

# How We Meet: ICANN82 Plenary Session

10 March 2025

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# Project Introduction, Scope, Objectives

**Assess** the current implementation of the ICANN Meetings Strategy.

**Develop** practical, implementable options for optimizing ICANN Public Meetings.

**Facilitate** targeted discussions to refine these proposals before broader community consultation.

**Identify** changes which address cost and location selection challenges while maintaining accessibility and effectiveness

**Present** options for community discussion at ICANN82, followed by a Public Comment period.

**Analyze** the Public Comments and **develop** the updated report.

# Challenges Related to Cost

| <i>Total Meeting Costs</i>    | 2018         | 2024         | Increase |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Services* Cost for a Meeting  | \$ 1,647,984 | \$ 2,152,438 | 31%      |
| Location** Cost for a Meeting | \$ 2,348,862 | \$ 2,453,310 | 4%       |

## \*Service costs

- Food & Beverage
- Production Costs / AV Rentals
- Interpretation & Equipment
- Technical Services/IT Labor
- Health & Safety
- Live Scribing, Transcriptions
- Marketing
- Transportation

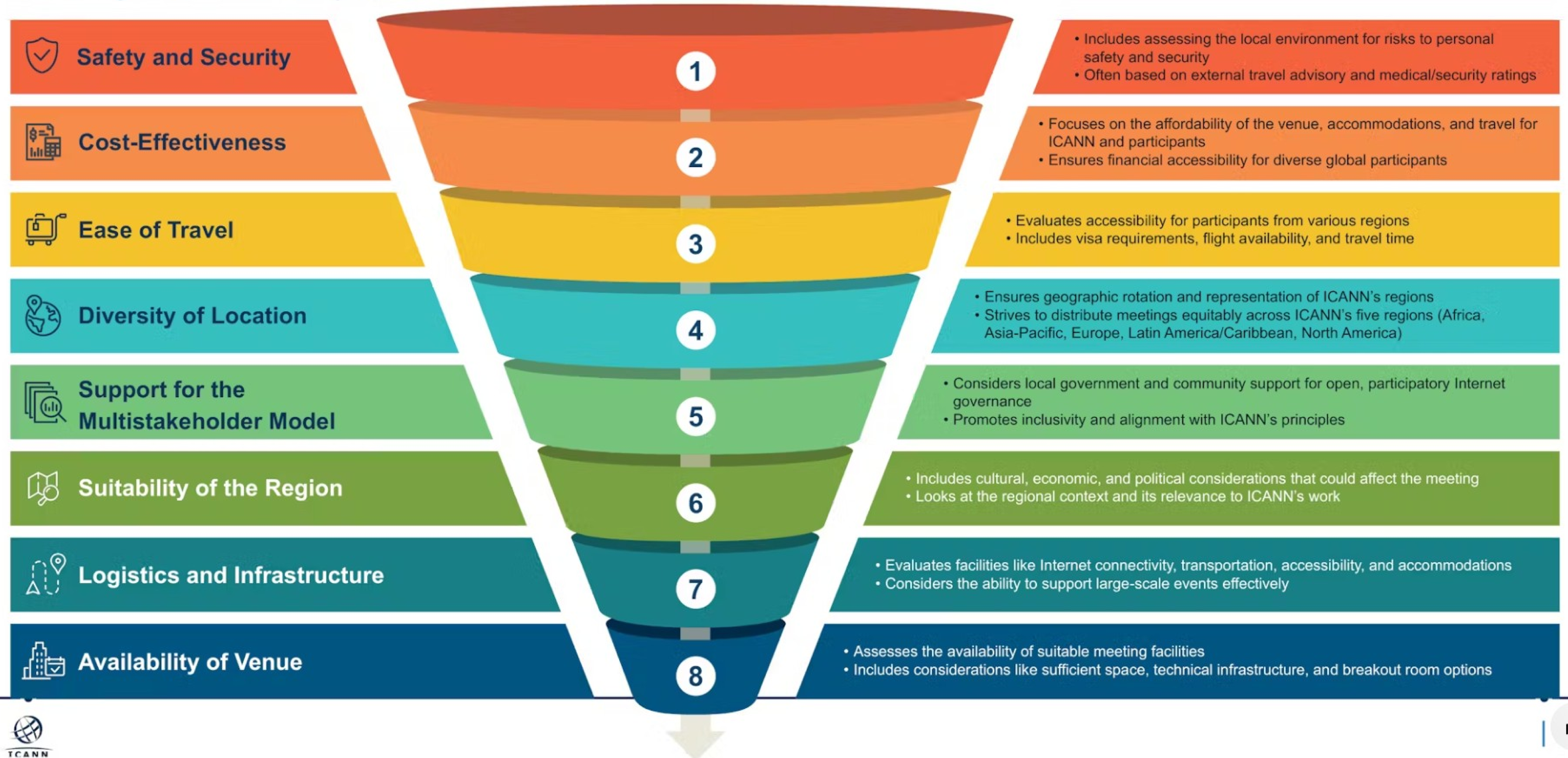
| <i>Community Traveler Costs</i> | ICANN55-66 | ICANN74-80 | Increase |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Cost per Traveler               | \$ 3,338   | \$ 4,196   | 26%      |
| Number of Travelers             | 290        | 243        | -16%     |

