

IETF 125 Decision and Survey Summary

September 2024

Summary

The Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG) is appreciative of all of the community input provided during the [July 2024 survey](#) on convening a meeting in China for IETF 125 (March 2026). Based on this input, the IESG has decided that a venue in China would meet the requirements of Section 2, “Why We Meet”, of RFC8718. This assessment answers the question posed in step 4b of the IETF LLC’s [venue identification and selection process](#).

1. Decision

[Appendix A](#) below summarizes the IETF Administration LLC’s [venue identification and selection process](#) for IETF 125. Pursuant to Step 4b, the IESG was asked by the IETF LLC to decide if an IETF Meeting held in China would meet the requirement of Section 2.1, “Why We Meet”, of RFC8718. The consensus of the IESG is that the requirements would be met. This decision allows the IETF LLC to proceed to Step 5 and continue planning for an IETF 125 meeting in China.

The primary input into this decision by the IESG was the [July 2024 survey](#). The survey questions are repeated in [Appendix B](#) and a summary of their results are found in [Section 2](#) and [Section 3](#).

Given the survey data, the IESG assessed that all geographies will be represented, but there were strong indications that lower in-person attendance would be expected in comparison to recent meetings. Per [Section 3.1](#), “of the respondents who reported that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite or maybe participate onsite (onsite and maybe) at an IETF meeting in Asia, 51% reported that they would still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026”. Sections [3.2](#), [3.3](#), and [3.4](#) describes the regional participation survey results. Compared with historical onsite-remote participation trends summarized in [Appendix D](#), the expected onsite attendance rate for a meeting in China would be at least at the

level of the IETF 113 meeting¹, which was considered a satisfactory meeting according to the post-meeting survey.

Given the success of hybrid and remote meetings, and the consideration of the criteria in Section 2 of RFC8718, there was IESG consensus to proceed with a meeting in China despite the forecasted reduction of in person attendance the survey predicts.

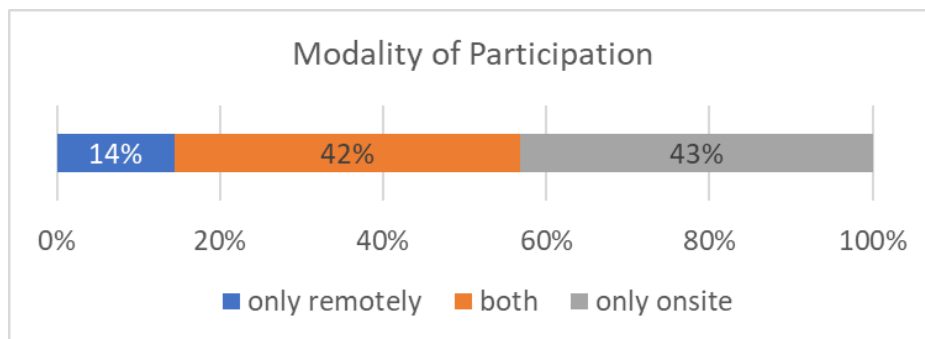
2. Survey Response Demographics

This section summarizes the survey results. The survey questions are reproduced in [Appendix A: Survey Text](#). The coded labels to describe the survey results are described in [Appendix B: Coding of Survey Results](#).

2.1. Response Rate

The survey was sent to 3,923 unique participants who had taken part in at least one meeting from IETF 114 through 119 (i.e., all onsite or remote participants from IETF 114 through 119). There were 709 survey responses for an 18% response rate.

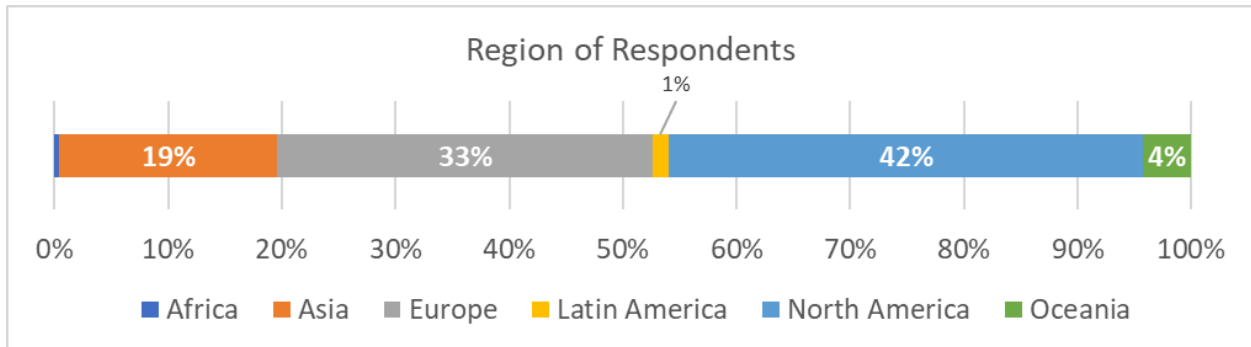
2.2. Prior Participation of Respondents



Narrative text: 42% of survey respondents had attended a previous meeting(s) (IETF 114 through 119) as remote and another previous meeting as online. 14% and 43% had attended previous meetings exclusively remote or online, respectively. (This information was derived from the IETF Datatracker and was not an explicit survey question.)

