
ICANN Transcription

GNSO Standing Selection Committee

Tuesday, 07 December 2021 at 19:00 UTC

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DEVAN REED:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. Welcome to the GNSO Standing Selection Committee call on Tuesday, the 7th of December 2021.

In the interest of time, there will be no roll call. Attendance will be taken by the Zoom Room. We have list apologies from Paul McGrady and Alan Woods.

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. As a reminder, those who take part in the ICANN multistakeholder process are to comply with the Expected Standards of Behavior. With this, I'll turn it over to Emily. Please begin.

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.

EMILY BARABAS:

Thanks, Devan. Hi, everyone. This is Emily Barabas from Policy support staff. Typically, it's not a staff member who's going to be running these calls. But since we're kicking things off for the season in our leadership team from last year, both members of the leadership team have termed out, staff will be doing the intros on this call and going over some background material up until when we select the leadership team. And then from that point on, it will obviously be our chair who will be doing the leading.

So the purpose of this call is really a few things. The first thing is to just go over some of the background about what the SSC does and how it works because we have quite a few new members this year. Some folks who are coming back on have actually previously been in the SSC, so it's great that we can draw on their experience as well. But this can serve as a refresher, hopefully, for those who have been away and are coming back. So good to see you again. If it would be nice to do so, we can also do a round of brief introductions, just so we all know who we're speaking to. It's nice when things are fully remote to be able to do that.

We'll talk a little bit about seeing if there are volunteers for the chair position. I'll also note that Peter support and mentioned his interest in the vice chair position, but we can see if anyone else is interested as well.

Then we'll briefly talk about an assignment that the Council has just given to the SSC. That won't start immediately but an Expression of Interest process has just opened, and so the

selection process will start in a couple of weeks. So we'll do a little bit of background and talk about some next steps on that as well.

Any questions about the agenda before we dive in? Okay. Are there any objections to doing a brief round of introductions? I'm happy to kick it off. I don't see any objections. We can keep it short.

My name is Emily Barabas. I've worked with some of you on various policy projects with the GNSO. I've been working for ICANN for about five years now on the Policy Support team, working with community members on a number of different PDPs. I have also been supporting the Standing Selection Committee since it got started as a pilot a few years back. So hopefully, that will allow me to draw on some of the history if there are questions about how processes have been done in the past and so forth. I'm based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and originally from the U.S.

Shall I pass it on to Julie or other support staff person and then maybe we can just ask folks to raise their hands if they're willing to speak up? Thanks.

JULIE HEDLUND:

Thanks, Emily. This is Julie Hedlund, also from staff. I'm happy to be supporting all of you on the SSC. With Emily, I've been supporting the SSC pretty much since its beginning, I believe. I've been a member of the Policy Development support staff for around 11 years now. So I have a fair amount of history with the organization. I am based in Arlington, Virginia in the U.S., that's near Washington, D.C. And again, I look forward to working with

all of you. Thanks so much. Maybe over to Devan, if you want to say a few words. Thanks.

DEVAN REED: Sure. I am Devan Reed. I'm located in Illinois towards the Iowa side, in the middle of basically nowhere, a small town. I have been supporting a large variety of calls for ICANN since I started in March of this year. I'm not sure who to pass it to next.

SAM LANFRANCO: I guess I can go—

EMILY BARABAS: Yeah. Osvaldo, please go ahead, or Sam. Anyone, go ahead.

SAM LANFRANCO: Okay. I didn't get my hand up. Sam Lanfranco. I'm here because I'm in NCSG. I'm a development economist. I've worked with the Internet and computers since the very beginning, since IBM mainframes. I have served on this committee before so I have some expertise. I'm living in Canada. Recently, I've just become the president of a new organization called the Internet integrity Task Force, whether we will fly or crash is yet to be seen. It's modeled on the Internet Engineering Task Force in terms of internal structures and dynamics. I look forward to our work and getting it done.

OSVALDO NOVOA: Hello, this is Osvaldo. May I speak?

EMILY BARABAS: Please do.