## \*\*Location costs

- Travel
- Hotel
- Venue Rental

# Increasing Complexity of Location Selection

The original eight criteria established by the ICANN Meeting Strategy Working Group (MSWG) in 2014 for selecting ICANN meeting locations are as follows:



**June - September 2024:** Discussions began with community leaders at ICANN80; informal community consultation to assess support for reviewing the Meetings Strategy and areas of priority between ICANN80 & ICANN81

**November 2024 (ICANN81):** SOAC Chairs agreed to establish lightweight discussion group comprising volunteer community members and relevant ICANN staff subject matter experts.

- SOAC Chairs requested that ICANN staff develop a project charter and initial “straw man” document of possible options for discussion group to review

**January - February 2025:**

- Discussion Group met weekly and reviewed the initial ideas presented by ICANN staff
- Discussion Group agreed on a list of options that are constructive and feasible to present for broader community for their input

# Instructions

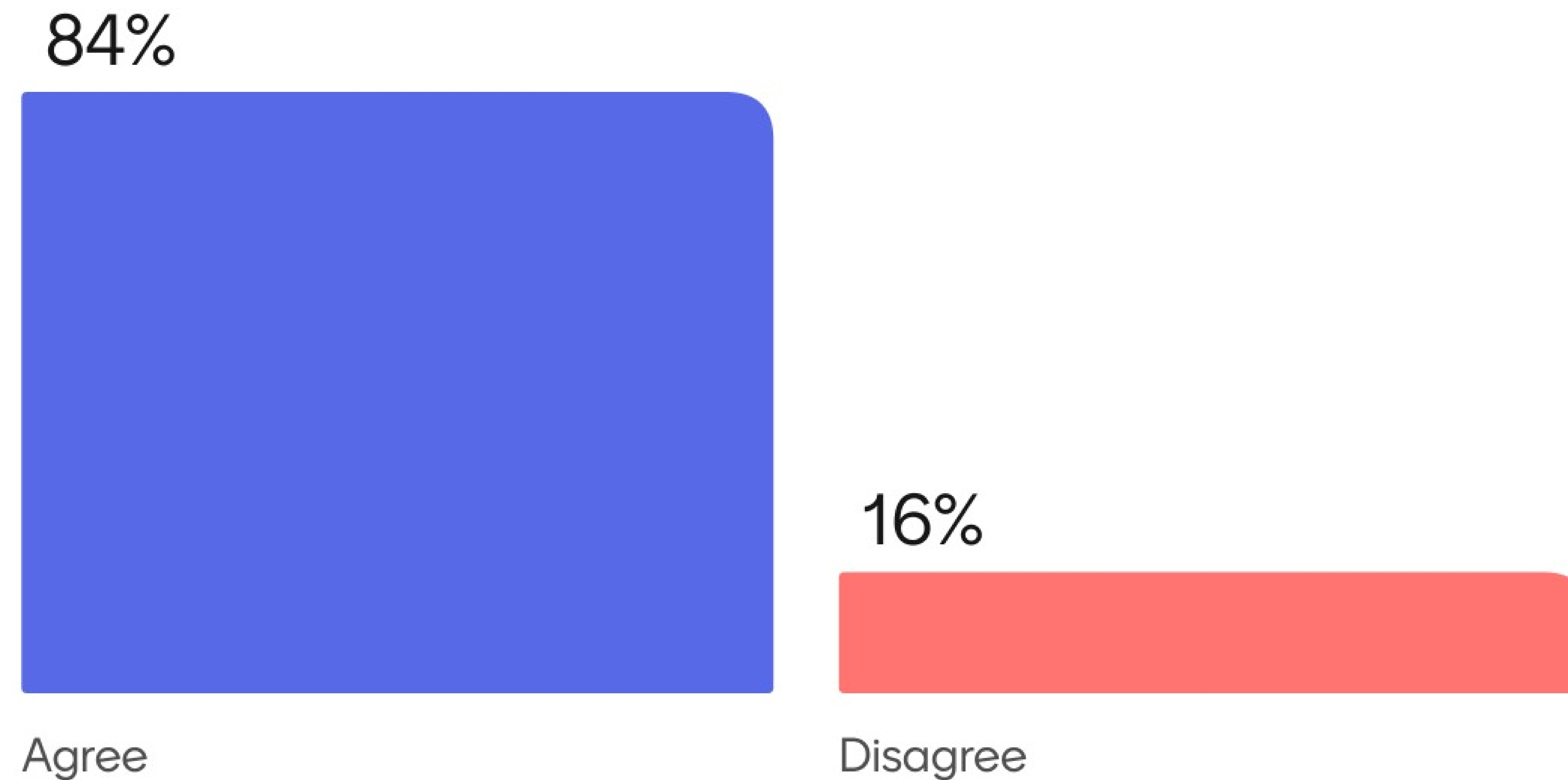


# Proposed Options for Public Discussion at ICANN82



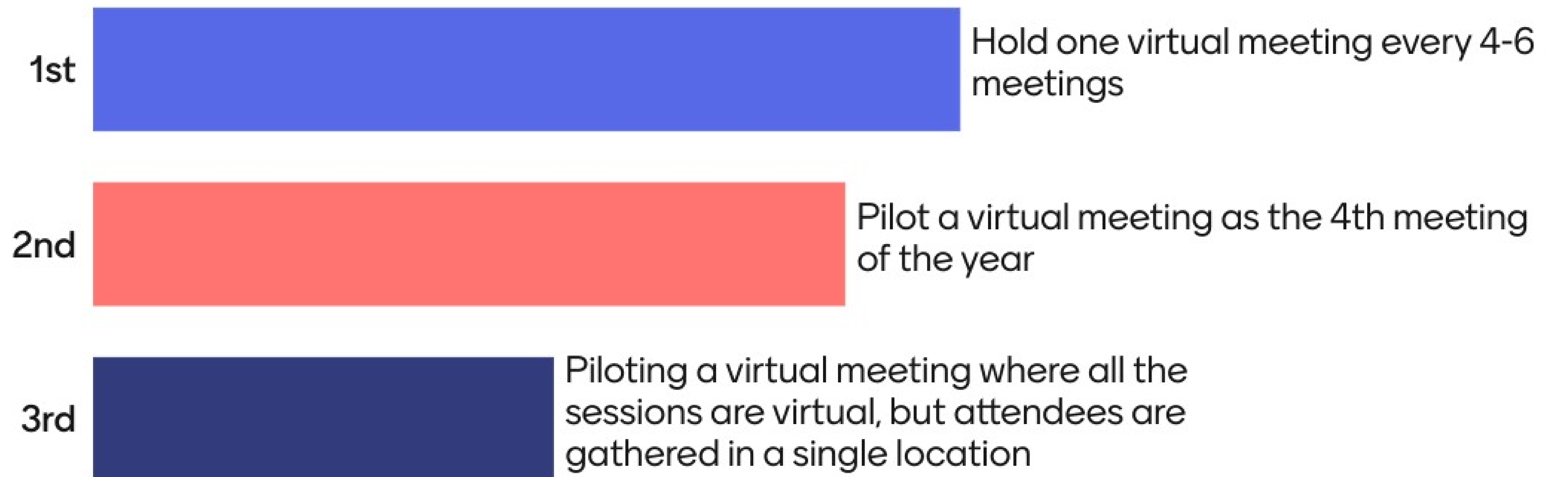
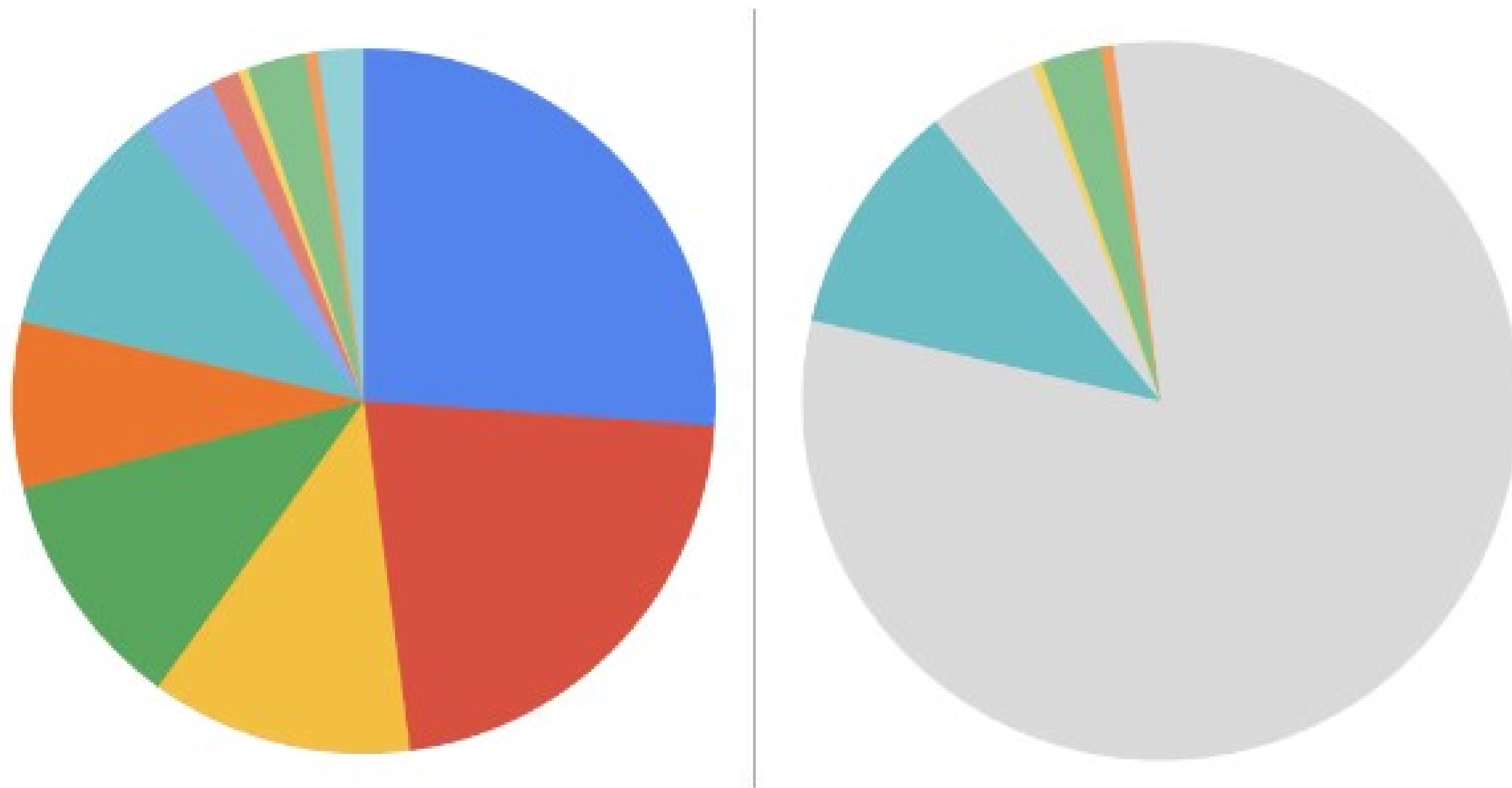
Do you agree to

