ICANN Transcription

GNSO Standing Selection Committee

Tuesday, 20 December 2022 at 14:00 UTC

Note: Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases it is incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible 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. Attendance and recordings of the call are posted on agenda wiki page: https://community.icann.org/x/XI4-DQ

The recordings and transcriptions of the calls are posted on the GNSO Master Calendar page
http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/calendar

TERRI AGNEW: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening and welcome to the GNSO Standing Selection Committee on Tuesday the 20 of the December 2022 at 14:00 UTC.

In the interest of time, there'll be no roll call. Attendance will be taken by the Zoom room. We have no listed apologies for today's meeting. All documentation and information can be found on the wiki space. Recordings will be posted on the public wiki space shortly after the end of the call. Please remember to state your name before speaking for the recording.

As a reminder, those who take part in ICANN multistakeholder process are to comply with the expected standards of behavior.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

	With this, I'll turn it back over to our Arinola Akinyemi. Please begin.
ARINOLA AKINYEMI:	Thank you, Terri. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everybody. Once again, you're welcome to the GNSO SSC committee meeting for 2022. This will be our second meeting. Will there be anyone who has any updates to their statement of interests?
ARSENE TUNGALI:	Hi, Arsene here. Can I?
ARINOLA AKINYEMI:	Go ahead, please.
ARSENE TUNGALI:	Sure. Thank you. Probably just saying that I've just joined the SSC. So probably that will be the change or the update on my statements of interest. Just wanted to mention that I've just joined. Yeah. Thank you. A new member.
ARINOLA AKINYEMI:	Thank you. You're welcome. Any other updates or anything we should know?

GLEN DE SAINT GÉRY: Arinola, just to say I'm standing in for Brian Winterfeldt today. I'm the alternate as Brian has got a client appointment and sadly can't be on the call.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: Glad to have you also.

GLEN DE SAINT GÉRY: Thank you.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: Okay, I see no other hands or no other person who would like to have anything to say, we might need to move on. But before we do, on behalf of Alan and myself, we say thank you for your confidence upon electing us as your chair and vice chair. We hope to have fruitful deliberations throughout this one year. We'll look forward to working with you.

So without further ado, I would like for us to move to the next item on the agenda which will be the review of upcoming SSC assignments and selection process. I will be handing over to, I believe that will be Emily to walk us through the fellowship mentor process and the fellowship selection committee member process. Over to you Emily or the member of staff who is responsible. Thank you.

EMILY BARABAS: Hi Arinola, hi everyone. This is Emily from ICANN Org. Actually, before we dive in, this is maybe not an SOI update but I also

wanted to mention that in addition to Arsene joining us from the NCSG, we have one additional member who's joined the SSC from the NCSG since our last meeting and that's David Cake who I don't believe is on this call but is now joined as well. So we now have a full roster from all the groups.

As Arinola mentioned, the purpose of today's call is to go through the two assignments that are upcoming and just make sure that everyone has a chance to ask any questions and that the assignments are well understood. So I'll start with the fellowship mentor assignment because that's the one that's coming up first. Hopefully you've all seen this already. But this is your one-stop shop for the assignment information. So share that here.

In case anyone's not familiar with the fellowship program, this is a program that was created—and you can see in the background here that it provides details. It was launched in 2007 with the purpose of strengthening and diversity of the multistakeholder model by creating opportunities for people in underserved and underrepresented communities to become part of the ICANN community.

The mentor position, there's seven of them, one from each supporting organization and advisory committee. And they step in and mentor groups of individuals in the fellowship program. And the GNSO has been appointing fellows for a number of years now with the SSC during the selection processes.

So the criteria for selection for this process are provided by the GNSO, and are outlined in the expression of interest document. So you can see on this page it explains a little bit about some of

the responsibilities, what you can expect a mentor would need to be able to do. I'm not going to read it. So hopefully everyone takes a look at this and gets a good sense of it. You can learn more about what mentors do in the ICANN fellowship program mentoring guidelines, which are linked here.

