WSC of the Future Brainstorming

Conference participants have made a number of unprecedented decisions about the WSC itself recently. As a result, we are currently in the first ever three-year conference cycle and preparing for the second ever virtual (interim) WSC meeting. This cycle has been created in pieces and in response to a crisis. What happens to the conference after 2023 is an open question—a number of questions, actually.

The World Board is using these questions as simply a place to start collecting ideas to forward this ongoing discussion. We hope to use the next nine months to explore viable options and ideas for the future together with other CPs, in the hopes that participants will begin to develop consensus around some ideas, leading up to the 2023 CAR. Issues such as term lengths for trusted servants, the schedule of the WSC and WCNA not overlapping, and other concerns will need to be addressed once CPs establish a direction for the future.

We are seeking to begin to build on what we have learned in the pandemic to create a new future for the WSC.

We also acknowledge that other discussions about the WSC are also needed but are not addressed here. Those include the ever growing number of seated participants at the WSC and the lack of seating criteria. We are starting with this format for now; When, How, Who, and What.

When	How often does the WSC need to meet face to face?

We have yet to stand back and think about how a three-year cycle could operate effectively. While there are certainly other options, we are focusing our initial discussions on a two and three-year conference cycle. With current WSC policies, the in-person WSC would meet again in 2025 unless a decision to change the cycle is made at WSC 2023.

Advantages for Two Years

Disadvantages for Two Years

Advantages for Three Years

Disadvantages for Three Years

How   Ideas to improve the virtual aspect of the WSC

The WSC now has experience with meeting and making decisions virtually. What has worked and what still needs to be improved? We all seem to agree that nothing replaces in-person interactions, but what does seem effective in the virtual environment for the future, allowing us more time for discussions when we are together? We have tried some new things in the pandemic that we believe are acceptable to participants and will continue. These include streaming sessions of the WSC on YouTube, recording some presentations ahead of time and posting them for CPs, and Epolling outside of session time or to accommodate virtual participants.

The WSC is and has been hybrid in the past because of geographic and political issues. How do we improve this experience?

Who

This section is about who needs to be present, who can attend virtually, and where the funding for attendance comes from. The WB introduced a motion in 2014 to eliminate automatic funding to attend the WSC since the size and expense of the meeting was so far in excess of what was envisioned when funding of participants began in 2002. Twenty years later what makes the most sense?

While travel is certainly part of the expense of the WSC, the audio visual and set up costs for an almost 300-person event meet or exceed the travel expenses to NA World Services. The complexities of seating that many people where they can see, hear, and use translation equipment, along for the need for breakout space for that many people for small-group discussions limits the places the event can be held and raises the expense. This is

about evaluating what is sustainable and effective for the future. Continuing in the direction we are going in does not seem sustainable.

Who needs to attend the in-person meeting in the future? Who could attend virtually?

Who pays for attendance to the WSC?

What

We have already identified Why We Gather, and that chart is an effective resource for these discussions. How do we maximize our time together? Can we envision a new way to accomplish business, discussions, and developing ideas between conferences?

What needs to be or benefits from being discussed or decided at an in-person conference and what can be done virtually?

How can we use our time together at the WSC more effectively?

How can we use the time between meetings more effectively?

Do you have any additional thoughts or ideas you would like to share?

* Please let us know who is filling out this survey:

Member

Service body

Group

Conference participant