



Welcome to Washington, D.C. and thank you for making the considerable time commitment to participate in the second "Intersessional" Meeting of the ICANN GNSO Non Contract Community!

This two-day meeting is bringing together almost 50-non-contract community leaders from the GNSO. It's a healthy mix of ICANN veterans and several new participants who will be enjoying their first ICANN meeting experience. I hope you will find it a productive couple of days.

One of the purposes of the meeting is to create the opportunity - outside of the pressures and schedule strains of an ICANN Public Meeting - to discuss longer-range substantial community issues, build relationships and collaborate with each other on strategic and operational issues that impact your communities. We look forward to active dialogue and a productive exchange of information and ideas.

This meeting is a byproduct of several different meeting requests made by various communities that could not be granted individually. It builds on a successful 2013 pilot effort and continues to be a learning experience for us all.

With many different meeting expectations and viewpoints, creating a program agenda has been no small task and we appreciate the goodwill and creative contributions made by several planning volunteers (including Marilyn Cade, Bill Drake, Tony Holmes, Steve Metalitz, Jimson Olufuye, Elisa Cooper, Stefania Milan, Rudi Vansnick, Rafik Dammak, Lori Schulman and Kristina Rosette) to make this gathering a productive experience for all.

We are very appreciative to the Center for Strategic and International Studies for giving us the use of their space these next couple of days. They have shown us great hospitality.

I hope you'll join the group on Monday evening at 7:00pm for a cocktail reception in the Overlook Room of the Beacon Hotel (across the street from the CSIS offices) for an evening of further conversation and networking with your fellow delegates.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the discussions, networking and learning while you are here in Washington, D.C. Please have a productive Monday and I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday morning!

Best,

David Olive