

25 March 2016

Request for face to face sessions of GNSO PDP Working Groups at ICANN56

To: Nick Tomasso
cc: ICANN Board

Dear Nick,

The pilot project approved by the ICANN Board under “Special Community Budget Requests” for FY 2016 provides for specific GNSO PDP working groups, as identified by the GNSO Council, to hold face to face meetings just before or immediately following an ICANN meeting. On behalf of the GNSO Council, I would like to hereby request that we include this for ICANN56.

The GNSO Council fully supports the objectives of the New Meeting Strategy to focus Meeting B on policy work, and we believe this request is aligned with that objective. However, since these PDP Working Group face to face meetings have never been a part of the official schedule for ICANN meetings, we do not believe they impact the focus of Meeting B, or interfere with attendee participation in other sessions at Meeting B.

The pilot project outlines support in the form of an additional hotel night(s) for a limited number of participants, and remote participation that is only available to members of the PDP Working Group. With four PDPs currently underway, and the initial feedback on the pilot being extremely valuable, we believe it would be a missed opportunity if we do not offer this options to these PDP working groups.

With ICANN56 is approaching, and the schedule under development, we ask that you provide a response to this request as soon as possible.

Thank you,

James Bladel
GNSO Chair