OSVALDO NOVOA: Okay. I'm Osvaldo Novoa. I'm here representing the ISPCP. This is my second consecutive term in the SSC. I work in one telecommunication company in Uruguay, South America, ANTEL. I've been working here for many years. Right now I'm in the commercial and relationship area, used to be in the technical area. Thank you

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Osvaldo. Q Misell, please, if I'm pronouncing correctly. If I'm not, please correct me.

Q MISELL: Almost correct. For those wondering, yes, my first name is just one letter. Long story. Q Misell from Aberdeen, Scotland. It's very cold up here at the moment. I'm here for the RrSG. I'm very much the new kid on the block as it were. I've only been involved in domains and ICANN stuff for maybe two years now. So this is all very new to me, but happy to help and happy to learn.

EMILY BARABAS: Okay. Thank you. Who else is on the list here? Can I cold call on you, Tomslin, as our ex officio?

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: Yes, you can, Emily. I was hoping to be the last one. I am Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Council vice chair from the Non-Contracted Party House. I'm here as an ex officio member representing the GNSO Council leadership. Yes. That's all I have. Thanks.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Tomslin. And just to give everyone a little bit of context, for the last couple of years now, we've had a member from Council to sort of maintain that link between Council and the SSC in case there's any guidance that Council wants to provide, or messages that the SSC needs to deliver to Council or questions and so forth. So that's worked really well in the past and we're very grateful for Tomslin to serve in that role. I'm going to probably do a bad job with names so I'll just keep going down the list if that's okay in order. Arinola? And if you're not in a position to speak, that's okay, too, of course. Okay, Olévié, are you able to speak?

OLÉVIÉ KOUAMI: Hello. Yes. Good evening, good morning, everybody. Are you hearing me?

EMILY BARABAS: Yes, we are. Thank you. Would you like to just say a few words about the group you represent and anything else you'd like to share?

OLÉVIÉ KOUAMI: To share what, please?

EMILY BARABAS: Oh, just who you are, why you're here, that sort of thing.

OLÉVIÉ KOUAMI: Okay. Yes. I'm representing the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. I'm a member of NPOC since January 2013. I have worked for many working groups with the GNSO. I'm glad to be a member of the SSC team. Thank you.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks very much. Who am I missing? Peter, are you able to speak?

TAIWO PETER AKINREMI: Yeah. Can you hear me?

EMILY BARABAS: Yes. Loud and clear.

TAIWO PETER AKINREMI: Yeah, wonderful. Thanks, Emily. Thanks for the excellent support, as well as the ICANN staff. I'm Peter Akinremi. I'm from Nigeria. [Inaudible], actually. I represent the NCSG on this call. I'm a vice chair, vice PC of NCSG as well. In my professional life, I'm an IT

risk specialist and data protection, so that's what's I'm likely focused on. I guess this is my second year with this group, and I'm happy to contribute. It's nice meeting everyone there. I could see Tomslin, Sam, and those ones that I worked with. Okay. So I return the mic.

EMILY BARABAS: Okay. Thanks very much. Arinola, are you on? If not, just put your hand up any time you are. Oh, I see your mic open. Please go ahead.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI: Yeah, good day, everyone. My name is Arinola Akinyemi. I am representing the Business Constituency. I have been with the ICANN since 2015. I currently serve on the NomCom Review Implementation Working Group. I hope to learn and also contribute to the discussion here.

EMILY BARABAS: Great. Thank you. Did I miss anyone? I think that that's everyone on the call currently. We have a couple of members who are not able to attend. I'll mention also that the IPC has not yet been able to identify a member for this coming year. So we do have one empty seat at this time but they're working on it so it's coming.

So I think what we'll do next is touch on a few highlights from the charter and this document that provides a standard process for what the SSC does, with a focus on the way things normally seem to have gone with these processes in the past so that you get a

little bit of a feel for what you're being asked to do here. So I'm going to switch over to some slides. These are also available on the wiki, if it's helpful, but they're just mostly excerpts from the charter.

So what does the SSC do? The GNSO Council will task the SSC with at times actually preparing calls for applications related to certain positions for structures like review teams or positions related to the Empowered Community. That's pretty uncommon, actually. The SSC will actually run a call for volunteers. More often what happens is that the GNSO Council will run a call for volunteers, and then give a list of candidates and some evaluation criteria to the SSC to complete the selection process. That's much more common. The SSC then reviews and evaluates the applications and candidates, ranks them, and makes recommendations to the Council for review, and then communicates any outcomes of the decisions.

The SSC has representation from all the SGs and Cs. So one member from each stakeholder group of the Contracted Party House, one member from the BC, IPC, and ISPCP, three members from the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, one person who's one of the three Nominating Committee appointees on the GNSO Council, and they just decide among themselves which one of them will be the representative or they can choose none. But in this case, they did choose someone, it's Paul McGrady. Then, as we discussed earlier, there's a non-voting member from the Council to keep that link between Council and the SSC.

Just a quick note about absences and recusal. If you're going to miss a meeting, that's not a problem. No decision will be made on a call without an opportunity for you to also weigh in on the mailing list. So please don't worry about that. But if you're going to be gone for a long period of time and it's a moment when SSC is active, you will be asked to identify an alternate who can serve in your place, and that will need to be confirmed by your SG or C leadership. Similarly, if you're a candidate for a selection process that the SSC has been asked to complete, you're also expected to recuse yourself from the process and find an alternate.

In terms of the cadence of how the SSC works, a lot of times, there's nothing to do for the SSC, which is great. That makes it easy for you. But when there is an assignment, there will likely be a series of meetings so that the SSC can complete the work for that assignment. So there may be a case where something comes up quite quickly, and then there may be a series of meetings over a few weeks. But there may be periods of months where there's nothing at all for the group to do. So just to give you a sense of what that looks like. Usually, over the last few years, there's been maybe on average of about three selection processes per year. So it's not generally a very heavy lift.

In terms of decision making, the SSC runs by full consensus, which means everyone needs to agree on a recommendation. And if the SSC cannot make a full consensus recommendation, the task is to explain to the Council exactly what the SSC is able to agree to, the level of support and any reasoning behind why they weren't able to come up with a recommendation and put that forward to Council for further action. But generally speaking, the

SSC has been able to reach full consensus in the past. The way we typically do that is for the group to sort of come to a preliminary agreement on a call. Then the consensus call happens over the mailing list by non-objection, and that's generally worked pretty well in the past.

This one is pretty important. This is about transparency. So the SSC works on a model of transparency by default. That means that names of all the applicants for a given position and all of the documents that they submit are generally published on the wiki. There's usually a transparency notice associated with those application processes that explain how the information will be used. So it's not a surprise to them either. So that's the default. Also, by default, SSC meetings are recorded. There are meeting notes. The mailing list archives are also public. So please do be aware of that.

If there's some reason that the SSC feels strongly that some of its deliberations need to be private or certain documents need to be kept confidential, there is a separate wiki space that has a login associated with it. So we can use that wiki space if we need to. And again, deliberations can be private, if necessary, but the SSC will need to provide a rationale for why it needs to do that and provide that to Council, and that's on an exceptional basis.

Any questions about that? That one's kind of important just because sometimes people can feel a little bit sensitive about providing feedback about candidates and things like that. No? Okay.

Then there's a document linked from the agenda that provides an overview of the selection process as it was sort of envisioned from the beginning. This is a brief summary that just sort of looks at practically what the process typically looks like. So as I mentioned, typically, it'll be the GNSO Council that will develop an expression of interest process for our position. It'll launch that Expression of Interest process and give the selection task to the SSC.

There will be a wiki page set up for each assignment and that will provide all the background materials, the timeline, and once available, the list of candidates with all their application materials. Staff will take care of confirming the affiliation stated by the candidate. So for example, if a candidate says, "I'm a member of NCSG," we'll go ahead and just make sure that they are actually a member of the NCSG, if that's applicable to the process.

The SSC will typically have a meeting in the beginning to review the assignment, look at the evaluation criteria as handed down by the Council, make sure everything is understood and there are no questions.

Typically, also then SSC members will fill out a poll or a sort of a survey individually to help them organize their thoughts about the candidates based on the Expression of Interest materials. What we'll do as staff is to do a first draft of that survey so that everyone can review the format and the questions and make sure that that works for them before we open the poll to actually fill out. If everyone's comfortable with it, they'll fill out the poll, have about a week to do that, typically. Then the SSC will meet to review the poll results that folks did individually. It's not a vote. It's really just to sort of make sure that everyone has an opportunity to provide

their input and feedback, and also make sure there's something to look at and to talk about so that all voices are heard.

The group will deliberate on the candidates, come to a preliminary agreement, ranking the candidates. And then, as I mentioned, typically consensus calls are held over the mailing list by non-objection. And then the SSC will submit its recommendations to the GNSO Council, and the Council will vote on that at the next Council meeting. The SSC will also via staff notify candidates if the SSC has recommended them or has not.

So those are the highlights of process. Are there any questions about what that looks like? As I mentioned, it's typically two to three meetings per selection process. I see a couple of thumbs up, that's good. So take a look at the charter, take a look at the Standard Selection Process document. You can always share questions either directly with staff or by the mailing list. We're here to help and support all of you. So please do take a look at that.

If there's nothing else on that, then I think the next thing we'll do is, coming back to the agenda, we'll talk a little bit about the chair and vice chair position. So just as the work of the SSC kind of comes in brief waves, a few times a year, typically, that's the same for the chair and vice chair. So it's not a sustained all your commitment. You get lots of support from staff in helping you do the leadership tasks. So this is actually a really nice position to volunteer for if you're interested in being sort of a new leader in an ICANN group. We certainly need your insight and your leadership but to the extent that you're interested in trying something new, you're more than welcome. Or if you're a seasoned individual in

the ICANN community, you're obviously more than welcome as well.

I know that Peter has mentioned on the mailing list that he's interested in the vice chair role. But I'm wondering if we have any other volunteers who want to step in either as chair or who also want to express interest in the vice chair role. We'll also take, of course, any questions about those leadership roles if you're interested. Sam, did you want to speak?

SAM LANFRANCO: Yes. I just want to say that I have a growing workload so I will not be a candidate.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Sam. Olévié, please.

OLÉVIÉ KOUAMI: Yes. Thank you. My question is about the case when a member of SSC is also a candidate. What happens exactly? Is it possible?

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks for the question. As mentioned on one of the slides here, I can come back to it, but I'll just briefly summarize. In general, it's not a problem to be an SSC member and also be a candidate. You just need to recuse yourself for that specific process. So you need to find an alternate for that particular selection process. But even if you're the chair of the group and you're a candidate, the vice chair can step in and chair the calls for that selection process

and you can have an alternate come in and step in just for that process or for those three calls or whatever, and then you'll come back in. Does that answer the question? Sure thing.

So do we have any volunteers for chair? I don't see anyone stepping up right at the moment. I think what we'll do then is perhaps take this to the mailing list and see—ah, wonderful. I think we have a volunteer then. Arinola, do you want to say anything? Just put your hand forward and we can—Tomslin is clapping. Feel free to say something if you'd like or not.

ARINOLA AKINYEMI:

Okay. Thank you. Though I'm new on the SSC but I believe that the workload here is quite familiar. Since no one is stepping forward, I'd like to take challenges. So I believe working with everybody, I should be able to do that successfully. Having chaired the Credentials Committee on the Business Constituency, I believe I will be able to. I'm trusting that everybody will work with me.

EMILY BARABAS:

I trust that, too. We're seeing lots of support in the chat, which is great. Thank you both, Arinola and Peter, for stepping forward. I think what we'll do, just because we don't have everyone on the call, what we can do is just send a follow-up note to the mailing list and just say, "If you have any comments, please provide them within, let's say, two days, 48 hours." And if no one speaks up, then we have a leadership team. We'll pass that on to Council and they'll confirm it in their next meeting. Does that work for

everyone? Fantastic. Okay. Seeing no objections, we will then move on.