Prioritize locations with more economical air, hotel and venue options.  
Where feasible, return to prior locations and pursue multi-year contracts



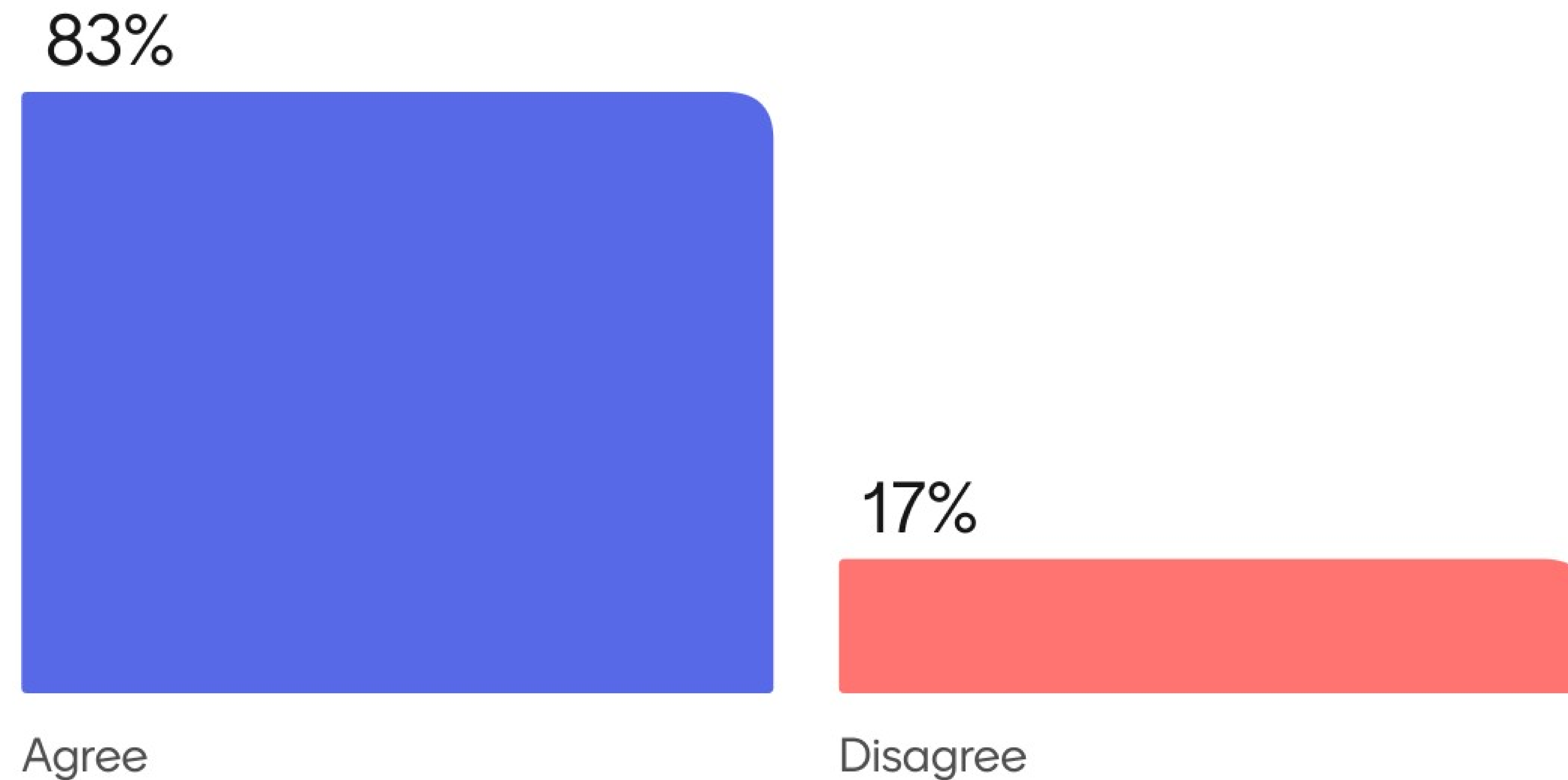
Rank your preference

# Engage community in discussion about