

Member Assistance: Principles and Process  
July 2012

Principles

- ICN practices have become an important benchmark for the competition community. While implementation of ICN practices and principles is already impressive, a number of ICN members indicated in the Second Decade interviews and elsewhere that they would like to engage in additional reforms to conform to some or all of ICN's practices. As the Steering Group, we want to assist ICN members seeking external support for domestic reforms (usually amendments to laws or amendments / new regulations).
- Upon member request, we will describe conformity between proposed reforms and ICN practices or principles. Often the results of this analysis will take the form of a letter, but it may take other forms as well, such as presentations or speaking engagements.
- For written comments, the Steering Group will have an adequate opportunity to review a draft before it is sent to the ICN member seeking support.
- Requests for assistance or support outside of these parameters will be considered by the Steering Group on a case-by-case basis.
- Circumstances may limit the ability to provide assistance in response to every request, and, some situations may be better suited for assistance through the existing Advocacy and Implementation Network support program (AISUP).
- The Advocacy and Implementation Network will continue to provide more in-depth technical assistance through AISUP.

Processes

- When a request is received, Steering Group members are informed by e-mail.
- The Chair, together with interested Steering Group and Advocacy and Implementation Network members, prepare comments. They consult with the relevant Working Group Chairs as needed.
- Comments will usually take the form of a letter, signed by the Chair or a vice chair, of the Steering Group.
- The proposed draft letter will be circulated to the Steering Group with adequate time for review, normally not less than one week. Comments will also include a brief description of the request, with background and context as available, any notable concerns or issues, and key elements of the comments.