ICANN Transcription

GNSO Standing Selection Committee

Monday, 14 December 2020 at 14:00 UTC

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ANDREA GLANDON: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Welcome to the standing selection committee meeting being held on Monday the 14th of December at 14:00 UTC. In the interest of time, there'll be no roll call. Attendance will be taken by the Zoom room. if you're only on the audio bridge, could you please let yourselves be known now?

Thank you. Hearing no names, I would like to remind all participants to please state your names before speaking for transcription purposes and to please keep your phones and microphones on mute when not speaking to avoid any background noise.

As a reminder, those who take part in ICANN's multi-stakeholder process are to comply with the expected standards of behavior. With this, I will turn it over to our chair, Carlton Samuels. You may begin.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the GNSO standing selection committee meeting. Today is 14 December 2020. You have on the screen in front of you the proposed agenda. It's five items, including the one I am now on right now, discussing the candidates. Staff will lead us with that one.

For item three, staff will also lead us briefly through the dates. And [inaudible] agenda number four, and for agenda number five, AOB, this is when members may bring in other information material that might be useful for us all.

So [with that view,] is the agenda agreeable to everyone? Good, agenda seems to be agreed. Usual standard is for us to ask for SOI updates. Are there any SOI updates that we should be mindful of?

Hearing no SOI updates offered—

MAXIM ALZOBA: If I may. The only update is that I temporarily replace Craig until the new year time. That's it.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Maxim, for that. It is so noted. Moving right along, can we move to agenda item two where we'll be discussing the candidate for the GNSO liaison to the CSC? There was one applicant, and I'll pass it over now to staff, to Emily, to lead us through the poll results, and then we can have a general discussion thereafter. Emily.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Carlton. Thanks to everyone for completing the poll on the GNSO non-registry liaison to the CSC candidate. As you all know, there is just one candidate, so hopefully it wasn't too much of a lift to complete the poll. You all did, so thank you, all nine SSC members.

So the results were circulated by e-mail in response to the agenda earlier today, but for some of you, it's still quite early in the day so you may not have had a chance to look through that. But I encourage you, if you have it handy in e-mail, to open it up so it's easy to see. But I'll just quickly scroll through the results as well so you have a feel for what's here.

The first question is obviously just names and confirmation that all of you have read the materials. So the first question was about knowledge of IANA naming functions. Here's the spread of responses. What you can see here is just what score was given by different numbers of indivudals. For example, here you have one person scoring six, two scoring eight, three scoring nine, and three scored ten, with a weighted average of 8.78. We can't be completely quantitative about this, this is really just an indication of

all of your thoughts as you read through the materials, but it gives you some indication.

So I think what I'll do is maybe, just for those who haven't had a chance to look at it individually, go through each of the responses so you can get a sense of the overall numbers and then hand it back to Carlton for discussion.

The second question with scoring was about analytical skills. The average score was 8.4.4 with a couple of lower and a number of higher scores. The third one was about English language proficiency. There wasn't much concern there. Average was almost ten.

The next one was about communication skills. Again, a number of people scored nine or ten and a couple sored six or seven. Weighted average was nine. The next question was about participation in committees .a little bit more of a range here, but the average was 8.5.6, so again, fairly high.

The next question was about relationship management. I think this was the lowest of all the scores. There's a bit more of a spread, one three, one six, one seven, two eights, one nine and three tens. The weighted average was 7.89.

The next one was about level of interest. The average there was 8.78. And the last one was about understanding the purpose of the CSC, and the average there was a nine. And then there were just a few individual responses. One just said, "Nothing to add." One said that Milton demonstrates direct experience in the IANA transition and the necessary requirements for the role, that he

would be a great fit. And the final comment just says that he may have checked an incorrect box in the application, that he chose interest in being a member instead of a liaison, but I think we can probably suspect that that's an error, although of course, we can confirm that.

So that's it for the poll results. If there are any questions about that, please let us know. Otherwise, we'll turn it back to Carlton to facilitate the discussion. Just a couple of reminders. One, this call is recorded, and high-level notes are taken. The recording is public, just for whatever you'd like to say on the call, that'll be public.