¹ Using the two past Asia meetings as a model for a IETF 125 meeting in China – If 51% of the 47% of onsite participants who came to IETF 119 Brisbane came onsite, and those that didn't come onsite were remote, the onsite participation rate would have been 24%. For IETF 116 Yokohama which had a 57% actual onsite participation rate, this reduced onsite participation would have been 29%. In comparison, the IETF 113 Vienna meeting had 22% onsite participation.

2.3 Region of Respondents



Exemplary Narrative text: 33% of survey respondents previously reported being from Europe (This information was derived from the Datatracker and was not an explicit survey question.)

3. Survey Responses

3.1. Q10 - Q30 Responses

	Q10		Q20		Q30			
	responses	% total	responses	% total	responses	% total		
onsite + maybe	595	84%	still	297	51%	none	224	76%
			not	286	49%	some	58	20%
remote	85	12%				significant	13	4%
No	29	4%						
Total	709			583	100%		295	100%

	Q10		Q20		% Q10 category	Q30		% Q10 category	
	responses	% total	responses	% total		responses	% total		
onsite	426	60%	still	239	41%	none	187	63%	79%
onsite			still			some	41	14%	17%
onsite			still			significant	10	3%	4%
onsite			not			181	31%	43%	
maybe	169	24%	still	58	10%	none	37	13%	65%
maybe			still			some	17	6%	30%
maybe			still			significant	3	1%	5%
maybe			not			105	18%	64%	
remote	85	12%							
no	29	4%							
Total	709	100%		583	100%		295	100%	

Narrative text for Q10:

- 60% of the respondents reported that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite (onsite) at an IETF Meeting in Asia; 24% responded that they maybe expect to

participate onsite (maybe) at an IETF Meeting in Asia; 12% said they ordinarily expect to participate remotely (remote) in an IETF Meeting in Asia; and 4% said they would not expect to participate (no) at all in an IETF Meeting in Asia

- 84% of the respondents reported that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite or would maybe expect to participate onsite (onsite and maybe) at an IETF Meeting in Asia

Narrative text for Q20:

- Of the respondents who reported that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite (onsite) at an IETF meeting in Asia, 57% also reported that they would still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026
- Of the respondents who reported that they would maybe ordinarily expect to participate onsite (maybe) at an IETF meeting in Asia, 36% also reported that they would still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026
- Of the respondents who reported that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite or maybe participate onsite (onsite and maybe) at an IETF meeting in Asia, 51% reported that they would still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026

Narrative text for Q30:

- Of the respondents who reported that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite (onsite) at an IETF meeting in Asia who also reported that they still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026, 79% reported that their ability to participate in the standards process would be not at all / not in a meaningful way (none)
- Of the respondents who reported that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite or maybe participate onsite (onsite and maybe) at an IETF meeting in Asia who also reported that they would still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026, 96% reported that their ability to participate in the standards process would be not at all / not in a meaningful way (none) or some (some)

3.2. Q10 Demographics: Regional Distribution

Q10				
Region	onsite	maybe	remote	no
North America	38%	50%	44%	52%
Europe	29%	34%	45%	48%
Asia	28%	8%	5%	0%
Latin America	1%	2%	1%	0%
Oceania	4%	5%	5%	0%
Africa	0%	1%	1%	0%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%

Exemplary Narrative text: The proportion among all respondents reporting that they would ordinarily expect to participate onsite (onsite) at an IETF Meeting in Asia from North America, Europe, Asia, Latin America, Ocean and Africa was 38%, 29%, 28%, 1%, 4%, and 0% respectively

3.3. Q10 Demographics: In-Region Distribution

Q10					
Region	onsite	maybe	remote	no	Total
North America	54%	28%	13%	5%	100%
Europe	53%	25%	16%	6%	100%
Asia	88%	10%	3%	0%	100%
Latin America	50%	40%	10%	0%	100%
Oceania	60%	27%	13%	0%	100%
Africa	0%	67%	33%	0%	100%

Exemplary Narrative text: The proportion of European respondents reporting they would ordinarily expect to participate in an IETF Meeting in Asia onsite, maybe onsite, remotely or not at all was 53%, 25%, 16% and 6% respectively.