moving 1 of the 3 meetings to a virtual setting:



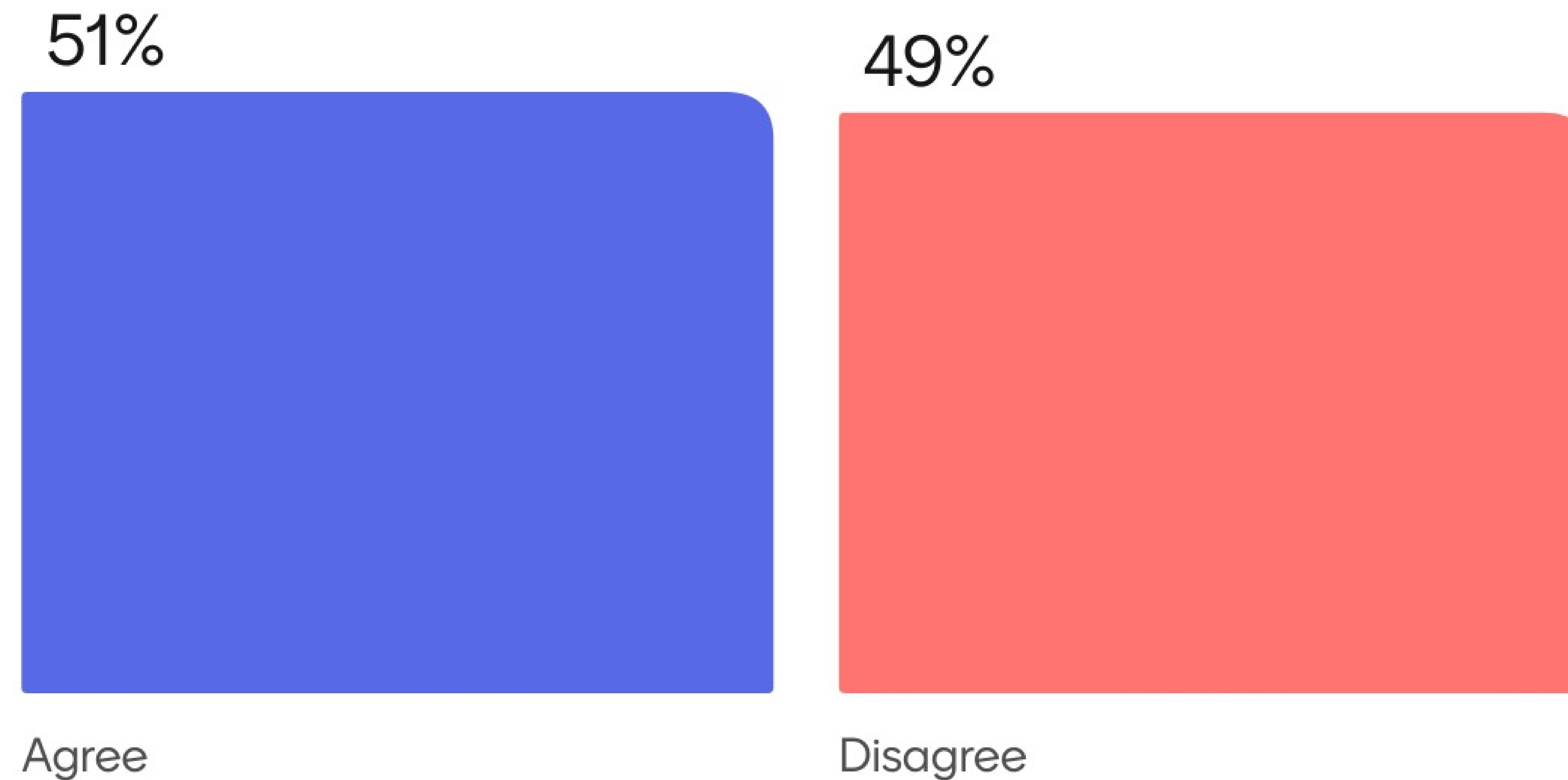
Do you agree to

Move a meeting virtual if there are unforeseen circumstances occurring within a certain period before the planned meeting date (e.g. 1 year)



