

Noncommercial Stakeholder Group Response on the ICANN Public Meetings 2024-2028 and Revised Dates in 2022

Noncommercial Stakeholders Group (NCSG) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ICANN Public Meetings 2024-2028 and Revised Dates in 2022

The purpose of this Public Comment proceeding is to solicit and collect feedback from the community on the proposed dates for ICANN Public Meetings to be held in 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028. ICANN is also seeking feedback on revised dates for ICANN75 in 2022 to allow more time between events. The advance notice gives the community an opportunity to identify potential conflicts before ICANN posts the official dates. It also gives participants enough time to plan their travel and attendance.

The Meetings and Global Stakeholder Engagement Teams worked together to select preliminary dates for ICANN Public Meetings for 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028. Revised dates were also identified for the Annual General Meeting in 2022.

NCSG Comments.

The main observations are that in moving the AGM Meeting from Late October/Early November in an effort to put several weeks distance between the IETF and the ICANN Meetings, they have created conflicts with Jewish Religious Holidays where there had been none and also conflicts with DIWALI and other holidays. This time, late October/early November is usually a good time free of conflicts and moving it up the middle of October runs into many conflicts. While it would be desirable not to have the ICANN meetings so close to the IETF ones, moving ICANN meeting dates up appears to disregard important holidays and religious days. In any event, IETF meeting attendees tend to travel immediately from the ICANN meeting to the IETF Meeting as they have done in the past.

The March Meetings in 2024 and 2026 are in conflict with the celebration of Ramadan. ICANN Org needs to understand and note this conflict

For September 2022, we suggest that these meeting dates be moved a full two or three weeks later, at the end of October when the AGM has traditionally occurred in order to avoid clashing with a Jewish Holiday.

For October 2024, it is unclear why we are having the AGM during these dates when they conflict both with a Jewish Holiday and with the EURO IX forum. Moving these by one week would be considered ideal. Having the meeting start on a Sunday instead of Saturday would be best as the Jewish Holidays end the evening of Friday, October 25.

For March 2025, ICANN Org needs to consider that this meeting conflicts with Ramadan, which lasts the entire month of March if these dates are to be retained as is. Passover is Friday, April 11 and Good Friday is April 18

For March 2026, ICANN Org needs to consider that this meeting conflicts with Ramadan which is from February 18-March 19 and moving it is tricky because of the upcoming Passover and Easter celebrations, which are Passover (March 31)/Easter periods (Good Friday is April 1). As an added wrinkle, IETF is from March 14-20.

For March 2027, the Community Forum would end the Thursday before Good Friday (part of the Easter celebration). Easter is a major holiday in the Christian calendar. And even for those who are not particularly religious, this weekend tends to be a popular time for family holidays and get togethers.

For October 2027, this meeting falls during the Jewish Holiday of Sukkot/Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Solemn Assembly/Simchat Torah) which could be avoided by moving it two weeks earlier making it back-to-back with the IETF meeting.