3.4. Q20 Demographics: By Region Retention Rate

Q20			
(for respondents who answered onsite/maybe for Q10)			
Region	still	not	Total
North America	38%	62%	100%
Europe	51%	49%	100%
Asia	69%	31%	100%
Latin America	89%	11%	100%
Oceania	63%	38%	100%
Africa	100%	0%	100%

Exemplary Narrative text:

- Of the European respondents who would ordinarily expect to participate onsite onsite or would maybe expect to participate onsite (onsite and maybe) at an IETF Meeting in Asia, 51% reported that they would still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026
- Of the North American respondents who would ordinarily expect to participate onsite or would maybe expect to participate onsite (onsite and maybe) at an IETF Meeting in Asia, 38% reported that they would still expect to participate onsite in a future meeting in China (still) in March 2026

Appendix A: Why is the IESG involved in meeting planning?

The IETF LLC operationalized the responsibility of “arranging the selection ... of the IETF plenary meeting venue” defined in RFC8718 by creating the [venue identification and selection process](#). The timeline below describes the sequence of events per this seven step process as it relates to the proposed meeting in China for IETF 125.

Step 1: Recommendation – Early 2023

- The IETF LLC proposed multiple cities for the IETF 125 meeting in Asia. Among them was Shenzhen.

Step 2: Initial Assessment – May 2023

- The IETF LLC prepared an [assessment of Shenzhen](#) against the criteria in RFC8718.

Step 3: Community Feedback

- (June 2023) A [call for community input](#) to ietf-announce@ietf on this [assessment of Shenzhen](#) was sent
- (June 2023) Community feedback is provided on the [venue-selection@ietf](#) list
- (August 2023) IETF LLC [summarized the “complex feedback”](#) from the community and proposed “to change the way it selects meeting venues in order to maximize the number of potential countries that the IETF can meet in, while still complying with BCP 226”.
- (August 2023) IETF LLC received [feedback](#) at mtgvenue@ietf on the [proposed process](#)
- (December 2023) IETF LLC [published its revised venue identification and selection process](#) based on community feedback. The LLC is still to update the assessment report it uses to reflect these changes.

Step 4a: Detailed Assessment

- (April 2024) An IETF LLC and IETF Secretariat team did a site visit to Shenzhen

Step 4b: IESG Assessment on Meeting Viability

- (July 2024) The IESG released a [survey](#) to elicit community feedback on a venue in China for IETF 125.

Appendix B: Survey Text

Q10: Would you ordinarily expect to participate onsite at an IETF Meeting in Asia?

- a) Yes - I would expect to participate onsite
- b) Maybe / It depends
- c) No - I would expect to participate remotely
- d) No - I would not expect to participate at all

[If Q10 = (a) Yes or (b) Maybe ...]

Q20: If the IETF were to book a meeting in China in March 2026, how would that affect your planned onsite participation?

- a) I would still plan to participate onsite
- b) I would not plan to participate onsite

[If Q20 is (a) ...]

Q30: Would you expect there to be any adverse impact on your ability to contribute to the IETF standards process or IRTF research groups, while onsite at an IETF meeting in China?

- a) Not at all / Not in a meaningful way
- b) Some
- c) Significant

Appendix C: Coding of Survey Results

A short-hand is used to present the survey answers to remove ambiguity and to shorten the length of various text labels. The mapping is as follows:

Survey Question	Survey Answer	Coded Answer
Q10: Would you ordinarily expect to participate onsite at an IETF Meeting in Asia?	a) Yes - I would expect to participate onsite	Q10-Yes
	b) Maybe / It depends	Q10-Maybe
	c) No - I would expect to participate remotely	Q10-Remote
	d) No - I would not expect to participate at all	Q10-No
Q20: If the IETF were to book a meeting in China in March 2026, how would that affect your planned onsite participation?	a) I would still plan to participate onsite	Q20-Still
	b) I would not plan to participate onsite	Q20-Not
Q30: Would you expect there to be any adverse impact on your ability to contribute to the IETF standards process or IRTF research groups, while onsite at an IETF meeting in China?	a) Not at all / Not in a meaningful way	Q30-None
	b) Some	Q30-Some
	c) Significant	Q30-Significant

Appendix D: Historical Baseline of Onsite vs. Remote Participation

Meeting	IETF120	IETF119	IETF118	IETF117	IETF116	IETF115	IETF114	IETF 113
Meeting Venue	N. America	Oceania	Europe	N. America	Asia	Europe	N. America	Europe
% Onsite	55%	47%	59%	57%	57%	52%	44%	22%
% Remote	45%	53%	41%	43%	43%	48%	56%	78%