And then I think the key part here is to look at what kinds of things are going to be in the applications that you're going to be reading. They're going to be speaking to the skills and experience that are desired based on the expression of interest. So being an active participant in GNSO structures and policy development processes with a track record of engagement, previous experience in similar roles, such as as a mentor, written and verbal communication skills, project management and coordination skills and networking skills, and the desired attributes here. So focus on being part of a stakeholder group or constituency, understanding how ICANN works, ability to devote the necessary time, ability to create a supportive atmosphere, having a good strong network within ICANN to share with our mentees, being able to present information clearly and simply and developing plans for projects and deliverables for their mentees.

So that gives you a general sense of it. And I'll go over sort of what we can expect in terms of the selection process. So we've gotten three applications so far. The deadline is tomorrow. You can find the applications down here. There might be more coming in. All three of the applicants so far are from the NCSG. I believe they are all former fellows as well. So if you already want to start getting a sense of who these applicants are, you can look here. And of course, we've been spreading the word about this

opportunity with the SGs and C leaders and council. But as members of the SSC, if there's folks you know or lists that you know of where you think people might want to know about this opportunity, there's still one more day, so feel free to share the word. You can find a link to the EOI on this page as well down here in the second paragraph. That's the link to the announcement on the GNSO website. I'll just share it here as well.

So I want to briefly go over the timeline for this assignment so you can get a sense of it. So the EOI has been open since the beginning of December, closes tomorrow, as I mentioned. So what we're going to do, the typical process for this group is that when the expression of interest is closed, staff prepares a little poll that lets each of you organize your thoughts about the candidates and enter that information.

What we first do is share a draft poll with you just so you can see what the format would be like. You get about 24 hours if that's okay, to just look at it and make sure that the format is okay. And then when the EOI actually closes, we'll fill in the names and open the poll so that you can actually enter your real information in there.

The poll will stay open until our next SSC meeting. We're targeting the first or second week of January. We'll do a Doodle poll for that. And about 24 hours before the meeting, we'll close the poll so that we can share the results and everyone can take a look at those before the meeting itself.

The selection process, the fellowship program would like an answer or a candidate name from the GNSO by the end of

January, so working backwards. The Council meeting is on the 19th. The document deadline to submit a motion to submit that name is January 9th, but what we can do is put in a placeholder that basically says we have a recommendation coming, and then the name can be filled in as late as January 18. So that means we have basically the whole first half of January for the group to make a decision, if it needs more than one meeting or whatever. So the SSC's job will basically be done by the Council meeting on the 19th. And then the Council will submit that name once confirmed to the fellowship program.

So I think that that's the general overview of this assignment. Does anyone have questions? I'm also going to share in the chat—we've already prepared sort of a draft poll that folks can click around in. It's just a test poll and we'll share this on email after the meeting as well. But just so you get a sense of it. We're using a new survey tool. So if you see any bumpiness with it, let us know. We're still learning, but hopefully it works. Alan, please.

ALAN WOODS: Thank you very much. Just a quick question. I noticed that one of the applicants at the moment doesn't actually have an SOI. Is an SOI a requirement for this? It's unclear to me. And should we perhaps just ask that person to put in an SOI as well? Or do we not really care?

EMILY BARABAS: So it's a question that I had as well. And we actually reached out to make sure that this person in fact does not have an SOI. So an

SOI is required for work in policy development processes and other sorts of working groups like the SSC. It is a desired attribute that the person is a member of a GNSO stakeholder group or constituency.

You can be a member of one of those groups without having an SOI. So if you've never been involved in a PDP, for example, but you are a member of, in this case, the NCUC or NCSG, you are not disqualified from applying. But it may be something that the group wants to take into account in its consideration of the applications because one of the criteria is about active engagement in GNSO structures and policy development processes and engagement in the GNSO. So, of course, that may be a weighting factor for the group as they think about the desired skills and experience.

