

How We Meet: ICANN82 Plenary Session

Monday 10 March 2025



Agenda

1. Introduction, Project Scope & Objectives
2. Challenges Related to Cost
3. Increasing Complexity of Location Selection
4. Work Done So Far
5. Proposed Options
 - a. Location Selection and Rotation
 - b. Meeting Structure
 - c. Others
6. Timeline & Next Steps

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

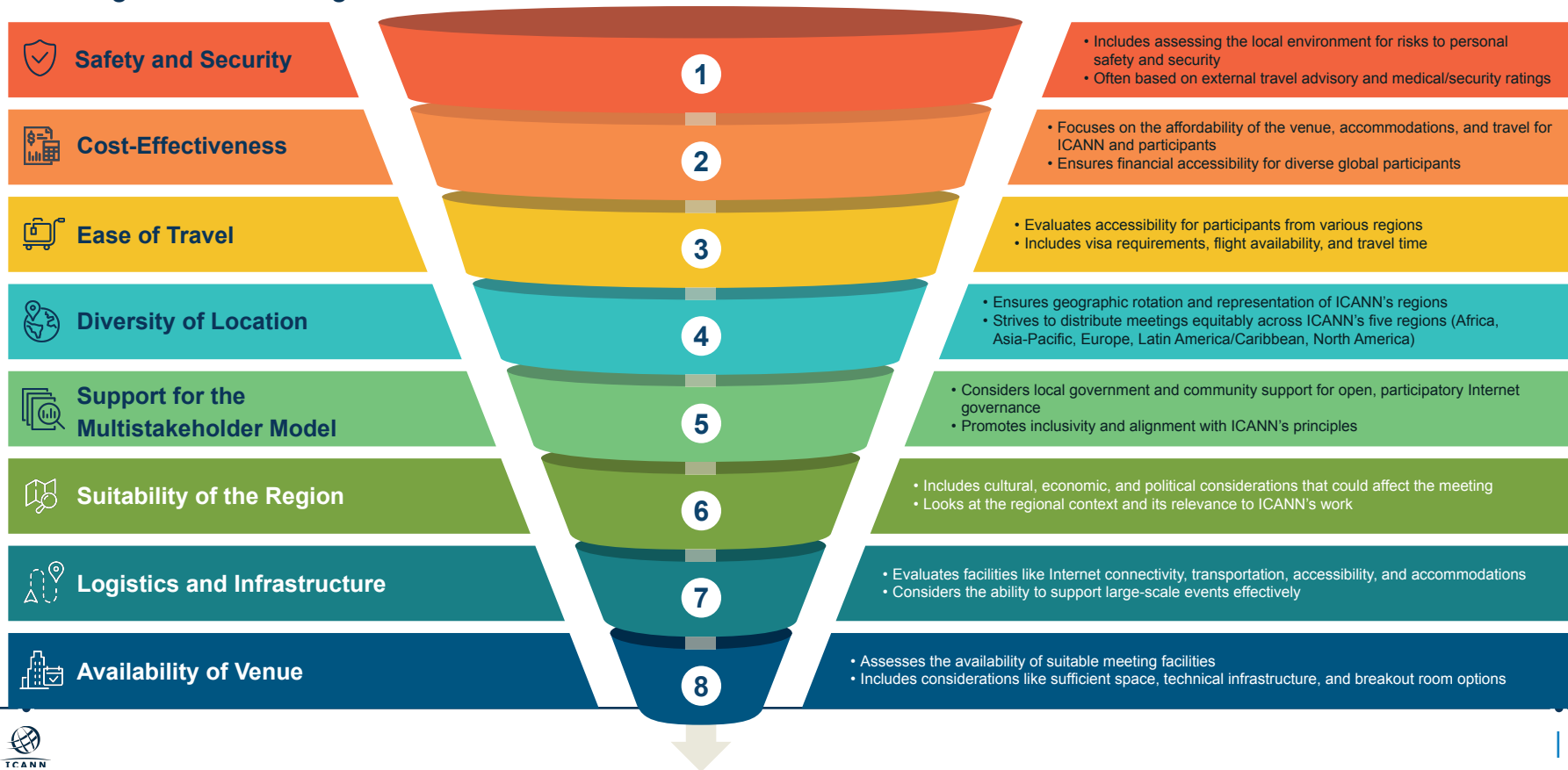
<i>Community Traveler Costs</i>	ICANN55-66	ICANN74-80	Increase
Cost per Traveler	\$ 3,338	\$ 4,196	26%
Number of Travelers	290	243	-16%

