

Meeting Reform – Perspective of the GNSO Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC)

The IPC supports the reduction of ICANN meetings from 3 to 2 annually. The basis of our support is as follows:

1. Reducing the number of meetings would reduce the financial burdens of regular attendees of such meetings. In the current economic climate, companies and individuals are aggressively adopting various cost saving measures. This would ultimately impede the ability of participants to regularly attend all of ICANN's general meeting. Reducing the number of general meetings will encourage regular attendees to continue to participate in all of ICANN's meetings.

2. We understand that there are some concerns that reduction in the number of meetings reduces the opportunity for participants to discuss pertinent issues. There are also concerns that the reduction in meetings will result in participants not having sufficient time to deliberate on issues. It is submitted that such concerns could be overcome if ICANN could improve on the efficiency of these meetings. In particular,
 - a. The agenda of ICANN meetings should be finalized at a much earlier date prior to the meeting. This would allow participants more time to prepare for the meetings.
 - b. Detailed agenda should be provided early so that participants could plan their participation in the various forums and workshops.
 - c. All substantive papers, proposals and the like for consideration at the meeting should be circulated well in advance. For example, a cut-off of 14 calendar days prior to the meeting for circulation of such materials would allow constituencies, and individual meeting participants, enough time to digest proposals and to consult with others prior to traveling to the meetings.

3. Smaller intersessional meetings for focus groups could augment the general meetings. These could include regional consultations as well as working meetings of (for example) GNSO working groups focused on a particular topic. Funding and staff support for such meetings is an essential component of any revised meetings policy.

The IPC supports hosting meetings at transport hubs. This would facilitate the ease of traveling for participants all over the world. It would also decrease traveling cost as it reduces the need for connecting flights.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Metalitz on behalf of IPC, July 10, 2008