ICANN BOARD SUBMISSION No. 2025.06.08.1a

TITLE: **June 2026 ICANN Meeting Venue Contracting**

PROPOSED ACTION: **For Board Consideration and Approval**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board is being asked to authorize ICANN organization to take all steps necessary to complete contracting for the host venue in Confidential Negotiation Information for the June 2026 ICANN Public Meeting (ICANN86). While it is the organization's responsibility to identify and select sites for ICANN Public Meetings in accordance with the Board-approved strategy, per the ICANN Contracting and Disbursement policy the Board must approve any expenditures that will exceed US$500,000, as these will. The Reference Materials for this paper summarize the steps taken to locate a site for the June 2026 Public Meeting and outline the facility costs. The amount of Board approval being sought via this resolution is not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information The total expected amount for the entire meeting is estimated to be approximately Confidential Negotiation Information

ICANN ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATION:

ICANN organization recommends that the Board authorize the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all actions necessary to enter into, and make expense disbursements in furtherance of, contract(s) for the host venue in Confidential Negotiation Information for the June 2026 ICANN Public Meeting, in an amount not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information

BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE (BFC) RECOMMENDATION*:*

The BFC recommends that the Board authorize the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all actions necessary to enter into, and make expense disbursements in furtherance of, contract(s) for the host venue in Confidential Negotiation Information for the June 2026 ICANN Public Meeting, in an amount not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Whereas, ICANN intends to hold its second Public Meeting of calendar year 2026 in the Europe region.

Whereas, selection of the Confidential Negotiation Information location adheres to the geographic rotation guidelines established by the Meeting Strategy Working Group.

Whereas, ICANN organization has completed a thorough review of the venue and finds the one in Confidential Negotiation Information to be suitable.

Whereas, both ICANN organization and the Board Finance Committee have recommended that the Board take action on this item in the manner set forth in the resolved clause below.

Resolved (2025.06.08.xx), the Board authorizes the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all actions necessary to enter into, and make expense disbursements in furtherance of, contract(s) for the host venue for the June 2026 ICANN Public Meeting in Confidential Negotiation Information in an amount not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information

Resolved (2025.06.08.xx), specific items within this resolution shall remain confidential for negotiation purposes pursuant to Article 3, section 3.5(b) of the ICANN Bylaws until the President and CEO determines that the confidential information may be released.

PROPOSED RATIONALE:

As part of ICANN's Public Meeting strategy, ICANN seeks to host a meeting in a different geographic region (as defined in the ICANN Bylaws) three times a year. ICANN86 is scheduled for 8-11 June 2026. Following a search and evaluation of available venues, the organization identified Confidential Negotiation Informat on as a suitable location for the ICANN Public Meeting.

The organization performed a thorough analysis of the available locations that met the Meeting Location Selection Criteria (see http://meetings.icann.org/location-selection-criteria). Based on the proposals and analysis, ICANN has identified Confidential Negotiation Information as the location for ICANN86. Selection of this Europe location adheres to the geographic rotation guidelines established by the Meeting Strategy Working Group.

The Board Finance Committee (BFC) has carried out its standard due diligence in reviewing the proposed Board decision to recommend approval to the Board. As part of this diligence, the BFC has reviewed the financial risks associated with the proposed decision and the information provided by the org on the measures in place to mitigate those risks. The BFC has found these financial risks and the mitigation in place reasonable and acceptable.

The Board has reviewed the organization's briefing for the costs of hosting the meeting in Confidential Negotiation Informat on and agrees with the BFC's recommendation that the proposal met the significant factors of the Meeting Location Selection Criteria, as well as the related costs for the facilities selected, for the June 2026 ICANN Public Meeting.

ICANN conducts Public Meetings in support of its mission to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems and these meeting are consistent in the public interest as they provide free and open access to anyone wishing to participate, either in person or remotely, in open, transparent, and bottom-up, multistakeholder policy development processes.

There will be a financial impact to ICANN in hosting the meeting and providing travel support as necessary, as well as to the community in incurring costs to travel to the meeting. However, such impact would be faced regardless of the location and venue of the meeting and is accounted for in the draft and will be accounted for in the Board-apprpved ICANN FY26 Operating Plan and Budget.

This action will have no impact on the security or the stability of the Domain Name System.

This is an Organizational Administrative function that does not require public comment.