And also that the goal here is to reach full consensus agreement for a recommendation to make to council. With that, I'll pass it over to Carlton. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. Members, you've seen the poll results. You've seen that Milton is by and large highly favored for the skills that he possesses. I will now turn it over to members to make any input that you deem necessary. I'm not seeing any hands. You can just indicate if you wish to speak. Are there any ... I see Naveed. You have the floor, sir.

NAVEED BIN RAIS: Hi everyone. My only concern, or not really concern, but just a suggestion is that I think it would have been better if we have more picture about how or in how many tasks Milton is already involved within ICANN and what kind of roles he's taking. I see

some of that in his SOI, but I don't see a direct question related to that in the survey itself. So I may be wrong or I may have not seen it correctly, but this is just my suggestion, to have something like that added to this poll that allows us to evaluate a candidate based on his current activities and the time management kind of thing.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Naveed. As I read through the material that was offered for consideration, I did see a lot of mention about the working groups and the areas of the ICANN environment that Milton's been involved in. I agree with you that it was not laid out where you know what was historical and what was contemporary and so on, and maybe we could have greater clarity there. But insofar as [he allowed] that he had enough time to participate in the CSC deliberations because he has cut back significantly on some of his other interests in the environment, as well as in the numbers policy area in ARIN. I know he's also involved there.

I think it gives us some idea of the breadth of Milton's interests. So I would agree that maybe greater clarity could be given for what he's doing right now, but just to say that he did mention in the material some of the stuff he's doing, without being very precise about it.

Anybody else want to make a comment? I see Taiwo. You have the floor.

TAIWO AKINREMI: Thank you. My concern is as regards to question three. I could see though Milton has had excellent [total score] in that regard, but [see the graphics, there's the charts now,] we could see that we had some concern about ... So we actually need to look at that and relationship and knowledge of [IANA] and stuff like that. Then if there's any concern, we need to be able to address that before we recommend the candidate, because we need to be able to have a solid understanding about that. Actually, from the review of the [stuff] and the application, then we could see that—I'm not speaking for anybody, why [inaudible] as well, because we need someone that will be trusted [inaudible] function well in that area. So I'm just seeing that and raising a concern. We need to be able to agree on that.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Taiwo. Maybe the material that was given, I will agree that if you've been about ICANN for a while, you would tend to know more about Milton than if you just came into the environment. And maybe for those of us who are recent arrivals in ICANN, it would certainly be a stretch to get you to understand all of the various areas that Milton has been involved in. And if you've seen Milton in action, you probably would know, some of these issues will then be second nature to you.

So I agree that for those who are just in ICANN, it might be a little while, it doesn't follow as easily as opposed to those of us who've been around for a little while. So I would accept that it is a little difficult. But it's more work for those who are just joining to follow [inaudible].

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TAIWO AKINREMI: Sure. Not because I'm new to the environment, I'm just actually trying to see the response. Actually, I've known Milton for quite a while now in the ICANN environment and [inaudible]. So I'm just trying to address the [chart] on the board. We need to take every little detail of what we're seeing in the chat into consideration into our evaluation. So that's why I raised that concern, not because Milton is not well qualified for the job.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Okay. Thanks for the clarification. So to you, it's the charts themselves that is ... Are you saying the chart, if it was presented in another way, may provide more information? Is my understanding correct? I'm not hearing you. Maxim, please take the floor.

MAXIM ALZOBA: I think the situation where we have only one candidate and there is nothing allowing to disqualify the candidate, because I cannot think about anything disqualifying in these regards and neither from his EOI or historical information, so I think adding any questions on the top of what was in the call for volunteers is not very productive, because the only situation where we might need that is when we potentially have two or three candidates with totally equal qualifications where we have to find some way to choose the best one. But in this situation, I think we found the best one. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you for that, Maxim. And I take what you say, because it's a single candidate and the chart is essentially actually telling me more about how the committee thinks about it based on the questions than about Milton's qualification, quite frankly.

Again, and maybe some of us who would be around for a little while would know Milton's background. You see the chat for example will point out some of the issues that Milton's been involved in. So maybe if we had a second candidate or something, two or three that could be [inaudible] against each other, maybe it would be more meaningful. But in this case, I doubt if it's going to be any different for Milton. So I am accepting that, for us to see the difference between the candidates, it would probably make some interesting reading, but to the extent that it's only Milton, it's [inaudible]. Are there any other comments?