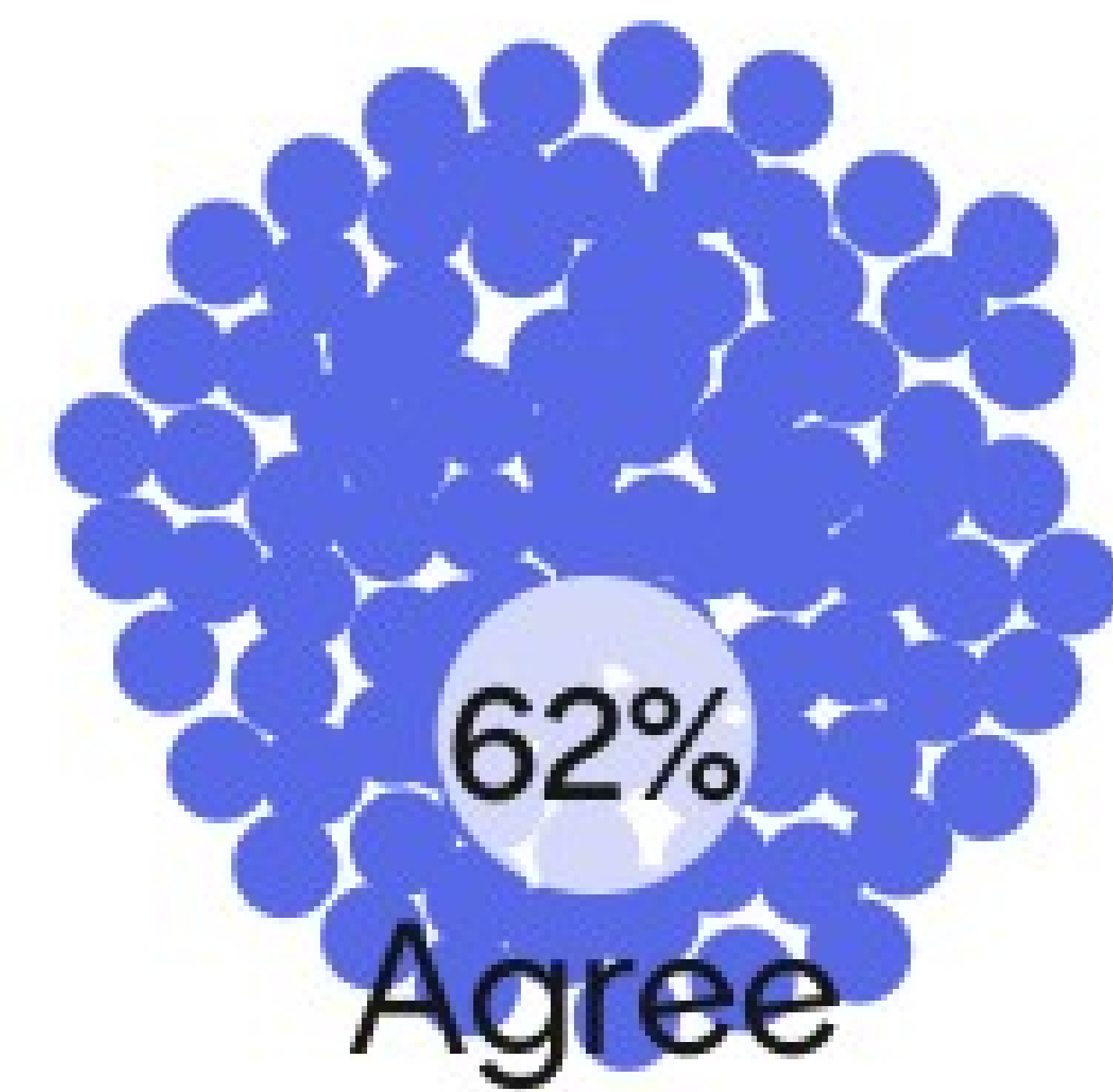
Do you agree to

Reduce duration of Community Forum by 1 day, adjust the block schedule and request community to implement a stricter criteria for session selection