Submitted by:	Sally Costerton
Position:	Sr. Advisor to President and SVP, Global Stakeholder Engagement
Date Noted:	27 May 2025
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ICANN BOARD SUBMISSION No. 2025.06.08.1b

TITLE: **June 2027 ICANN Meeting Venue Contracting**

PROPOSED ACTION: **For Board Consideration and Approval**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board is being asked to authorize ICANN organization to take all steps necessary to complete contracting for the host venue in Con idential Negotiation n ormation for the June 2027 ICANN Public Meeting (ICANN89). While it is the organization's responsibility to identify and select sites for ICANN Public Meetings in accordance with the Board-approved strategy, per the ICANN Contracting and Disbursement policy the Board must approve any expenditures that will exceed US$500,000, as these will. The Reference Materials for this paper summarize the steps taken to locate a site for the June 2027 Public Meeting and outline the facility costs. The amount of Board approval being sought via this resolution is not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information The total expected amount for the entire meeting is estimated to be approximately Confidential Negotiation Information

ICANN ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATION:

ICANN organization recommends that the Board authorize the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all actions necessary to enter into, and make expense disbursements in furtherance of, contract(s) for the host venue in Confidential Negotiation Information for the June 2027 ICANN Public Meeting, in an amount not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information

BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE (BFC) RECOMMENDATION*:*

The BFC recommends that the Board authorize the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all actions necessary to enter into, and make expense disbursements in furtherance of, contract(s) for the host venue in Confidential Negotiation Information for the June 2027 ICANN Public Meeting, in an amount not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Whereas, ICANN intends to hold its second Public Meeting of calendar year 2027 in the North America region.

Whereas, selection of the Con idential Negotiation n ormation location adheres to the geographic rotation guidelines established by the Meeting Strategy Working Group.

Whereas, ICANN organization has completed a thorough review of the venue and finds the one in Con idential Negotiation n ormation to be suitable.

Whereas, both ICANN organization and the Board Finance Committee have recommended that the Board take action on this item in the manner set forth in the resolved clause below.

Resolved (2025.06.08.xx), the Board authorizes the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all actions necessary in enter into, and make expense disbursements in furtherance of, contract(s) for the host venue for the June 2027 ICANN Public Meeting in Con idential Negotiation n ormation, in an amount not to exceed Confidential Negotiation Information

Resolved (2025.06.08.xx), specific items within this resolution shall remain confidential for negotiation purposes pursuant to Article 3, section 3.5(b) of the ICANN Bylaws until the President and CEO determines that the confidential information may be released.

PROPOSED RATIONALE:

As part of ICANN's Public Meeting strategy, ICANN seeks to host a meeting in a different geographic region (as defined in the ICANN Bylaws) three times a year. ICANN89 is scheduled for 14-17 June 2027. Following a search and evaluation of available venues, the organization identified Con idential Negotiation n ormation as a suitable location for the ICANN Public Meeting.

The organization performed a thorough analysis of the available locations that met the Meeting Location Selection Criteria (see http://meetings.icann.org/location-selection-criteria). Based on the proposals and analysis, ICANN has identified Confidential Negotiation Information as the location for ICANN89. Selection of this North America location adheres to the geographic rotation guidelines established by the Meeting Strategy Working Group.

The Board Finance Committee (BFC) has carried out its standard due diligence in reviewing the proposed Board decision to recommend approval to the Board. As part of this diligence, the BFC has reviewed the financial risks associated with the proposed decision and the information provided by the org on the measures in place to mitigate those risks. The BFC has found these financial risks and the mitigation in place reasonable and acceptable.

The Board has reviewed the organization's briefing for the costs of hosting the meeting in Confidential Employment Matter and agrees with the BFC's recommendation that the proposal met the significant factors of the Meeting Location Selection Criteria, as well as the related costs for the facilities selected, for the June 2027 ICANN Public Meeting.

ICANN conducts Public Meetings in support of its mission to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems and these meeting are consistent in the public interest as they provide free and open access to anyone wishing to participate, either in person or remotely, in open, transparent, and bottom-up, multistakeholder policy development processes.

There will be a financial impact to ICANN in hosting the meeting and providing travel support as necessary, as well as to the community in incurring costs to travel to the meeting. However, such impact would be faced regardless of the location and venue of the meeting and will be accounted for in the ICANN FY27 Operating Plan and Budget.