Okay, so I think we're going to close off. Can we ask all members now if we could indicate our support for Milton to be the GNSO liaison to the CSC? Are there any objections? There are no objections. Since there are no objections noted here, could I then be clear that the committee unanimously is supporting Milton Mueller to be the GNSO liaison to the CSC? Hand up. Emily.

EMILY BARABAS: Hi Carlton. So typically, for SSC processes because we don't have full attendance here, what we have done in the past is to say provisionally it looks like there's support on the call, we can put this out to the mailing list and say if there are any objections, please raise them in the next, I don't know, 48 hours I think was what Maxim recommended. Yeah, Maxim is saying 48 hours

would be comfortable for him. And that just gives people an opportunity if they want to think a little bit more or if they're not on the call and want to listen to the recording and respond, they can do so. So process-wise, if that works for all of you, staff can send a follow-up e-mail to give people a little bit of time to respond on e-mail if they would like to do so. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. So yes, it's good advice. Maxim has recommended that we have a 48-hour call for anybody to raise an objection. I think we're all agreed that we should take the advice, and staff will put out to the list what seems to be the carrying recommendation from this call and give everyone 48 hours to make their position known. So that's what we will do. Thank you for that.

Moving on to item three, updating the EOI process for the GNSO-nominated mentor to the ICANN fellowship program. I'm going to ask Emily to come in again and explain, give some background to all of this to the members. Emily, please take the floor.

EMILY BARABAS: Hi Carlton. As you've seen on the e-mail list, there's another assignment coming up for the SSC. It's the GNSO-nominated mentor to the ICANN fellowship program. The background materials were circulated with the agenda as well. The EOI closes Wednesday of this week, I believe, or Thursday. I'll pull up this page. The 17th. So please read the background. If you have any questions, we can answer them now or you can raise them on list,

of course. This is a selection that the SSC has done the last couple of years so the EOI is pretty standard. We also can use the survey from previous years. What staff can do is circulate a template of the survey so you can all look at it and see if it's suitable for purpose. We can always adjust it if necessary. We'll do that after the call. And if the format is okay, then once the EOI closes, we'll go ahead and send you those applications that came in with the survey and we'll kind of repeat the process.

Raymond is asking how many responses have we gotten. We've just gotten one so far. It is posted on the Wiki. So just one so far, but probably, we'll get some more as we get closer to the deadline. In the past, we've gotten—this is one that there's been some interest in, although given the remote nature of meetings, it's a little unpredictable if there'll be potentially less interest this year than other years. But we'll see.

Are there any questions about that? The key dates are also on the Wiki page. Once the poll opens, folks will have all the way through the holidays to complete that poll, because ICANN offices will be closed, and then we'll schedule a meeting for early January to go over those candidates and do a selection process. This is another one where the goal is to submit a name for the January council meeting, but hopefully, we'll be able to have one, and if necessary, two meetings to do that selection. Are there any questions right now? Otherwise, this is just to get everyone up to speed about what's coming and flag it as something to review. Thanks.

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CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. Members, do you have any questions on the key dates for the fellowship mentor? Note that it comes across the holiday period. I know we're all busy, but it's important for you to look at the dates. If you think they're too aggressive, please let us know. We're still trying to get into the ... make everything available for the January meeting of the GNSO council. So Maxim is asking if we have any EOIs. Yes, we have only one to date, Maxim. As Emily said, we may have a few more coming in closer to the deadline, but she also cautioned that given the dynamics of the meeting, that we're not quite sure how that might impact interest in being a fellowship mentor. Any questions? Maxim.

MAXIM ALZOBA: Just a note. I think the situation where we see the only applicant for quite important positions within community clearly shows that there is a significant burnout and the community is stretched thin. It's just a note, but because I see this with the chair for EPDP 2A, and this position, and the position for CSC, and situation where a single applicant doesn't seem to be the foreseen approach of the selections. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Yes. Thank you, Maxim, for that intervention. There's a possibility that it's an indicator of volunteer burnout. It is one of the hazards in this business when you're so dependent on volunteers who have other lives to live. So you're quite right, it could be an indicator of burnout. At this stage, we just have to plod along and see what happens.

