

05 August 2021

**RE: Communication from APAC Space to ICANN Board re ICANN72**

Dear Members of ICANN APAC Space,

Thank you for sharing APAC Space views about whether to hold ICANN72 in the current virtual meeting format or move to a hybrid format that would allow for limited in-person participation.

The ICANN Board reviewed the [statement from APAC Space](#) along with many inputs, including the recent [community survey](#) and [community discussion at ICANN71](#) and determined that ICANN72 will convene as a Virtual Annual General Meeting due to the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The official announcement can be found [here](#).

We appreciate you have similar concerns about holding a hybrid meeting for ICANN73. At this time, relevant experts have a higher level of confidence that the global pandemic situation, in particular vaccination and infection rates, will be much improved by early 2022. While we will continue to closely monitor the situation, our intentions are to hold ICANN73 as a hybrid meeting with an in-person component if it is feasible to do so.

Please rest assured that ICANN organization (org) will work in coordination with the ICANN community on planning for ICANN73 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as a Community Forum with a meaningful "virtual first" hybrid format to support the community's ongoing priorities, policy advice, and development work. Global diversity and representation are fundamental to ICANN Public Meetings, and this will continue to be an important factor in our decision-making along with the health and safety of the ICANN community and staff.

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors