

**ICANN
Transcription
Standing Committee on Improvements Implementation meeting
Tuesday 05 August 2014 at 19:00 UTC**

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<http://audio.icann.org/gnso/gnso-sci-20140805-en.mp3>

Attendees:

Ronald Andruff – Commercial and Business Users Constituency – Primary – Chair
Angie Graves - Commercial and Business Users Constituency – Alternate
Greg Shatan – IPC - Alternate
Anne Aikman Scalese – IPC - Primary
Jennifer Standiford - Registrar Stakeholder Group - Primary
Amr Elsadr – NCUC Alternate
Avri Doria – NCSG – Primary
Wolf-Ulrich Knoblen – ISPCP - Primary

Apologies:

Thomas Rickert: NOMCOM - Alternate

ICANN Staff:

Julie Hedlund
Mary Wong
Nathalie Peregrine

Holly operator: Recordings have begun.

Nathalie Peregrine: Thank you very much, Holly. Good morning/good afternoon/good evening everybody and welcome to the SCI all on the fifth of August 2014. On the call today, we have Jennifer Standiford, Greg Shatan and Angie Graves, Ron

Andruff, Amr Elsadr, Anne Aikman- Scalse, Wolf-Ulrich Knob, and Avri Doria. We have received no apologies today's call. From staff, we have Julie Hedlund, Mary Wong, and myself Nathalie Peregrine. I'd like to remind you all to please state your names before speaking for transcription purposes. Thank you very much and over to you, Ron.

Ron Andruff: Thank you, Nathalie and welcome, again, everyone. Very happy to have this turnout as we are in August so I appreciate you getting on the call. We have a very light agenda today and so I'm very pleased with that. Greg was able to send around his last Tweets as he put it in his e-mail with regard to the voting outside of a council meeting. So before we jump into that, let's just note has anyone made any changes to the statements of interest since we've last met? Hearing none, we'll move forward then and start with our discussion on finalizing electronic voting language today.

So Mary had circulated the revised or the updated document from our last call and then Greg saw a couple of things he wanted to weigh in on. So, Greg, why don't I turn this over to you to inform the group to - as to what changes and modifications that you made. Greg.

Greg Shathan: Sure. Thank you. Greg Shathan for the record. You know, looking at the latest version which is posted in the Adobe Connect, changes I made, first, you know, were in the title which said E-mail Voting. But this is, you know, broader or at least vaguer than that since it doesn't make reference to e-mail at any point in the rule itself and only one reference to electronic meeting. So changed it to voting outside a council meeting.

And then, the next change I made was, you know, throughout to try to number this so that it could, you know, be dropped directly into the operating procedures with the sections - appropriate sections and sub-sections and looking at the operating procedures it seemed that Section 4.5 which I think falls just before or just after absentee voting would be the right place for the - this section to be. And since this section needs some kind of a title, I - you

know, a title that voting outside a meeting since that seems to be, again, what the subject matter is here even though we refer to electronic voting out of the title for the first sub-section of applicability.

And then in the second bullet point, just added a few words to kind of clarify the pregnant statement in that second bullet point. Section 4.5.2 - gave that a title as well. And I thought that the - which should normally be by electronic means really should be in the section on guidelines or for voting and not the section on determining whether or not one could take a vote outside a meeting.

So move that - deleted the language here but put it in later on. Then there really were no changes to the substance of that sub-section although I did think about whether the last bullet point really belongs in guidelines for voting outside the meeting as opposed to determining whether you - one can vote outside the meeting. But I figure we just need to get this done so I'm not going to - decided not to make any major structural changes. Then, you know, the next section titled that guideline for voting outside the meeting.

So this is, you know, once we've decided that meeting - that vote will take place outside a meeting, how does one proceed? And this is all, you know, very high-level. It doesn't really say how it should actually take place, just what parameters should be - the message should meet. So, again, here, 4.5.3.2 is where I put in the sentence that voting outside the meeting should normally be by electronic means. There's really no mention here of remote voting per se, although that is mentioned in some of the - in some of our discussions and is in kind of the title of the document as it's saved in Word but not in the document itself.

So I don't know if we intended to say something about remote voting or we're just kind of using that term as a shorthand for voting outside a council meeting. And then there really - the only other changes I made after that other than kind of numbering the section I call the - I call this last section

eligibility and added a few words that I thought clarified the meaning of that last sentence. And my only other point kind of touching back on things is, you know, we talked about electronic voting once.

We never actually referred to e-mail voting. The section on absentee ballot doesn't - refers to voting by e-mail or web interface or phone or whatever, you know, technology, you know, is best - best meets the needs of the group that's available at that - at a given time. So I assume, you know, we're trying to keep this high-level so that the GNSO council has maximum flexibility to denote something. And this is, you know, not intended to be kind of a nuts and bolts handbook.

And so I'm happy with this level of - or lack of specificity. But do not that if anybody was expecting, they're going to get a rule on e-mail voting as such, this is - well it certainly allows for e-mail voting; it's not a rule that talks about how one goes about doing e-mail voting. Thank you.

Ron Andruff: Thank you very much, Greg. Excellent work and thank you for the explanation. So the floor is open to any community members to bring their thoughts.

Greg Shathan: I stunned you all into silence.

Ron Andruff: Of course, (unintelligible) would be the first to step up. (Amer), please.

(Amer): Oh, thanks Ron, thanks Greg. This is (Amer). Just to add to what Greg said, I would - from reading this text, I would assume that if the GNSO chooses to use e-mail voting as the method of voting outside of the council meeting, then the only guideline - because Greg did accurately, I think, put it - saying that there are no guidelines on how to perform e-mail voting. But the guidelines in Section 4.5.3.1 would exclude the possibility of a secret ballot and that is something that could apply to e-mail voting.

I just figured I'd just put that in. Thanks.

Ron Andruff: Thank you, (Amer). Some others have some thoughts. While we're waiting, maybe I'll make a comment myself. I think that you may - you brought up two distinctions that perhaps we as a committee want to just clarify -- remote voting or outside of a council meeting voting. Can I see a show of check marks as to - and I'll try to frame this right - I prefer - and this is what you're saying - I prefer the terminology remote voting.

So can I see check marks to see who prefers remote voting and a red mark - red X to say outside of a council meeting. Okay, I'm seeing a number of checks. Angie, (unintelligible), I don't know if you can weigh in or Jennifer. Point being is I just want to clarify that word again. And it seems that the idea here is we would prefer outside of a council meeting language as oppose to remote voting because it's obvious it's a - you're voting not in a council meeting, but I think outside of a council meeting is broad enough it captures the story.

Does anyone have disagreements with that - that we move to outside of a council meeting? If so, please let me know by raising your hand and we'll give you the floor. All right, so, I think we'll go with outside of a council meeting then, Greg. The only thing in that headline - the other thing that caught me, it says GNSO SCI - Voting Outside of a Council Meeting. Mary, maybe you put that in as just - as a clarification.

This is an SCI recommendation or - I'm not sure where SCI actually fits in this if, in fact, it really is a GNSO council issue.

Mary Wong: Yes, Ron; this is Mary. Yes, that was just a title that carried over from way back when draft number 1 - whenever that was. So, clearly, we'll clean those up and properly title it in accordance with the finalized recommendations before sending it out for public comment and so forth.

Ron Andruff: Thanks, Mary. (Aubrey), I see a question in the chat. What I was speaking to was this has been described at some point as remote voting and other times - and Greg has looked at that and suggested that we might want to call it outside of a council meeting voting. So that's what we were discussing. So please take the mic if you'd like to speak and - on that particular issue. All right, so that was the first one. And then the second one, we - Greg brought up the comment that we refer to this as electronic versus e-mail voting and there's one - I think only one reference to it in the document. Does it matter to us if it's electronic or e-mail? So that is the question I would like to understand. And (Aubrey), I'm seeing you in the chat, in fact, yes, I got that.

The cross or the check mark - I didn't really clarify myself very well to - I got your answer. And, indeed, I think you would agree with that. (Amer) (unintelligible) remote voting also apply to both conducted during regular GNSO council meeting calls. And so, that's the question. Do we want to call it remote voting or do we want to call it outside of the council meeting? I think we've all more or less agreed that we're going to go with outside of a council meeting, unless you have a strong reason to sway the group.

Okay, hearing nothing then from other - so we clarified that outside of a council meeting. Now, the question is electronic versus e-mail - how do you feel about that? Should we refer to this as e-mail voting or should we refer to this as electronic voting? One might say that refer to it as electronic voting it kind of allows for whatever might come up in the future in terms of this type of a voting system that might - that the council may choose to use or we continue to leave it as e-mail.

So the floor is open to discuss that. I see (Anne) and (Jennifer) coming in saying electronic is preferred. And (Amer) - so let's just do this again just for clarity's sake. We'll put check marks if we agree with electronic. Okay, check marks for electronic versus - very good; excellent. So we across the board, all in agreement on that. Good.

So if we could just clarify those two points on the final document that'll be fine. Does anyone have any other issues with the language that Greg has added or modified because we left the last call with an agreement that we would - that we were more or less satisfied. We were going to look at a clean draft - a clean draft came out.

Greg made some modifications. If everyone is satisfied with this, then we will turn it back to staff to clean up and send out for consensus. Mary, please go ahead.

Mary Wong: Thanks, Ron and thank you Greg for taking the draft and cleaning it up and improving it. I just wanted to draw everyone's attention again to the - I guess, the interaction of absentee voting, which in this document is, I think, now - I'm going to go down - 4.5.5 - oh no, actually - right. And that's the - what's now called eligibility.

And two things -- one is question as to - especially for those who haven't been reading the document the same way that the sub-group drafting has - is this officially clear to indicate that for those kinds of council votes that permit absentee voting, this section doesn't apply. Many of us answered yes because we're, you know, been working this document for a while. The reason I ask is because, you know, I ran this document by a couple of colleagues and both times I got is this what this means as a question back.

So I thought I should bring this back to the group to see if you thought this was clear enough. I mean, the folks who asked me obviously they thought they knew what it meant and they both, you know, had that same meaning but I thought I should bring it up. I had another point of clarification as well and I think this goes back to an earlier discussion, Ron, where it was pretty clear, I think that the sub-group recommended that absentee ballot-type voting should be outside these procedures.

So this is just a reminder that the actual special meeting that was called - that occasion - the council to refer this as the SCI was actually to deal with the PDP recommendation. I'm not using that for a reason for us to reopen it, but simply just to highlight it to folks' attention because when this goes back to the council, clearly I think we can expect some question about that. But if we're comfortable of these recommendations, we can certainly explain that.

But again, as with the clarity issue, I thought I should bring this up to the group. Thanks, Ron.

Ron Andruff: Mary, thanks for that. I would suggest that, you know, our cover letter that we send over to the chair of the council that we might just put a few words of clarification in there and then say, obviously, we welcome any discussion you'd like to have about it. But maybe we can just kind of pre-empt that - or not pre-empt it but give them a little bit more background in that cover note. Would that be okay?

Mary Wong: Yes. No, that was absolutely okay. You know, I just didn't want to drop it and then sort of come and surprise everybody right before we go to the council with it. But I think that's a great way to deal with it, Ron. Thanks.

Ron Andruff: Good. Okay, excellent. And - all right then. I - so for where we are right now at this stage in the game, if everyone's in agreement - then we'll - I would direct staff to give us a clean - a copy in the form of a consensus call and we can move forward with this and all of the other documents that we've been collecting. I think council would be very happy to receive all of these pieces of work that we've done and I think that would be the next step forward.

Does anyone have any disagreements with that? All right, hearing none, then that would mean that we've completed the work for this meeting. And we now come to the next element which is next step - next meeting. I'm not quite sure but I'm going to look to Mary and Julie to ask what's happened next vis-à-vis on our work list. I think we might've checked everything off that was pressing.

And we have a mandate in our charter that tells us that we should be reviewing certain things from time to time. So, I'm wondering if we might ask staff to come back to us with some of the things that we've looked at as long as a year or so ago. I don't remember off the top of my head, but perhaps (Aubrey) might. There was something that we spoke about at one point early on or even (unintelligible). We spoke about looking at something that wasn't quite working very well. We decided to leave our hands off of it and just see if it works itself out over the course of a year.

And I think that's been more - much more than a year now. And we haven't heard any complaints or issues about that. So those types of things that are out there that we under - by charter, are supposed to review from time to time or we have the right to review from time to time. I think we might want to go back and look and see what that looks like. Mary or Julie, Wolf, (Aubrey) - do you have any thoughts on that - some of those things that we looked at way back when and have not looked at now currently?

The floor is open. Mary, please go ahead.

Mary Wong: Hi, Ron. So actually, I'm asking Julie a question. She might be in a better position to answer but I think our recollection is that there is no specific item. Although of course we can always go back and look at some of the things that were discussed but not actually pushed towards an action item. The other piece of this is that there is some discussion at council-level. And (Aubrey) and (Amer) will probably be aware of this that there may be certain things that the council will be looking at sending to the SCI.

But that probably will not happen for a while, in part, because of what (Aubrey)'s noted of where we are. So depending on whether there are early items left over that, like I said, did not proceed to an action item, it may be that, you know, the action for the SCI may not take place for a little bit until

the council comes back with other requests or unless the SCI has something else that it believes requires looking at.

Ron Andruff: Thanks, Mary. So then, what I'll suggest, like (Aubrey) says, like the congressmen of the U.S. will - go on summer break, I agree. This community's worked very hard and diligently to come up with these elements that we've worked through and I'm very appreciative of that. And now we do have the summer so let's all take a break. But what I would suggest is that perhaps you can have the Vice-Chair and myself and staff kind of go back and look at the charter and consider the - what issues that the SCI might want to take up.

And we'll bring it back to the committee on the list in some weeks for everyone to look at and determine whether or not these elements might make sense or not because we have been tasked to go back and look at elements within the GNSO operating procedures from time to time. And so maybe that's something we might be able to take on now considering where we're at. Please, go ahead Wolf-Ulrich.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Wolf-Ulrich speaking but I don't have access to Internet at the time being. So no Adobe contact. But it comes to my mind when I look - looking back, this regards to election procedures. We have with regards to Vice-Chairs and also Board seats number 14.

Ron Andruff: Are you - sorry Wolf-Ulrich - you referring to GNSO council elections or SCI elections?

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: No, council.

Ron Andruff: Oh, thank you.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: I'm referring to the general procedures. You know, and this refers to the council election - council Vice-Chair election and also a Board seats

elections. So if I'm correct on - so in the procedures, it says - made reference to kind of charter of the houses or the different constituencies which should be added or kind of procedure of that. If I'm not wrong - it should be, if available, add it to the change of procedures. And that's what I was looking for and could not find.

So if I do not have the procedures in front of me, but I think - so the process of the election process is, as you know and all of you know, is very well - (unintelligible) say that that way. So the - maybe you should look at this. It says connection to the change of procedures and something which could be done in that way. So it's - that's an idea from my side too because I was looking to that period election period and it's just some reference made into procedures.

And I think I'd say something. It could pick up because I think you would - I'm not real clear on that at the time being but it came to my mind right now. Thanks.

Ron Andruff: Thank you, Wolf-Ulrich. That's very helpful. Indeed, that is something that certainly can be improved and I think that's something this committee might want to take on. Mary, I see your hand is up. Please go ahead.

Mary Wong: Yes, thank you, Ron and thank you Wolf-Ulrich. You're right that that is one issue that had been noted previously and I will need to go and check with (Morica) as to where the status is on that. I think, the gap or the lack of specificity if you like arose because there was change to account number of the bylaws of the operating procedures and they were not done in tandem. So the point is that one or both of issues that (unintelligible) has been noted - I just don't know if work has been done elsewhere on this.

So I suggest that some staff go back and we'll consult with (Morica) and others who are more on top of this issue from whenever that was. And Ron, you had suggested getting together to maybe identify some issues. We can

bring that back to you and (Sintra) and (Aubrey) to just - first of all, let you know where the status is and whether or not this is something the SCI needs to do because it's not already being done for example.

Ron Andruff: Excellent. That's - this is exactly the kinds of things that we can look at and they do need to be looked at, as we all know this is really - been a very tricky one. Both the device chairs as well for the GNSO conference (unintelligible) board seats. So I fully agree. All right, with that, then, ladies and gentlemen, we have covered the work for today. If there are any thoughts anyone would like to add before we close this call, with regard to this call - the discussion between the chairs and the (unintelligible), Mary, we can pick that up later.

But I'm just thinking it's probably after the Labor Day Weekend in that - perhaps the second week of September - like the week of the 8th I think it starts. So if we could kind of maybe flag that as a tentative date. Also for (Aubrey) and (Sintra)'s point of view, maybe you could let us know if that's going to work also on the list or off the list - whichever. So with that, Mary, please go ahead.

Mary Wong: Just a small point, Ron, and I think those dates will work. What we'll do as staff as well is to - you know, let me step back. The application period if you like for slots at the LA meeting is going to open soon. So what we can do is put in an application for a slot because as you all know, it's easier to not use your slot than to beg for a slot at the last minute. So...

Ron Andruff: Agreed.

Mary Wong: ...just to let you guys know that we'll plan on doing that.

Ron Andruff: Great. Excellent. All right then. I see (Anne)'s hand has been raise. Please, go ahead, (Anne).

(Anne): I got - I didn't - I'm not sure what happened with that. I didn't intend to raise it. Sorry.

Ron Andruff: Well, you've been technically challenged today. All good, all good. All right, then, folks, I would like to thank everyone for getting on the call. This actually historic; it's been very rare we've been able to get on the call and finish it up with 30 minutes to spare. But I'm sure you will all use it wisely. And so with that, then I will draw this meeting to a close as my banks. And best wishes for the rest of the summer to all of you.

And we can stop the recording and thank you all. Bye for now.

Woman: Thanks, Ron.

Man: Thanks, Ron.

Man: Thanks, bye.

Woman: Thanks Ron, thanks everybody. Talk to you soon.

Man: Bye everyone.

Woman: Thank you, Holly. You may now stop the recording; thanks.

END