I see where you recommended that we note these concerns and communicate it separately to the GNSO council. I don't know what is the view of other members on this matter. Does anybody else have a view on Maxim's recommendation? I see Marie has indicated especially for this mentorship one, it may be because of the situation on face-to-face meetings. members might actually think—well, I'll let Marie speak here. Marie, you have the floor.

MARIE PATTULLO: Thank you, Carlton. While I fully understand Maxim's point that maybe we should send concerns to council, I come back to what council can do. I'm not sure what, practically, council would be able to do about this. We are all living through very strange times, and there is certainly, at least to my mind, an impact on people being involved in something like fellowship when they can't physically meet with the fellows and help them and assist them through the ICANN meeting process. So I'm not overly surprised by that.

On the more general level of volunteer burnout or whatever you would like to call it, I think we all also need to be mindful that right now, so many of us are juggling in fact more work as opposed to less work. Certainly on the European side in Brussels, we have seen a real uptick in stuff coming out of the authority, so the European Commission, the parliament and so on, probably because everybody is at home, and to an extent, proving that they're working.

So two things. One, I think we need to be realistic as to the situation that we're in, which is not ICANN-specific, and on the

other hand, yeah, absolutely, let's tell council, but I'm not sure what Tania and the other leadership colleauges can do about it. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Marie, for that. I tend to agree with that perspective for sure. Maxim wants to make another comment. Maxim, you have the floor, sir.

MAXIM ALZOBA: I think it's our duty to just report. And answering to the question, what council could do, just take it into account when trying to pile more and more items on the top of what council has. But it's just an opinion. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you for that, Maxim. Tatiana.

TATIANA TROPINA: Thank you very much. Hi everyone. So Tatiana here, ex officio. However, I hope that you will allow me to speak just to address the comment. I certainly agree with both Marie and Maxim. I don't think that this is contradicting anyhow.

I think, [was it worth?] Yes. The standing selection committee [better to] report to the council. But I think another point of reporting would be the respective stakeholder groups and constituencies, because in a way, council of course can mobilize the community, but I believe that it also goes home. It goes to our

respective houses and stakeholder groups and to community as a whole. So just to be aware of this situation that, yes, the burnout is real, we are facing it right now, and maybe, of course, it's hard to think about any creative and innovative ways to do this, but we have at least to be aware. Perhaps we will not be able to do anything about this. However, yeah, making it known would be a good idea. So I don't see any contradiction here. Thank you.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Tatiana. Yes, I can see us certainly raising the issue on another channel to the council, just to be on record for that. I think, as you point out, that all of the areas of the council and the community are well aware that we face this burnout problem, and maybe for us to just go on record and mention it would be a good thing. It's as much as we can do under the circumstances.

Naveed, your hand is up. You have the floor.

NAVEED BIN RAIS: Yeah. I'm listening to the different viewpoints here, but I'm just wondering if commenting on the candidate burnout would be within the remit of the SSC here, like to point out to GNSO council. I don't know in what capacity we could do that. What should be done, I think, is at the council level and different constituency level, and there are policies for conflict of interest and other things in ICANN, but I think it is up to the individual constituencies or SOs and ACs to encourage the candidates to come forward, to nominate them, to get nominated, or a similar approach. So I'm not sure, as SSC, what more we can do in this regard. What I

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understand is we need to evaluate the candidates once they appear or once they're nominated to SSC, and our role is up to that point, I think.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Naveed. Before I respond to that, let me bring in Sophie. Sophie, you have the floor.

SOPHIE HEY: Thanks, Carlton. Just in the spirit of the volunteer burnout and potentially for our own sakes, how about we utilize Tania in her role as GNSO council leadership liaison? My understanding is that this sort of concern about volunteer burnout and a lack of applicants is the kind of discussion that Tanya would be able to raise with leadership and council to decide what to do for next steps, if there is anything they're able to do.