Hopefully, that answers—Yeah. Okay. Thanks, Alan. Other questions about the criteria or the timeline? Anything else? You'll have some time over the holidays and following the holidays to look at this more closely and of course, fill out the poll. So if you're not already up to speed on this, it's also fine to ask questions on the mailing list in the coming days, just with a note that the ICANN offices and all staff will be offline for the period, I believe between the 23rd and January 2nd. Okay, if there are no other questions, I will touch on the second expression of interest process.

So this one is sort of interesting, because the mentor role has been around for some time. And the SSC has been doing selection processes for this one for some time. But the selection committee is a little bit different.

EN

So for this one, the fellowship program started having this selection committee at ICANN 65. And at the time, it was fairly short window of opportunity to put someone forward. And so at the time, the GNSO decided to take someone from the outgoing leadership team of the GNSO Council, which was Heather Forrest, she was the outgoing chair. And she stepped into the role. So there was no selection process. It was just agreed by Council that that would be the case. And she stayed on for quite some time. So she stayed on through ICANN 73. And the GNSO just agreed that it was appropriate and she had agreed all sorts of stay on.

She needed to step down from that role before the end of that term that included ICANN 73, and because there was sort of rather short notice, again, Council leadership sort of filled that void. So Sebastien is the current selection committee member.

But because there was some interest expressed in the community for others to potentially fill that role, he agreed to—he had been serving in an interim capacity. And he said, "You know, I'm going to step away and let someone else fill the role if there's that interest."

So this is the first time we're doing an EOI for this role. So the EOI was developed by Council leadership, drawing on the information on the fellowship page, the selection committee page of the fellowship program that sort of talks about the desired attributes and needs for the selection committee members. And here is the one-stop shop for this selection process.

The EOI was launched on December 9th, so a little bit later. So these two are staggered, which means we can complete the selection process just after the mentor role. The EOI will close on January 6th, and we'll do basically the same process if that works for everyone, which is again to open a poll, allow everyone to look at the candidate materials, individually fill out responses to the poll, reflect on those candidates, and then hold meetings to discuss. And again, we're looking for full consensus decisions here in terms of recommendations from the SSC.

Technically, the deadline for this one was also the fellowship program asked to have candidates by the end of January but gave a little bit of an extension given that this is a new EOI process for the GNSO and the fact that this person won't need to start until the spring. So we have a little extra time on this one. The goal is to get a recommendation to Council first as a motion on February 6th, potentially as a placeholder, which means the name doesn't have to be included. And then February 15 is the last day to actually put a name in to the Council. So we have some time between mid-January and early February to complete that selection process once the mentor selection process has been completed.

So what does the fellowship selection committee do? Their goal is to evaluate the applications for the fellowship program and select recipients based on a set of predetermined criteria. There are, I believe, also up to seven members, and they serve for two years. So the GNSO will have one person on the committee.

Their work is pretty focused around the process around ICANN meetings, but a bit before, so they're selecting for the next

meeting during a very concentrated period of time and looking at those applications.

And again, here the goal is to find someone who's an active participant in GNSO structures and policy development processes for a period of time and really has a track record in understanding and engaging with the GNSO as well as, if applicable, something like Cross Community Working Groups. And also a track record of being an active contributor during ICANN meetings.

And then this sort of was adapted from the criteria on the fellowship program website. The idea here is that the person who's evaluating these applications has enough history and experience with sort of other connected parts of the broader ecosystem to be able to evaluate the applications effectively. So to understand when candidates are talking about, for example, that they've worked previously with the IETF or something like that, just sort of have a general understanding of what that means.

Again, here, it's desired that the person is a member of a GNSO stakeholder group or constituency, and that they have the time and resources to devote to the role. So those are the applicable criteria that are provided by the GNSO Council and are included in the EOI.