The next thing we're going to do is just give a little bit of background on the next assignment coming up. So I will share screen again. Okay. Let me also share this wiki page with you. This is the assignment page for the upcoming assignment. It's for the GNSO appointed mentor for the ICANN Fellowship program. This is something that's been happening every year for a few years now. There's each of the community groups, so a total of seven individuals, are nominated each year to serve as mentors in the Fellowship program. So the idea here is that the Council has just opened today and Expression of Interest process on the GNSO website. The EOI will close on December 22. So that's the deadline for applications. Then what we've done on the staff side is just roughly sketch out what a timeline can look like for this process. So as we mentioned, we can run that sort of individual poll that's typically done right after the EOI closes, and then set up a meeting for early January. ICANN's offices will close around the holidays. And I'm sure some of you will also be away from computer, which is a welcome break, I think, at the end of the year. So we'll set up a time in early January in which the group can go over the poll results and finish up that selection process. The goal is to have a recommendation by the 20th of January Council meeting.

I'm not going to go through all of the details of this assignment but I think what I'll do is just encourage everyone to look at the EOI linked here on the GNSO website. Take a look at the background, and especially the responsibilities, skills and experience, and

desired attributes that are listed in the Expression of Interest because that will be the criteria that the group will use to evaluate the candidates.

What we've done is prepared sort of a draft survey. I'm going to drop it here and it will also be in the notes. This is in preview mode so you're not you're not actually doing a survey, but you can click through it and see how it's formatted. It's based on the format we used last year. What we'll ask you to do is take a look at that and make sure that it works for you and that the format is okay and it's set up in a way that makes sense. If there's any concerns, you can share them on the mailing list, say, within a week. And we can make adjustments as necessary to the format of the survey. Then we'll go ahead and actually open it once we have the names of the candidates.

Are there any questions about this? Is it helpful to actually run through it? I don't want to sit here reading to you for a long period of time, if that's not necessary, when you can all look at this in your in your own time. But of course, if you have questions about the criteria, we can certainly either address those over the mailing list or discuss further on another call if it's needed. Any questions? Okay. Does that plan sound okay for everyone in terms of the timeline for the assignment? Does it seem reasonable? It's more or less based on what we've seen being workable for folks in the past. So, hopefully, it's not too much of a stretch, given the holidays. But we'll, as I mentioned, take a break towards the end of December and early January and everyone will have some time to work on that poll in their own time between the end of December and early January. Okay. No objections, quiet bunch.

Okay. So what we'll do is we'll send a follow-up then, again, reminding everyone with the notes to take a look at that survey. We'll send a follow-up about confirming the leadership team. We'll send around a Doodle poll to get a call scheduled for early January. And is there anything else that folks want to discuss under Any Other Business for this call? Tomslin, please.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: I just have a question regarding the polling. I think I remember you saying that the poll is not voting on the candidates. I'm looking at the preview poll right now for the Fellowship program mentor, and wondering how this translates to the scoring of the candidates. Is there like a backend that aggregates this and scores them? That's the question I have. Thanks.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Tomslin. Yeah, it's a good question. The poll is not going to be a vote in that everyone gets a score and that's the answer and that's the consensus recommendation of the group. But we are using Survey Monkey for the polls, and Survey Monkey does have functionality that will take into account. So in this draft poll, each member is asked to rank the candidates based on what the SSC member believes are their qualifications and how they match the Expression of Interest. Survey Monkey does have an algorithm that takes into account those rankings and sort of gives you an aggregate result. But the SSC and looking at that and reviewing it on the call can certainly move in a different direction from what the numbers say. It's really, the purpose of the poll is to make sure that everyone has a chance to comment, put their

thoughts on paper, and in their own mind think about the qualifications of the different candidates relative to one another. So there will be some little charts that are spit out by Survey Monkey but those don't need to dictate the results of what you recommend. There just needs to be a clear rationale for why the SSC has made the choice it's made. Does that make sense?

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: Yes, it does. Thanks.

EMILY BARABAS: Sure thing. Any other questions or comments that we should go over on this call? Okay. Then we will follow up with all of you on e-mail. Again, welcome to those who are new. And thanks to our volunteers for the leadership team. It's much appreciated. I know in these times, it's hard to step up and get extra time so it's great to have you on. So I'm looking forward to working with you all and please take care. Please follow your e-mail and make sure to weigh in on anything that we may send you in terms of follow-up questions. Thanks, everyone. Have a great morning, afternoon, or evening, wherever you may be. Take care.

DEVAN REED: Thank you all for joining. Once again, the meeting has adjourned. I'll end the recording and disconnect all remaining lines. Thanks.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]