Perhaps in our own personal capacities, we can make sure that we send a reminder to our own constituencies or stakeholder groups to actually apply for the role and just mention this conversation to keep it alert. That way, we can avoid the elongated process of having to draft a letter, review the letter and send the letter, by which time we don't really have time to address it. So that would be my suggestion for moving forward.

The other thing is I'm just noticing the time. Sorry, Carlton. Do we want to continue this on list, potentially, and move on to hear from Mary about the IRP and selection process for the group that will appoint the standing panel?

CARLTON SAMUELS: Yes. Thank you, Sophie. I think we have [members] that maybe we could use our liaison strategically to send a message. That's what Sophie's proposing. And she's also proposing that we probably have just enough time, 20 minutes left on the call.

The next item on the agenda was to have some input from Mary on the IRP issue. Maybe we'll move to that. We can ask Mary. Can we get to that item? And Mary, you have the floor.

MARY WONG: Thank you, Carlton. Hello, members of the GNSO standing selection committee. Thank you for having me on your call today. I don't know that this will take very much time. I think the purpose of my being on this call today is, as you noted, to give you a brief update on what the process is, what the expectations are. and I'm glad that Tania is on the call if she wants to add anything from some of the other discussions that the GNSO council leadership has been having with the GNSO stakeholder group and constituency chairs.

It's interesting that it's coming on the heels of what you've just discussed, for two reasons. One is that while this is not necessarily a case of volunteer burnout, this is a new development for the SSC in that, first of all, this is a new appointment because this is a new group, and secondly, of course, the SSC is being mobilized by agreement of the stakeholder group and constituency chairs due to the nature of the process, which needs to be confidential but also fairly structured.

So Emily and Julie, I don't know how much background I will need to give, but it seems to me that since this is a brand-new appointment, that I probably should give you a brief background and then take questions.

I note that today's call is obviously not for going into the candidacy of whoever submitted the applications, but there will be time for that, I hope. Emily, do you want to put a comment in before I get started?

EMILY BARABAS: Hi Mary. Thanks. Yeah, I wanted to frame this a little bit for everyone because it's a brand-new topic. So the GNSO council has just handed to the SSC an additional assignment. So in addition to the two that we've been discussing, this is something else that the SSC will be working on as well in the coming weeks. And Mary is here to tell us a little bit about what the assignment entails, how it's the same and different from the ones that we've been working on, and provide a little background. So I just wanted to frame it a little bit since we're switching topics quite a bit on the agenda, and want to make sure that each one is kept a little bit separate.

So this is brand new, and Mary is kind of our inhouse expert on the topic. So Mary, I'll turn it back to you. And this is the last agenda item, so Mary, you let us know how much background you think is necessary to cover as an intro today, and the rest we can do as follow-up or we can schedule another call, of course, to provide more background about the assignment as necessary. Thanks.

MARY WONG: Perfect. Thank you so much, Emily. And what I'm going to propose is that whatever relevant materials that we have on the staff side about the scope of the appointment and the nature of the process can be circulated to SSC members as well as posted on the Wiki after this call. So let me just give you a very brief outline of what the process and the task is about.

First of all, there is a very important accountability mechanism under the ICANN bylaws that I'm pretty sure everyone on the call knows about and may have some familiarity with in the sense of its origin. This is the independent review process, or the IRP, which was really detailed during the work that the community did as part of the IANA stewardship transition. So it is enshrined in the ICANN bylaws as an accountability mechanism for ICANN Org and staff and Board.

What the bylaws require is that because this is a form of arbitration, to ensure that any IRPs that are filed—and fortunately, there have been none so far, under the new process anyway—be heard by sufficiently qualified dispute resolution panelists.

To that end, the bylaws have a very specific requirement that a standing panel of seven well qualified, experienced panelists be appointed. And each time an IRP is filed, if and when, the panelist or panelists for that particular IRP proceeding will be appointed out of the seven members of the standing panel.

So this is what we're about to be doing, which is looking at selecting the seven members of the IRP standing panel. The

bylaws also say that this is a place where the various ICANN structures—that means all the supporting organizations, all the advisory committees and the constituent groups—have a very important role in helping to select the members of that standing panel.

