ICANN Transcription
GNSO Standing Selection Committee
Monday, 17 December 2018 at 1500 UTC

Note: The following is the output of transcribing from an audio recording of the GNSO Standing Selection Committee call on the Monday, 17 December 2018 at 15:00 UTC. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases it is incomplete or inaccurate due to in audible passages or transcription errors. It is posted as an aid to understanding the proceedings at the meeting, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Adobe Connect Recording: https://participate.icann.org/p27ehg6ffqu/?proto=true

Attendance is on the wiki page: https://community.icann.org/x/MgD_BQ

The recordings and transcriptions of the calls are posted on the GNSO Master Calendar page:

https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/calendar

Coordinator: Recording has started.

Andrea Glandon: Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. Welcome to the GNSO Standing Selection Committee call on Monday, the 17th of December, 2018 at 1500 UTC. On today's call we have Erica Varlese, Julf Helsingius, Susan Kawaguchi, Osvaldo Novoa and Frédéric Guillemaut. From staff we have Emily Barabas, Steve Chan and myself, Andrea Glandon on call management.

I would like to remind all to please state your name before speaking for transcription purposes and to please keep your phones and microphones on mute when not speaking to avoid any background noise. Thank you. With this I will turn it over to Susan Kawaguchi. Please begin.

Emily Barabas: Hi, Andrea. This is Emily Barabas from staff. I'm not sure - Susan, did you want to get us…

((Crosstalk))

Emily Barabas: No worries.

Susan Kawaguchi: Thank you.

Emily Barabas: Perfect, go ahead.

Susan Kawaguchi: Thanks. Emily's interrupting me. Sorry about that. It's early my time at least. So good morning and thanks all for joining us. It looks like, you know, we don't have the complete committee together here today so we may have to discuss this today and then take it to email list, which we've done very successfully in the past. So and Emily, it looks like only six people answered, unfortunately I grabbed the wrong pair of glasses and I don't have my reading glasses so…

Emily Barabas: Hi, Susan. This is Emily from staff. Correct, six people responded to the poll so also not the full group either but, you know, at least the majority.

Susan Kawaguchi: Okay. So if I'm reading this correctly then (Hoda) had the most votes, the green bar indicates that she's - you've ranked them is what I'm getting at, right? Correct?

Emily Barabas: So this is actually - this is Emily from staff again. This is actually a little bit of a confusing setup the way the questions are structured in the Survey Monkey tool. So for this first question it's asking essentially, "Do you think that the candidate has the right skills and experience?" And the way that this is structured a lower number for this question is actually a higher score.

Susan Kawaguchi: Oh.

Emily Barabas: So it's actually Andrew and Amr who are kind of at the top in terms of the belief that they have the right skill set and (Hoda) is at the bottom of that. And so, yes, on that first chart the shortest bar is the highest rating essentially. And then it's actually flipped for the second question so I apologize for the confusion that that might cause. But on the second question it's essentially asking for a rank of the candidates. And here you see that, you know, there's a total of five candidates and Amr is rated the most highly followed very closely by Andrew Mack and then Rudolph Daniel, (Dsara Dashi) and then (Hoda). So that's kind of where we'd landed in terms of that so it looks like there's a pretty clear preference for Amr and Andrew in the top two it looks like based on the responses that we did receive.

Susan Kawaguchi: Okay, that makes a little bit more sense to me then. One quick question for everyone and for you, Emily, when I was - I did this sort of late last night - and was not able to get - I could open the PDF for (Hoda) and Rudolph but there was no content. And I know I've run into that in the past with the PDF but there seemed to be a fix but it was just strange because everybody else's, you know, clicking on the same page had content. So I sort of did my own independent research and came to my evaluation. And I was wondering if anybody else had that same problem?

Emily Barabas: Hey, Susan…

((Crosstalk))

Emily Barabas: …it's Emily. I'm just trying right now to see - you said it was (Hoda) and (Rudolph) that you were having trouble with?

