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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on Proposed Dates for ICANN Public Meetings 2024-2028 and Revised Dates in 2022

Introduction

On 02 January 2020, Public Comment opened for [Proposed Dates for ICANN Public Meetings 2024-2028 and Revised Dates in 2022](#). On the same day, an At-Large [workspace](#) was created for the statement. The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop an ALAC statement on the Public Comment. Judith Hellerstein, member of the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) volunteered as penholder for the ALAC statement.

On [08 January 2020](#), Judith Hellerstein provided a presentation regarding the Public Comment, in order to facilitate discussion within the CPWG. On 09 January 2020, Judith Hellerstein posted the first draft ALAC statement on the topic on a Google Doc for At-Large Community discussion. ICANN policy staff in support of the At-Large community sent a call for comments to the CPWG mailing list.

On [29 January 2020](#), after weekly CPWG meetings and discussions on the CPWG mailing list, the penholder presented an updated draft of the ALAC statement regarding Proposed Dates for ICANN Public Meetings 2024-2028 and Revised Dates in 2022.

On 29 January 2020, the penholder and ICANN policy staff in support of the At-Large community sent a call for comments to the CPWG and ALAC mailing lists, requesting final feedback from the community by 31 January 2020.

On 31 January 2020, the penholder finalized the ALAC statement.

On 03 February 2020, the ALAC Chair, Maureen Hilyard, requested that the statement be transmitted to the ICANN Public Comment process, copying the ICANN staff member responsible for this topic, with a note that the statement is pending ALAC ratification.

ALAC Statement on Proposed Dates for ICANN Public Meetings 2024-2028 and Revised Dates in 2022

The ALAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed dates for the ICANN Public Meetings 2024-2028 and the revised dates for Public Meetings in 2022. We thank ICANN for noting some of the conflicts for the proposed dates but we do not understand why the October meetings are happening in the middle of the month of October, instead of the last week in October/the first week in November. 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. Moreover, since these dates have not been finalized it is fairly easy to move them to avoid conflicts.

For the meetings that conflict with the Jewish Holiday of Sukkot and its extensions which are Shemini Atzeret (eighth day of Solemn assembly/Simchat Torah) what is most problematic besides meeting on a Jewish religious holiday is that at the end of each of the three main holidays of Passover, Sukkot, and Shavuot (festival of weeks) it is customary to offer a memorial prayer for close relatives that have passed away as well as for people killed in wars and in the holocaust in the synagogue and as such is a very solemn day and so having a conflict with these days is very difficult. Many people who are not religious at all come to synagogue for these days to honor and memorialize their close relatives, family members and people they knew who lost their lives in wars or in the holocaust so putting the meeting during these times and having people make difficult choices is problematic.

ICANN has been striving to be more inclusive in an effort to engage more volunteers with diverse backgrounds. ICANN acknowledges the difficulty in getting new people to join and engage within ICANN and to increase the diversity of participants. The [Multistakeholder Model Work Plan](#) takes note of the importance to ICANN to develop pathways to enable effective participation. One of the more practical ways for ICANN to facilitate participation is for ICANN Org, to be more aware of and to avoid clashing with important holidays and religious days observed by volunteers who work countless hours to improve ICANN's multistakeholder advisory work. By avoiding these dates as much as possible it is showing all volunteers that ICANN ORG understands their concerns and does its best to avoid conflicts.

At Large believes that It will be helpful to understand the rationale for moving the October meetings up by two (2) weeks. While it would be desirable not to have the ICANN meetings so close to the IETF ones, moving ICANN meeting dates earlier to create a break between the two meetings appear to disregard important holidays and religious days mentioned earlier. In any event, IETF meeting attendees can travel immediately from the ICANN meeting to the IETF Meeting as they have done in the past.

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 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.