So, what's happened in the last, I want to say year or so, is that ICANN Org staff that have been working on these accountability mechanisms have been engaging with the SO and AC leaders to come up with a number of things, including a process to select the standing panel. And we've gotten to a point where all the SOs and the ACs have agreed on using something new called the Community Representatives Group.

I'll just spend a little bit of time on this because it gets a little confusing in the sense that what the SSC is being asked to do on behalf of the entire GNSO is to appoint representatives or a representative to this new Community Representatives Group.

And what this Community Representatives Group will do is on behalf of all the SOs and ACs, this Community Representatives Group will look at all the applicants for the standing panel and will make a nomination as to the seven likely members. And the nomination or the slate that this Community Representatives Group comes up with will be the one that is sent to the ICANN Board for confirmation.

So in other words, the Community Representatives Group is going to be authorized or empowered to act or to decide on behalf of the whole SO/AC community what the slate of standing panelists might look like. There is no intermediate step between the

decision of the Community Representatives Group and the ICANN Board confirmation where the Community Representatives Group's nominations go back to each SO and AC.

This is an important point to remember, because this was something that was discussed and agreed to by all the SO/AC leaders, that the Community Representatives Group will be empowered to make that decision on behalf of the whole community. And that is why the appointment of the GNSO representative to this Community Representatives Group is a key one, and as I noted, it is a new and unique one.

Before I get into processes and candidacies and what the terms of references say, I know that there have been some comments in the chat. And to Marie's question on the Community Representatives Group, like I said, that's a new group right now, and Maxim's comment that it seems to be a job for the SGs' leadership teams, that is something that the GNSO council leadership has discussed with the SGs and Cs.

One of the problems, or the challenges, I should say, is that there currently is no process GNSO-wide where these appointments or selections, whichever is the more appropriate term, can be made. So the SSC, being a well understood group with a documented process, was suggested as one possible mechanism and the SG and C leadership teams agreed that this may be something that while not normally done by the SSC—this is a brand-new process and this is the only documented way that GNSO representatives have been selected, for example, to review teams, it was probably the best mechanism to use.

So the Community Representatives Group, because it's new, it means that the GNSO has never made that selection, there's never been such a group. And what I'll say now, Marie, in response to your question is that on Friday, staff sent a note to all the SO, AC, SG and C chairs noting that the call for expressions of interest to join this Community Representatives Group had closed—I'll paste the link in the chat to the announcement right now—and that as of the closing date, we had received applications—and remember, again, these are applications to join the Community Representatives Group that will select the standing panel. These are not applicants to be on the standing panel themselves.

So as of the closing date for the Community Representatives Group, we had received candidate applications for endorsements from the GNSO, the ccNSO, the ALAC and the GAC. Over the weekend, the ALAC and the GAC reverted to staff to note that they had actually been aware of the candidacies of those applicants for their endorsement, and the ALAC and the GAC have actually endorsed their representatives to this Community Representatives Group.

So where we are now is that we have two representatives to this community group from the ALAC, two representatives to this community group from the GAC, and so what is pending is the appointment from the ccNSO and the GNSO.

You will notice that I have not mentioned the ASO, the RSSAC or the SSAC. This is because no candidates came forward to be endorsed or to represent either or any of these three communities on the Community Representatives Group. We have double

checked with the leadership of the ASO, the RSSAC and the SSAC, and they are quite comfortable not having members on this Community Representatives Group.

I'll close this section and take questions by saying that for the GNSO, only one candidate has applied for GNSO endorsement. So for the SSC—coming back to your role here—you will only be asked to consider whether that one candidate should be the GNSO's representative to the Community Representatives Group.

I see a question here from Marie. That is absolutely correct, Marie, and I apologize for any confusion. The SSC is going to act on behalf of the whole GNSO to appoint a representative, in this case to the Community Representatives Group, and it will be that Community Representatives Group, including your GNSO representative, who will choose the IRP standing panelists for confirmation by the Board.

Carlton, Emily, let me stop here before I add to any further confusion, and see if there are any questions that I can help address.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Okay. Thank you, Marie. Just to mention, it's six minutes until the top of the hour. So, do we have any questions? [I have just one before I go in,] and then I'll go to Maxim. To be clear, are we supposed to select two members to CRG from the GNSO?