Susan Kawaguchi: Yes. So Frederic says, "No such problem." So it…

((Crosstalk))

Emily Barabas: …right now. But if you want I can email you those PDFs if it's useful to have them handy.

Susan Kawaguchi: I think I gathered enough information to make this decision today so I think I'm fine this time.

Emily Barabas: Okay.

Susan Kawaguchi: It could have just been my - I'm working remote so the Internet connection maybe, I don't know, didn't want to open those files for some reason.

Emily Barabas: The wiki may have also been having a bad hour which occasionally happens so….

Susan Kawaguchi: Yes.

Emily Barabas: …don't blame yourself.

Susan Kawaguchi: Okay, we'll just blame it on the - so I agree with Julf's comment, it looks like Andrew and Amr are the two that are front runners at this point. And I actually ranked them similarly due to the - what this role really needs to - whoever's in this role really needs to bring to the role. Both have extensive background in ICANN, both very friendly, you know, I happen to know them both. And I think the only distinction between the two of them for me is the communities they come from.

Not that that's a positive or negative, you know, otherwise they're, you know, in my opinion sort of equally matched candidates. So did anybody else have any thoughts on the candidates? Julf is typing. And Frederic. So Frederic said he didn't know either of them so no special feelings on that. And then Julf, you know, that's a good question. I am not - that was something that came to

mind last night and then I didn't begin to figure it out. But is there a bias because of previous pick for a constituency? I think on the last round for the ATRT 3 we had a registry person, a NCSG person, and can somebody remind me who the last - because it was Patrick Kane was the registry, Emily, as usual you'll save me.

Emily Barabas: Hey Susan, it's Emily from staff. So, you know, noting that this is a different sort of selection than the review teams and sort of a different type of position, we can of course look to the previous selections to see (unintelligible) and so for the top three - so we actually ended up with seven candidates. And I, you know, informally have heard that it's likely that all seven will actually make it onto the ATRT 3, although I don't think that that's been officially decided yet by the SO and AC leaders so, you know, that's still pending but it sounds like that may actually be the case.

And there we actually had quite a spread. I don't - I'm just looking to see if anyone from the BC had ended up…

((Crosstalk))

Emily Barabas: Yes, we did have someone from the BC. We had a couple of candidates from NCSG in that pool. Let's see, we had - just looking - we had Wolfgang from NCUC as a primary candidate and then we had Michael Karanicolas also in the pool so there were a couple there. So there was at least some representation from both of the groups, both Andrew and Amr's groups. And I think, you know, the tricky thing about this position is that this is the first time that there's been a request for SOs and ACs to nominate mentors and so it's not as if there's a history here of the GNSO selecting one or another group. And I think maybe the question for the GNSO is, you know, if there's one individual - and this is of course a rather hard question to answer but is there an individual who could potentially kind of act as a representative for the entire GNSO noting that that's - no one's going to do that perfect of course and…

Susan Kawaguchi: Right.

Emily Barabas: …you know, but I think that, you know, other than the criteria that were put out in the call for volunteers that's the sort of other remaining consideration.

Susan Kawaguchi: Right. So one of my thoughts - and this is just my thought but, you know, everybody should obviously take it with a grain of salt, is I've heard that the Fellowship Program in general is bringing in more NCSG people than business. And so when I was evaluating the candidates, and I really think Amr or Andrew Mack would do equally as well, you know, either one of them, I think they have - both have the background of, you know, extensive knowledge and participation at ICANN and working with a diverse group of people, nice people in general, you know.

But Andrew Mack's background is in developing - working with developing businesses in developing countries and doing also some nonprofit but more from the business side. So he would bring a different perspective to the - in his mentoring than Amr would. So I think to me that's the biggest distinction between them is sort of their point of reference, where they, you know, they work on issues and spend time. To me it would be beneficial to have a business outlook in this role so that is why I chose Andrew Mack as my top candidate. And - but it would be good to hear what other people think too. And it looks like Julf is typing. Oh, Frederic, please go ahead.

