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DATE: 08 December 2025

STATUS: Ratified

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ICANN Public Meeting Proposed Dates for 2029-2033

Preamble

On 13 October 2025, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the ICANN Public Meeting Proposed Dates for 2029-2033. An At-Large workspace was created in preparation for this Public Comment submission. The At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget working group (OFB-WG) reviewed the public comment and decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop and submit an ALAC Public Comment Statement.

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Ratification Record

On 13 October 2025, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the ICANN Public Meeting Proposed Dates for 2029-2033. On 13 November, Claire Craig, Hannah Frank, Raihanath Gbadamassi, and Judith Hellerstein discussed the comments for the ALAC statement during the OFB-WG call. The OFB-WG decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop and submit an ALAC statement for this Public Comment proceeding. Judith Hellerstein, Claire Craig, and Hannah Frank volunteered to draft the initial ALAC statement for OFB-WG consideration and ALAC endorsement.

On 20 November, the initial draft statement was shared with the OFB WG for review and input. We thank Denise Hochbaum and Marita Moll for their contributions. On 04 December, the At-Large Public Comment Statement was finalized. The ALAC Chair, Jonathan Zuck, requested that the Public Comment Statement be ratified by the ALAC before submission to the ICANN Public Comment feature.

On 08 December, staff confirmed the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with 11 out of 15 votes in favor 0 votes against, and 2 abstentions. Please note 86.7 % of ALAC members participated in the poll. The ALAC members who participated in the poll are Adebunmi Akinbo, Aziz Hilali, Claire Craig, Eunice Alejandra Perez Coello, Emilia Zalewska-Czajczynska, Hannah Frank, Jonathan Zuck, Judith Hellerstein, Justine Chew, Natalie Tercova, Pari Esfandiari, Raihanath Gbadamassi, Satish Babu. You may view the results here:

The ALAC has been asked to vote on the "ALAC Statement on ICANN Public Meeting Proposed Dates for Fiscal Years 2029-2033". Do you agree with this Statement?			
Total Voters:15			
Choice 🗳️	View Raw Votes 🗳️	Votes	Percentage 🗳️
Yes		11	84.62%
No		0	0.00%
Abstain		2	15.38%

ALAC and At-Large Community Comments

ALAC/At Large appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed dates for ICANN meetings in 2029-2033. This Public Comment presents several issues that impact ICANN Operations and as such, it falls within the At-Large/ALAC's remit to submit a response.

While ICANN Org indicated that they had checked to ensure that the meeting dates did not conflict with global, national, or religious holidays, checks made by the ALAC/At Large found conflicts with religious and national holidays.

The references listed by ICANN did not include specific references to religious calendars, particularly those for Hindu, Jewish, or Muslim calendars. Nor do they include calendars that list important global and national holidays for each country.

The ALAC/At-Large is requesting that the Meetings team staff make every effort to ensure that dates scheduled for ICANN meetings do not fall on religious or national holidays, as this negatively impacts the attendance and participation of the multistakeholder community.

The ALAC/At-Large asks ICANN Org and the ICANN Board to work more closely with the community to understand its concerns, as these conflicts have implications for its multistakeholder global community.

As a reference, the ALAC/At-Large provides the following links to some specific religious calendars:

- <https://www.feiertagskalender.ch/islamic.php?geo=0&jahr=2029&hl=en>

- <https://www.hebc.al.com/holidays/2029>
- <https://panchang.astrosage.com/calendars/indiancalendar?date=2029>

End-User Impact

The ALAC/At Large feels strongly that conflicts between ICANN meeting dates and major religious observances, national holidays, or other key Internet governance events have a direct and significant impact on end users. The ALAC/ At Large believes that much more of an effort should be made to avoid overlapping with major Internet governance, standards, and operator community events, as these involve many of the same stakeholders essential to ICANN's multistakeholder model.

For many participants, especially those who are sponsored travellers, conflicts with religious observances may force community members to leave meetings early, renege on commitments, or decline participation entirely. Similarly, overlaps with other Internet ecosystem events reduce the presence of community leaders and experts whose voices are essential to ensuring that ICANN policies reflect the broader public interest.

The ALAC/At Large recommends that ICANN Org incorporate a formal and transparent review of both major Internet ecosystem calendars and religious and national holidays into its annual meeting planning process when scheduling ICANN Meetings.

ICANN's multistakeholder processes depend on the full participation of volunteers, civil society actors, technical community members, and representatives from underserved regions who contribute to policy discussions. When conflicts occur, this decreases the diversity of viewpoints, weakens mechanisms of accountability and transparency, reduces the technical robustness of discussions, and undermines the inclusiveness of the multistakeholder model, among others.