This action will have no impact on the security or the stability of the Domain Name System.

This is an Organizational Administrative function that does not require public comment.

Submitted by:	Sally Costerton
Position:	Sr. Advisor to President and SVP, Global Stakeholder Engagement
Date Noted:	27 May 2025
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ICANN BOARD SUBMISSION No. 2025.06.08.2a

TITLE:	**Advance Contracting and Disbursement Approval Request for the New gTLD Program Next Round - Batch #1**
PROPOSED ACTION:	**For Board Consideration and Approval**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Implementation of the New gTLD Program Next Round will require a significant number of external vendors (Service Providers) that will perform work throughout the course of the program. Many of these Service Provider contracts will exceed US$500,000, which under ICANN's Contracting and Disbursement Policy require Board approval.

In order to streamline the processes and ensure efficiencies of time and resources, the Board is being asked to authorize the President and CEO to take all steps needed in relation to certain contracts for the New gTLD Program that are expected to exceed US$500K, but are not yet ready to review individually, so long as the contract amounts are covered by the previously Board-approved budget amounts. The Board will be presented with requests for advance approval for these contracts in batches as they are anticipated to be needed on a going forward basis. This paper relates to "Batch #1" of the advance contracting and disbursement approval requests, which includes contracts for services that are expected to be needed in the next six to 12 months and that are expected to exceed US$500,000. The contract amounts for approval are an estimation with a not-to-exceed amount per Service Provider.

BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE (BFC) RECOMMENDATION*:*

The BFC recommends that the Board authorize the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to enter into, and make all disbursements pursuant to, all contracts set out in Batch #1 of the advance contracting and disbursement approval requests for contracts expected to be needed in next six to 12 months and that are expected to exceed US$500,000 for the New gTLD Program Next Round, so long as those contract amounts are within previously Board-approved budget amounts for the program.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Whereas, ICANN org has delivered to the Board the Batch #1 Service Provider details for the New gTLD Program Next Round, which are vendors with which contracts are expected to be needed in the next six to 12 months and that are expected to exceed US$500,000.

Whereas, Batch #1 of Service Providers includes services for maintaining the trademark database, performing background screenings, and ensuring quality control of application evaluations.

Whereas, ICANN's Contracting and Disbursement Policy limits ICANN Officers from contracting for or disbursing more than US$500,000.00 per obligation without Board approval.

Whereas, efficiency dictates that ICANN org has the flexibility to enter into contracts with Service Providers on a timely basis, which may not coincide with regular scheduled ICANN Board review cycles.

Whereas, the Board Finance Committee has recommended that the Board take action on this item in the manner set forth in the resolved clause below.

Resolved (2025.06.08.xx), the ICANN Board authorizes the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to enter into all contracts exceeding US$500,000 with, and make all disbursements pursuant to, all contracts set out in Batch #1 of the advance contracting and disbursement approval requests for contracts expected to be needed in next six to 12 months and that are expected to exceed US$500,000 for the New gTLD Program Next Round, so long as those contract amounts are within previously Board-approved budget amounts for the program.

Resolved (2025.06.08.xx), specific items within this resolution shall remain confidential for negotiation purposes pursuant to Article 3, section 3.5(b) of the ICANN Bylaws until the President and CEO determines that the confidential information may be released.

PROPOSED RATIONALE:

Implementation and operation of the New gTLD Program Next Round will require a significant number of external vendors (Service Providers) that will perform work throughout the course of the program. Some of these Service Provider contracts likely will exceed US$500,000.

ICANN's Contracting and Disbursement Policy limits ICANN Officers from contracting for or disbursing more than US$500,000.00 per obligation without Board approval. With the potential level of expenses that ICANN might incur with any one or more of the Service Providers, the contracting and disbursement limits of Officers in the Disbursement Policy could be exceeded frequently during the implementation and operations of the New gTLD Program Next Round.

Accordingly, to ensure that timely obligations are made and satisfied with the Service Providers, it is appropriate to take this action now and have the Board's advanced approval to undertake contractual obligations for contracts that are not yet ready to review individually, so long as the contract amounts are covered by the previously Board-approved budget amounts. The Board will be presented with requests for advance approval of service contracts in batches on a going forward basis. With this action, the President and CEO, or his designee(s), can enter into, and make disbursements in furtherance of, all contracts exceeding US$500,000 with all Services Providers for the New gTLD Program Next Round so long as the contract and disbursement amounts are included in Batch #1 of the advance contracting and disbursement approval requests.

