# ICANN 72

## HYBRID MEETING IN SEATTLE OR VIRTUAL

# ICANN 72

- The ICANN Board are actively discussing whether ICANN 72, scheduled for Seattle, should be a hybrid meeting that allows for some form of face-to-face participation.

- ICANN org conducted a survey of the ICANN community that suggests that there is support for conducting a hybrid meeting in Seattle, with certain safety measures or precautions in place.

- The Board and ICANN's CEO do appear sensitive to the potentially negative impact on global participation if a meeting takes place in Seattle where the only in-person attendance is from North America.

# Overview

- Face-to-face ICANN meetings put all participants on an equal footing by overcoming time zone differences.

- Provide an opportunity for APAC's diverse cultural and language groups to get together and to establish relationships that enable continued participation in between meetings.

- Representation and participation from APAC in ICANN activities has been significant over the years.

- A face-to-face meeting that excludes a significant portion of the community will only serve to disadvantage those unable to attend and may result in a decline in representation from the APAC region.

# Recommendation

- The APAC Space consider sending a statement to the Board that outlines:
  - the benefits of in-person meetings from a regional perspective
  - the challenges that will likely mean no or very limited in-person attendance at ICANN 72
  - possible consequences of this inability to attend

And requests:
  - If a hybrid meeting does go ahead, that it be limited to a pilot of a community group or effort, for example the Board, the NomCom or a working group
  - If the Board decides to proceed with a hybrid meeting that they explain how proceeding with limited global participation contributes to the global public interest.