

## Note from the Chair for the January 16, 2013 Steering Group Meeting

January 9, 2013

Dear colleagues,

Happy New Year!

At next week's Steering Group meeting we will discuss proposed changes to the operational framework, and hear updates on the November 2012 merger workshop and plans for the 2013 annual conference.

If you would like to include additional items for discussion, please contact the ICN Secretariat (Secretariat.ICN@bc-cb.gc.ca) by Friday, January 11.

### Item 3. Operational Framework

Recognizing the need for clearer criteria and processes for ICN chair and event hosts, in June we tasked the Operational Framework Working Group (OFWG) with preparing proposals for Steering Group discussion and approval.

OFWG has prepared these proposals, included in the documents for this meeting, on (i) the revised selection process for the ICN chair, and (ii) the revised criteria and selection process for ICN event hosts. These proposals represent the consensus view of the OFWG members, reached after lengthy discussions among more than a dozen members over the course of multiple teleconferences and emails.

The selection process for ICN chair sets out a clear time table and transparent process. The criterion for the chair remains unchanged.

The criteria for event hosts formalize the criteria we have considered in the past, and the selection process for choosing a host includes a clearer process and time table for the annual conference host and adds uniformity across groups for workshop hosts.

In addition to considering the substance of both proposals, we should decide whether the new processes should be incorporated into the main body of the [operational framework](#) or included as annexes to the framework.

The proposals are being submitted for discussion, but if we reach agreement on the call we may wish to approve them, so that the new systems can be implemented before the next call for annual conference hosts, which usually is sent out in February.

#### Item 5. Update from Merger Working Group

The Merger Working Group co-chairs will report on the successful workshop on economic analysis hosted by the Colombian Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio on November 8-9 in Bogotá.

Following that update I would like to take a few minutes to discuss how we might encourage more participation from agency economists in ICN projects – for example, by targeting economists for webinars, by holding dedicated sessions at the annual conference or workshops, or forming a group for economists.

#### Item 6. Other business

Our February in person meeting will be an opportunity for a lively exchange on important topics. One suggestion was to revisit the topic of implementation or a preliminary discussion of 2013-2014 work. If you have other ideas for topics we may want to discuss, please send them to the Secretariat no later than January 31, 2013.

Also, please note that we have added a Steering Group meeting for February 12, 2013 for Steering Group members interested in discussing the international cooperation project.

I look forward to speaking with all of you next week.

Best regards,

Eduardo