Frederic Guillemaut: Hello. Frederic speaking. Just one point for me, Andrew was the top candidate just because of he listed four languages in which apparently he can speak four languages. So to me it was a good way to embrace all the cultural diversities from the fellows. That was one good point. Other than that they are all equal, they know ICANN, they know how to explain things but the cultural thing was important to me.

Susan Kawaguchi: So that is a good point too, the languages I think would be critical. And it looks like Osvaldo is typing. Julf agrees about the business outlook; on the other hand, Amr seems to have more experience of the mentor program. I don't know if Amr came up through the mentor program. Osvaldo, "Personally I find Andrew a better candidate, though Amr's a very good one. I think Andrew is a bit more adequate." And then geographic diversity is a point too. That's true. Okay and Julf thinks that Amr came through the program.

So it looks like we're - those on the phone call here are agreed that it's either Amr or Andrew, so if anybody has any more comments, you know, please feel free and we could discuss the other candidates. I thought all the candidates with the information that I could find on them, were good applicants. It's just that I think this role does take a little bit more, you know, understanding of ICANN and having sort of been in the - working within ICANN for a while longer than the other three candidates so that's why I chose, you know, I ranked them the way I did.

So Julf's agreeing that definitely one of the two. Since we don't have the whole committee on, Emily, can we put this out to sort of - some sort of a poll on via email? And remind me when we have to deliver this to the GNSO Council?

Emily Barabas: Hi, Susan. It's Emily Barabas from staff. So today is Monday; the Council meeting is on Thursday. We've put in a placeholder motion and we do need to deliver a recommendation in advance of that meeting if at all possible given the external deadline. We could probably do, I mean, I think the sooner the better in terms of delivering a decision, but if we did like a 24-hour poll maybe we could do that for the two candidates and then I don't know if there's time for another call after that but would you want to consider the results of that poll definitive?

I'm not sure how many responses also we would get in 24 hours; that's the other open question. But there would be time to do a short poll and then

maybe call for objections based on that poll so we could do a poll open now until about this time tomorrow and then maybe a 24-hour call for…

((Crosstalk))

Emily Barabas: …deliver the recommendation (unintelligible) I think that that's probably okay.

Susan Kawaguchi: Oh, Poncelet just joined. Perfect. So somebody (unintelligible). Frederic, is that your line? No, not yours. Okay, thank you. So, Poncelet, just to catch you up, if you look at the ratings of the candidates, it seems to be a discussion between Amr and Andrew Mack. So we're talking about putting this out for an email poll of 24 hours and then - and no objection time period for another 24 hours so we can deliver a candidate by Thursday.

Can you hear now, Osvaldo? Okay good. So I think that's our next step. Does anybody agree, disagree, have a different idea on how we should handle this? Okay, sounds like we have agreement. So Emily, can we rely on you to put that out…

((Crosstalk))

Emily Barabas: Hi, Susan. This is Emily from staff again. Do you want to just do a single question asking essentially the equivalent of question Number 4 on the existing poll to essentially rank the - or select between the two candidates based on the skills, experience and so forth and just have this essentially be like a, you know, insert your name, answer this question and that's it?

Susan Kawaguchi: Yes.

Emily Barabas: Okay.

((Crosstalk))

Emily Barabas: Yes, we can get that out in a few minutes, it's not a problem.

Susan Kawaguchi: Okay. And is there anything else that we should we talking about on this call this morning? I think we covered everything unless there's an AOB that somebody wants to bring up? All right, so everybody should look for the email poll to come out and respond to that, the two candidates, and then hopefully we can deliver this on Thursday to the GNSO Council. And I appreciate all of your input and hard work on this. And I think this to me works fairly well on, you know, providing what the Council needs so we all should feel good about that. And agreed, Emily, we should aim to deliver on Wednesday.

All right, it looks like Frederic's typing one last comment. Thank you all. I agree, Frederic. Thanks so much and have a good day. The meeting's ended.

Andrea Glandon: Thank you. Today's meeting is adjourned. Verizon Operator, (Carrie), please stop all recordings and disconnect all lines. And to everyone else have a wonderful rest of your day.

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