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MARY WONG:	I see that the new acronym's already making the rounds. Thank you, Carlton. So the terms of reference, which are linked from the announcement that I posted, does say that each SO and AC should have one, or a maximum of two representatives. And this was left fairly open because all the leaders, including the SG and C leaders, didn't want to be tied down to a number or the overall composition of the Community Representatives Group. They felt that the skillsets of whoever ends up on this Community Representatives Group is more important than the actual number.
	So in a specific answer to your question with that background, Carlton, since the GNSO only has one applicant to consider, essentially, if you do recommend that that one candidate be the GNSO's representative, the GNSO will have one member of that Community Representatives Group.
	And I see Marie, you've got a question about the one GNSO candidate. If there's time, I can mention who that is and also a sense of the timeline. Perhaps, Carlton, should we take Maxim's question before I do so?
CARLTON SAMUELS:	Yes, please. Maxim, your hand is up. Could you please go briefly, sir?
MAXIM ALZOBA:	I just have concerns that without proper time to assess and without information to assess, we're literally useless in this process. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Maxim. Mary, can we get back to you? Maybe we could ... in terms of talking about the timeline, you could actually address Maxim's question or concerns.

MARY WONG: So the timeline is fairly tight, and I've discussed this with Emily and Julie quite briefly. The idea is for this Community Representatives Group to be confirmed by the end of January. So in some ways, perhaps it's fortunate that you only have one candidate to consider, but I also understand that you have quite a lot on your plate.

So to the extent that the SSC believes that it doesn't have the bandwidth or that end of January is not a realistic timeline for you [even with one] candidate, my suggestion is to convey that back to the SG, C and council leadership as soon as possible so that they can take it to the broader SO and AC chairs group.

It will be quite problematic, obviously, if the Community Representatives Group cannot get started on its work and it's waiting on an appointment. But that is something that is not for staff to resolve. And to Peter's question about the GNSO developing some materials, what I should have mentioned is that this is in process that on top of the terms of reference, which are quite general. As I said, it's linked from the announcement that I posted.

For the GNSO-specific appointment, some representatives from the SG and C chairs, working with GNSO council leadership, to try

to develop at least a short document that highlights what the GNSO might prioritize in terms of what its representative should possess in the way of skills. And I believe that that document is supposed to be finalized this week.

And Peter, I noticed that your second question is about the skills required for the role. Let me first state that I understand that this is a public call in the sense that the recording is made public, so I am not sure that I should be mentioning the name of the candidate just yet, although those materials will be sent to you and all the SG and C leaders. In other words, I don't know what the etiquette is and I'm looking for advice here from Carlton or Sophie or Emily or Julie, or anybody, as to whether I should be making that announcement ahead of letting the SG, C and council leadership know who the one candidate is.

While you think about that, I'll say that the skills needed for the role, the terms of reference make it clear that it is not about one person having all the skills. It is that in the aggregate, the Community Representatives Group should collectively possess some skills, including experience with selecting boards of directors, NomCom representatives—although not necessarily ICANN NomCom—experience working with recruiting teams, essentially a background where making this type of important selection where there's practically a fiduciary type obligation is something that the community group is familiar with overall.

And I notice that we're on time, Carlton, so I apologize for taking more time than intended.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Mary. Can I just ask members if we could put an additional five minutes on this clock to just clear up this matter here?

EMILY BARABAS: Hi. Carlton, I'm sorry, unfortunately Julie and I are supporting another call starting right now, and I know at least one other SSC member also needs to join that call. So I apologize that it's inconvenient, but I'm wondering if we can perhaps take the discussion to the list, and we can also schedule more time next week if necessary to discuss further. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. So we know we are pressed for time here. Can I just ask members to retreat to the list for follow-up questions for Mary and the others? I note that the question is not just about who we select but about what are the priorities, the skills of the GNSO representative ought to be.

Thank you all. We have to bring this call to an end. Members, please see the list for [the grade of dates] and respond accordingly. Thank you, everybody. This call is complete.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. This concludes today's conference call. Please remember to disconnect all lines, and have a wonderful rest of your day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]