade Organization and the G8.

ICC was founded in 1919. Today it groups hundreds of thousands of member companies and associations from over 120 countries. National committees work with their members to address the concerns of business in their countries and convey to their governments the business views formulated by ICC.

ICC Commission on E-Business, IT and Telecoms (EBITT)

Business leaders and experts drawn from the ICC membership establish the key business positions, policies and practices on e-business, information technologies and telecommunications through the EBITT Commission.

With members who are users and providers of information technology and electronic services from both developed and developing countries, ICC provides the ideal platform to develop global voluntary rules and best practices for these areas. Dedicated to the expansion of cross-border trade, ICC champions liberalization of telecoms and development of infrastructures that support global online trade.

ICC has also led and coordinated the input of business around the world to the World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva 2003, Tunis 2005, and continues this effort in the activities established in the Tunis Agenda through its initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS) <http://www.iccwbo.org/basis>).



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