We don't have any applicants yet for this role, but the deadline isn't till next year, so there's some time still. And we do know that there are some interested candidates who have informally told their SGs and Cs that they plan to apply. So we're hoping that there will be some good candidates coming in.

Any questions on this selection process? Arsene, thanks for your comment in the chat. So just in case anyone's on mobile or can't see the chat, Arsene is saying that he's thinking about putting in his name for the mentor role. So Arsene, that's correct. If you're a candidate for the role itself, for the mentor role, then you won't participate in the selection process for the mentor role, for obvious reasons. But you can work with the NCSG to have a substitute come in and help with that selection process instead. My understanding is that it shouldn't stop you from participating in the process for the selection committee member because that's a different role, even though it's also associated with the fellowship program. But of course, if anyone disagrees, please speak up. But yeah, your participation or your membership in the SSC does not stop you from applying for any of these roles. It's just that you won't participate in that very specific selection process. Thanks.

And just a reminder, Arsene, that the deadline is tomorrow. So if you do want to apply, please do so in the coming day.

Okay, so I think in terms of the two processes, that's all we really wanted to cover. We wanted to make sure that everyone knew that there was a Doodle poll coming your way. And if you can fill that out as quickly as possible, that will let us schedule something for early in the new year to actually do the selection and also to let you know that this link we shared with the draft poll will also be shared over email shortly. Again, that's just the draft poll. So let us know if the format is a problem. This format has seems to have worked okay in previous years, so hopefully, we won't need to change it significantly. But 24 hours from now, we'll go ahead and then open the poll. Or I guess it'll be more like 36 hours from now,

when we have all the names and the EOI is closed, we'll add those names to the poll and open it up for y'all to get started.

And Arsene, thank you. That's really helpful to work with your group to make sure that you have an alternate in place to participate in the process, and they can just send that information to the SSC mailing list and to the GNSO Secretariat.

Okay. Arinola, is there anything else you wanted to cover in terms of these two selection processes?

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: Not for me. I think you did a perfect job, Emily. I believe so.

EMILY BARABAS: Oh, gosh, thanks. Okay. And then I think that's up to AOB. And I'll pass it back to you, Arinola.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: All right. Thank you, Emily, for that wonderful one. I believe we all are up to speed with the process. And it's always a learning process. There's always something new to understand or to learn from whatever has been passed through.

I want to believe we'll use the holiday period to also go through most of these notes so that it will guide us with the selection process. So once again, thank you, Emily. I see Alan agree with that. Perfect job done.

Okay, we'll move on to item number three. That's any other business. Do we have any other business or anyone has any other business? Okay, I see no hands.

ANNE AIKMAN-SCALESE: I'm sorry, I'm having very severe connection issues. Is there going to be a recording that I'll get a link to? Because my Internet was cutting out like every 30 seconds and I apologize, I couldn't—

EMILY BARABAS: Yes, these calls are recorded and you will also get notes. So that will be shared by email and on the wiki after this call. Thanks.

ANNE AIKMAN-SCALESE: Okay, thank you.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: Okay, do we have any other person with any other thing? Okay, seeing no hands, I think this is the point I would also, like Arsene, be informing you all that I will be submitting my application for the fellowship mentor process and will also be recusing myself from that particular selection process. Alan, this is where I prepare you for the task ahead.

ALAN WOODS: Thank you, Arinola. No problem.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: But I will surely be with you during the one for the selection. So it will be one apiece. So without any other business, we might need to round up the meeting except we have anything from the staff.

EMILY BARABAS: I think nothing more from us.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: Oh, wonderful. As always, I will be giving back everybody 33 minutes of their time. So happy holidays. That's your holiday gift in advance and hoping to see you in the new year. So the meeting is adjourned.

TERRI AGNEW: Thank you everyone. Once again, the meeting has been adjourned. I will stop recordings and disconnect all remaining lines. Happy New Year.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]