

From: SOAC-Leaders-ICANNMeeting-Planning

Subject: [SOAC-Leaders-ICANNMeeting-Planning] Further Follow Up: Thematic Pilot and Plenary Session Planning for ICANN74

Dear SOAC leaders and members of the Community Meetings Planning Group,

Thank you again for your input on how we should approach ICANN74 scheduling and planning! As your feedback on the idea to pilot a thematic approach for ICANN74 and on a plenary session was quite clear, the org support team would like to suggest that you provide comments and take any necessary decisions on a way forward via email. We hope that doing it this way will allow your respective staff support teams to submit your session requests as early as possible when the Event Management Scheduling system for ICANN74 goes live this coming Monday.

On piloting a thematic approach for Day 1 of ICANN74:

- We understand that most groups would like to keep the planning for the first hybrid meeting since November 2019 as straightforward as possible; and it may be more timely to consider piloting a thematic approach only after we have completed one or two such hybrid meetings.
- In view of the limited room capacities due to the need to implement physical (social) distancing measures, we should aim to have an ICANN74 schedule that allows ample time for all groups to conduct their priority policy work.
- Considering all the input, may we suggest that:
 - **Instead of piloting a thematic approach for ICANN74, we can use the first 90-minute session on Day 1 (i.e. Block 1) for a session on current topics relevant to the work on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro).** While not a priority or topic of interest for all community groups, there seems to be some interest in a community session to discuss agreed and timely issues in respect of this project.
 - Note: This session is not intended to replace or duplicate any individual group discussions or bilateral meetings on specific topics of interest to that group or groups.
 - **This first session will not be an un-conflicted slot.** In other words, a group is free to schedule a different session of interest in that slot.
 - The rest of the sessions on Day 1 (and for the duration of the meeting, subject to any plenary session(s) (see below) and the Geopolitics Forum) will not be themed to any specific topic. Groups should aim to plan their sessions in accordance with the overarching objective of the Policy Forum, which is to progress SOAC policy work and outreach, including inter/cross community discussions.

On plenary session planning:

- We understand that your overall preference is to have, at most, one (1) plenary session, if at all (note: a few groups are comfortable with not having a plenary session at this Policy Forum).
- We received only one (1) proposal for an ICANN74 plenary session – the ccNSO proposed a follow up plenary session on “Five Year Follow Up to Who Sets ICANN’s Priorities?” (note: the RSSAC had mentioned a DNS privacy or technology-related topic, but we believe it was in relation to the need to plan such a topic for ICANN75 rather than ICANN74).
- At the moment, and based on the suggested approach (above) to SubPro, we are looking at two un-conflicted slots at ICANN74: one that has been set aside for the Geopolitics Forum and the other that is being held for a plenary session.
- As such, **may we have your views and decision on whether to retain one (1) un-conflicted slot at ICANN74 for a plenary session on the ccNSO-suggested topic?** For scheduling purposes, it will be very helpful to know your thoughts on this as soon as possible, so we will very much appreciate it if you can reply to this thread at your earliest convenience.

Thank you all again for your time and helpful input.

Best regards,

Mary (on behalf of the ICANN org team supporting ICANN Public Meeting planning)