



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

13 April 2016

RE: Request for face-to-face sessions of GNSO PDP Working Groups at ICANN56

To: James Bladel
cc: ICANN Board

Dear James,

Thank you and the Council for your recent request to hold face-to-face sessions of GNSO PDP Working Groups at the upcoming ICANN56 in Helsinki.

As you know, ICANN56 will be the first 'Meeting B' held under the community-developed New Meeting Strategy, which was introduced to address the increasing complexity of ICANN Meetings, and the growing demand for more sessions spread over more days. The model for 'Meeting B' was designed specifically to address some of these issues by creating a four-day meeting entirely focused on SO/AC policy development work, as well as cross community interaction and outreach.

In Marrakech, some community leaders expressed the desire to continue with the four-day model as originally proposed by the MSWG. As this is our first 'Meeting B' (Policy Forum), I respectfully ask the Council to reconsider their request to hold additional sessions outside of the official meeting dates. To do so will allow us to test the new policy-focused concept as defined in the strategy. This will also set an example for the broader community who would likely also ask for additional days if the GNSO decides to pursue this request. It is anticipated that the PDP Working Groups Pilot Program will be absorbed into the 'Meeting B' schedule rather than having an additional day specifically for that purpose.

Thank you and the Council for your consideration of these issues, and for your continued support of the New Meeting Strategy. We look forward to continuing our work with you and the Council on the agenda for ICANN56 in June.

Best regards,

Nick Tomasso
VP, Meetings

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