Do you agree to

# Reduce the number of networking receptions unless there is external sponsorship



Do you agree to

# Introduce a conference registration fee



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**ICANN's current strategies include:**

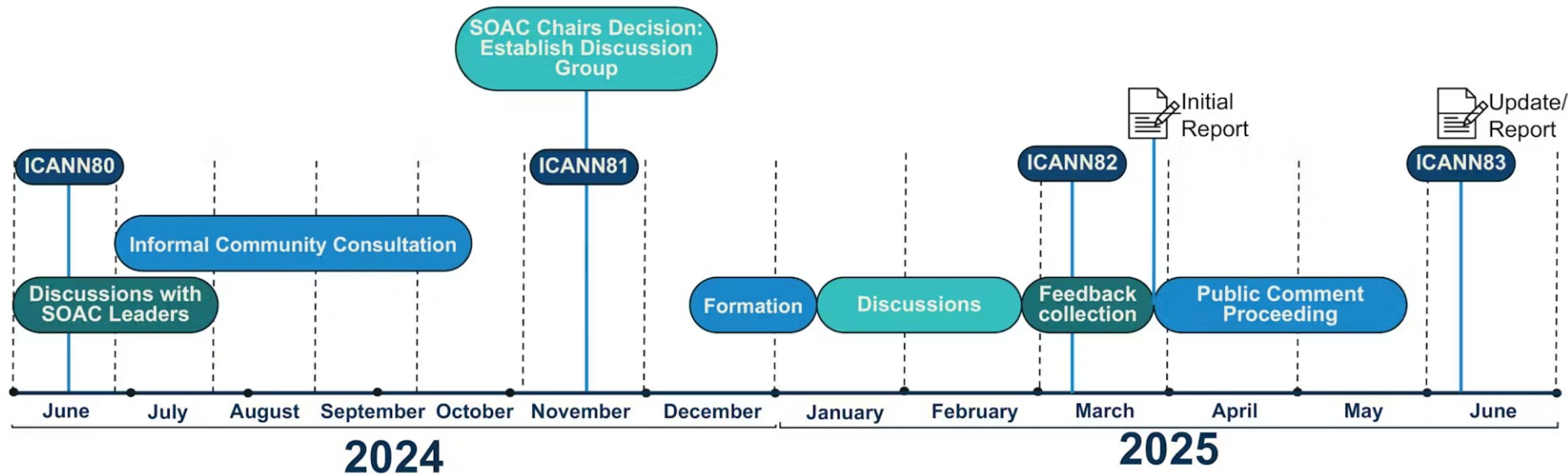
- Streamlining interpretation services to match actual demand/need
- Reduction in staff travel to ICANN Public Meetings
- Pursue a more comprehensive sponsorship strategy

**Options that are unfeasible or out-of-scope:**

- Community to align Funded Traveler allocations to the purpose of each ICANN Public Meeting.
- Collocating intersessional community meetings with ICANN Public Meetings.

# Timeline & Next Steps

- ICANN82 Plenary Session - on Monday, March 10 at 10:45
- Public Comment Proceeding - last week of March
- Update/Report - ICANN83



# Thank You: How We Meet Discussion Group Participants

| Community Group Participants |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ALAC                         | Claire Craig             |
| ALAC                         | Jonathan Zuck            |
| ASO                          | Hollis Kara              |
| ccNSO                        | Jodi Anderson            |
| ccNSO                        | Molehe Wesi              |
| GAC                          | Nico Caballero           |
| GAC                          | Nigel Hickson            |
| GNSO                         | Greg DiBiase             |
| GNSO                         | Lawrence Olawale Roberts |
| RSSAC                        | Jeff Osborn              |
| SSAC                         | John Levine              |