Statement of the Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group on
Proposed Incremental Changes to the ICANN Meetings Strategy

The Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group (NCSG) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Incremental Changes to the ICANN Meeting Strategy.

Incremental Recommendations

a. **Community Forum**

The NCSG is in agreement with community leaders on the need to keep this first meeting of the year to 6 days.

b. **Policy Forum**

The NCSG welcomes the addition of the 5th day. In fact, we believe that this should not even be up for debate, because the very working group for meeting strategy suggested to have an "outreach and policy forum" in their recommendations.

The NCSG has done its best to meet this obligation, always holding outreach activities in addition to dedicating ourselves to policy work at this forum. However, we have found ourselves overwhelmed by just how much there is do in four days. The addition of a fifth day would be very important and useful to us in continuing our outreach (to inform the community on what we are working on and gather support for our work) and we might also use it to continue our intra community work which might consist of conducting face-to-face meetings and bilateral discussions with other community leaders and groups to inform our views on the critical issues we are working on.

Leaving the fifth day open for groups to shape their own agenda is a positive sign and we intend to use this time in the most efficient way. However, we advise against holding PDPs and GNSO council meetings in parallel to outreach sessions. Most of our policy experts want to attend these meetings and outreach would then have to be held without them, which is not advisable. We are recommending to not hold PDPs and Council meetings during the outreach day in parallel to outreach-related sessions.

c. **Annual General Meeting**

The NCSG agrees with Recommendation 2. We support devoting the meeting's seventh day for groups to conduct wrap-ups and internal planning.

Location Selection Criteria:

The report asserts that "The consensus among community leaders and representatives was that no new criteria for the selection of ICANN Meeting locations should be added."

This is not, and has never been, the position of the NCSG. We believe that not considering democratic values, gender issues, and other human rights considerations for venue selection is inconsistent with our values. Civil society and civil rights activities are directly impacted by venue selection and some locations can hamper our participation. ICANN must commit to providing a safe environment for all participants. We also suggest that ICANN convene a community group similar to that of IETF to come up with a more elaborate criteria for selection of the venue. For example, the IETF community came up with a venue selection process in a bottom-up manner. The following link elaborates on the IETF's community-driven Meeting Selection Criteria: https://tools.ietf.org/id/draft-ietf-mtgvenue-iaoc-venue-selection-process-12.html#rfc.section.3.1.