The table below shows a breakdown of the services included in Batch #1 contracts, and the not-to-exceed contract amounts, needing Bard approval. The total approval request for Confidential Negotiation Information in potential contract and related disbursements is included in the budget estimates for 2,000 applications.

Next Round External Service	Service Provided	Contract Spend Not to Exceed
Trademark Database	Maintain and operate a centralized repository of verified trademarks to support rights protection mechanisms	Confidential Negotiation Information
Background Screening	Conduct comprehensive due diligence on applicants, ensuring compliance with eligibility criteria, including criminal history checks and business due diligence	Confidential Negotiation Information
Quality Control	Implement a comprehensive quality assurance (QC) program for the Next Round to ensure an impartial, consistent, and high-quality evaluation of all applications	Confidential Negotiation Information
Total		Confidential Negotiation Information

ICANN Board's advance approval for these contractual obligations is in the furtherance of ICANN's mission and the support of public interest to support the security, stability and resiliency of the domain name system by ensuring that ICANN can timely contract with and pay the Service Providers that are supporting the New gTLD Program Next Round in a fiscally responsible and accountable manner.

This decision will have a fiscal impact, but the impact has already been accounted for in the New gTLD Program Next Round overall budget and set application fee.

This action is intended to have a positive impact on the security, stability, or resiliency of the domain name system.

This is an Organizational Administrative Function that does not require public comment.

Submitted by:	Xavier Calvez
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Date Noted:	27 May 2025
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ICANN BOARD PAPER NO. 2025.06.08.2b

TITLE: **ccNSO PROPOSED POLICY ccTLD REVIEW MECHANISM**

PROPOSED ACTION: **For Board Consideration and Approval**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board is presented with a recommendation from the Board Caucus on ccNSO Policy Development Process 3 Review Mechanism (ccPDP3 Board Caucus) to adopt the ccNSO's proposed policy establishing a review mechanism for specific IANA decisions related to the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs (including IDN ccTLDs). This mechanism aims to offer ccTLD managers and applicants a path for seeking an external review of anticipated IANA decisions that are excluded from existing ICANN Reconsideration or Independent Review Processes. The ccNSO policy recommendations also seek amendment of the ICANN Bylaws to clarify the scope of ccTLD-related exclusions from those accountability mechanisms.

This policy proposal addresses a long-standing need identified by the ccTLD community during the IANA Stewardship Transition that called for an alternative review process for ccTLD-related decisions. The proposal is designed to be low-cost, fast, and fair. The proposal has undergone extensive community consultation, including public comment, and no significant concerns were raised. ICANN org has produced an initial implementation feasibility assessment that identifies some detailed specifications that are still required in order to ensure that ICANN is able to efficiently implement proposed policy to meet the stated principles. As part of ICANN Board adoption, the Board is requested to direct ICANN org to clarify implementation details before proceeding to full implementation, thereby mitigating potential risks and ensuring the mechanism's objectives are achieved. ICANN org is expected to seek clarification, where appropriate, from the ccNSO Policy Advice Implementation Group (ccPAIG) in order to complete this effort.

ccPDP3 BOARD CAUCUS RECOMMENDATION:

The ccPDP3 Board Caucus recommends that the Board adopt the ccNSO's proposed policy recommendations to introduce a review mechanism for a limited set of decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs (including IDN ccTLDs). These recommendations are set forth in Sections 2 through 6 of the ccNSO's Board Report on the Proposed Policy for a Review Mechanism Pertaining to IFO decisions which apply to ccTLDs (CCRM)[1] (ccPDP3 RM Board Report), and subject to the documented clarifications achieved between ICANN and the ccNSO. The ccPDP3 Board Caucus also recommends the Board adopt the recommendations set forth in Section 9 of the ccPDP3 RM Board Report to amend the ICANN Bylaws to refine the exclusion of certain ccTLD-related decisions from ICANN's Reconsideration and Independent Review Processes.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

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PROPOSED RATIONALE:

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Signature Block:

Russ Weinstein

SVP, Policy Development Support

Date Noted: 27 May 2025

Email: russ.weinstein@icann.org