

Candidate Statement GNSO Council Chair

25 October 2024

Candidate: Gregory DiBiase (Registrar Stakeholder Group, North America)

Citizenship/ Residence: USA

Dear Councilors,

I am honored to be nominated for a second term as GNSO Council Chair. I am standing for reelection because I want to continue the great work this Council has achieved over the past year. Specifically, I would like to finalize policy for the next round of gTLDs, document new policy processes to address known gaps, and make meaningful advances on difficult topics.

The Council has made significant process in nailing down the policy that will govern the next round of new gTLDs. I am particularly proud of our work on the Supplemental Recommendations for Recommendations that were not initially adopted by the Board. I would now like to focus on resolving outstanding issues related to the resolution of contention sets and supporting the Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team however possible. I'm optimistic that we can deliver the remaining work and stick to the dates previously established for opening the Next Round.

Over the past year we've also documented several gaps in the policy development process that need to be addressed. In particular, we've encountered situations in which the Board has adopted policy recommendations, but subsequent events have changed their thinking and they are no longer confident the recommendations are in the public interest. I would like the Council to explore processes by which recommendations can be revisited by the Board or amended by Council after Board adoption but before full implementation. This would give ICANN the operational flexibility to deliver results for the Community and would simplify the resolution of problems identified by Implementation Review Teams. On a similar note, I would like to remain focused on improving the effectiveness and transparency of Small Teams. I believe our work on Supplemental Recommendations for the next round, which involved both GNSO Councilors and designees from the community, has shown them to be an invaluable tool, but we need to stay vigilant about ensuring any work is completely transparent and that the community is kept up to date on progress.

Finally, I think there are three "tough" topics that will require hard work and creativity to push forward. These are:

- privacy/proxy: we expect issues to be flagged by the IRT that will need the attention of Council
- data accuracy: this issue has lingered in the community and needs resolution, but it is a tricky subject due to constant evolution of internal and external factors, not all of which are under ICANN's control
- urgent requests for registration data: tackling this vital topic will require Council to continue to engage with GAC and the Board to find the right solution

All of these topics concern registration data for domains, and may be impacted by upcoming legislation regarding data privacy and cybersecurity. I hope to align on a common understanding of what is the problem we are trying to solve, and what policy tools may be effective for our purposes. I expect

close collaboration with ICANN and its Advisory Committees to push toward outcomes that benefit the whole community.

These are just some examples of the work I look forward to tackling in my next term as GNSO Chair. I want to continue to work towards reducing number of items on the Action Decision Radar and ensuring Council has a clear understanding of the work ahead. I am excited to work with the new and returning Councilors and to continue to improve Council's effectiveness while delivering optimal results for ICANN and the broader ICANN Community.