ICANN

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

22 February 2017

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Dear Commercial Stakeholder Group

Thank you for your request for a report to share with the community on our recent efforts to address community feedback provided in both the ICANN57 Public Forum and follow-up community surveys.

Since ICANN57 was the first Annual General Meeting of the new Public Meeting Strategy, which extended the meeting to seven days, it was important for us to gather feedback from participants to learn what worked and what didn't work.

In November 2016, we conducted two post-ICANN57 surveys. The Meeting Structure Survey sought feedback on the formats for Constituency Day and the Public Forum, while the Event Survey focused on gathering feedback on the ICANN57 schedule, as well as facilities and networking opportunities. Both surveys provided respondents with the opportunity to submit written comments. The results of these surveys were not scientific, but they provided useful direction on future meeting formats.

Since survey respondents were equally split on the format of constituency day (one vs. two days), Meeting Staff consulted with SO/AC Leadership, who decided to return to the one-day format. Conversely, respondents provided clear direction to retain the two-day format for the Public Forum.

The majority of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the seven-day duration of the Annual General Meeting. However, an equal number felt that there were too many sessions on the schedule.

Write-in comments from both surveys suggested that there were too many conflicts on the meeting schedule, too many high-interest topics, as well as too much session duplication. Respondents also suggested that the SO/AC Reports not be held during the Public Forum. During the ICANN57 Public Forum, we also heard concerns related to the production of the ICANN meeting schedule; selection of important topics for discussion at the meeting (HITs); and the development and execution of those community-wide sessions on-site.

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SO/AC Leadership and Meeting Staff considered this feedback when developing the ICANN58 Copenhagen schedule. Meeting Staff proposed a block schedule for the upcoming meeting, which was shared with and supported by SO/AC Leadership. A major change to the block schedule was the reduction of Cross-Community Topics (HITs) from eight to three, which includes a separate session dedicated to SO/AC Reports following the Opening Ceremony.

SO/AC Leadership nominated representatives from each group to continue working with Meeting Staff through the remainder of the schedule production process, which has just been completed.

We acknowledge the concerns you expressed regarding the HIT session on DNS and Content Regulation in Hyderabad, and we will be working with SO/AC Leadership to establish criteria for inclusion of Cross-Community Topics (HITs) on future meeting schedules.

We also note your concern about the session, Cross-Community Discussion with Data Protection Commissioners, to be held in Copenhagen. This session was added as a Cross-Community Topic (HIT) after receiving broad support from SO/AC Leadership, most notably, the GAC, GNSO, and ALAC.

We thank you for your thoughtful advice, and for providing us with the opportunity to share how we have responded to community feedback on schedule development for Copenhagen. I am confident that the collaborative spirit we are building between community leaders and staff will offer us many opportunities to fine tune and improve the meeting planning and implementation experience for all. Recently, I sent a letter to the Community leaders about this matter and asked for their help to resolve what appears to be an escalating challenge with implementing the community-approved policy on meeting duration and structure. I hope you will agree that we together must improve and emphasize that this is a shared problem.

Best regards,

Göran Marby
President & CEO, ICANN