**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:



Work Done So Far

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

Proposed Options for Public Discussion at ICANN82



Proposed Options - Location Selection and Rotation

Meeting Rotation (aim: preserve regional rotation but explore options for cost efficiencies)

- Prioritize locations with more economical air, hotel and venue options
- Where feasible, return to prior locations and pursue multi-year contracts
- Engage community in discussion about moving 1 of the 3 meetings to a virtual setting:
 - Hold 1 virtual meeting every 4-6 meetings
 - Pilot a virtual meeting as the 4th meeting of the year
 - Piloting a virtual meeting where all the sessions are virtual, but attendees are gathered in a single location
 - Move a meeting virtual if there is a force majeure event occurring within 1 year before the planned meeting date

Proposed Options - Meeting Structure

Meeting Structure & Duration (aim: optimize venue room usage, scheduling, and criteria for requesting sessions)

- Reduce duration of Community Forum by 1 day
- Change Block Schedule to accommodate the 1-day reduction
- Request the Community Meetings Planning Group to consider developing stricter criteria for requesting sessions at ICANN Public Meetings

Proposed Options - Others

- Reduce the number of networking receptions unless there is external sponsorship
- Introduce a conference registration fee

ICANN's current strategies include:

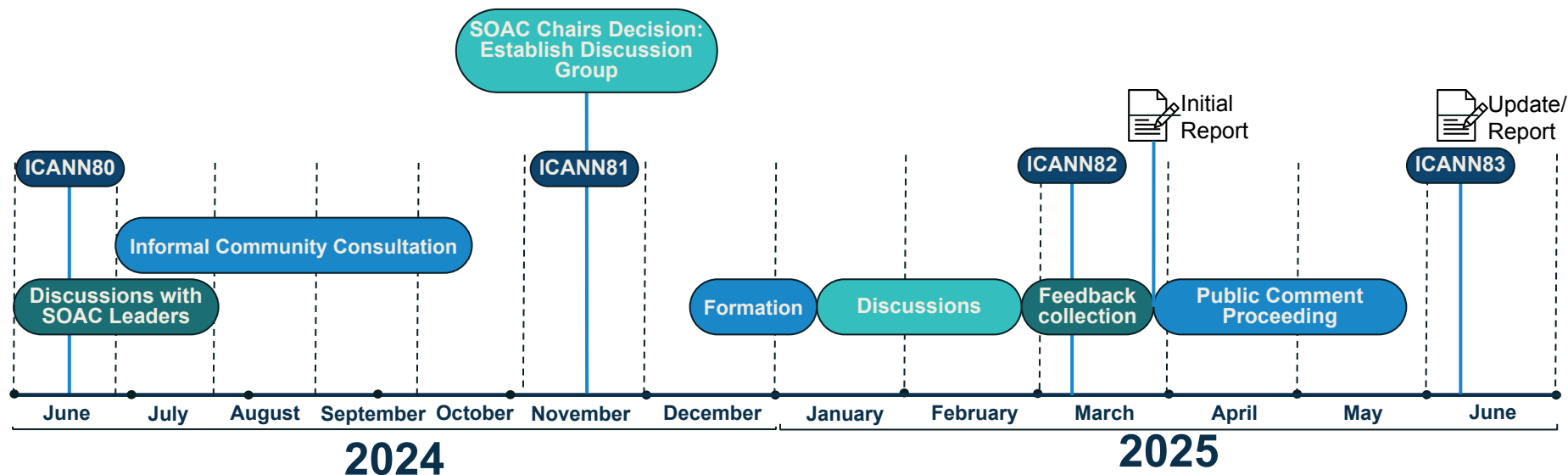
- Streamlining interpretation services to match actual demand/need
- Reduction in staff travel to ICANN Public Meetings
- Pursue a more comprehensive sponsorship strategy

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 Mwesi
GAC	Nico Caballero
GAC	Nigel Hickson
GNSO	Greg di Biase
GNSO	Lawrence Olawale Roberts
RSSAC	Jeff Osborn
SSAC	John Levine