
ICANN Transcription

GNSO Standing Selection Committee

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 20:00 UTC

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TERRI AGNEW:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, and welcome to the GNSO Standing Selection Committee call taking place on Tuesday, the 19th of March, 2024. We have no listed apologies at this time. 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 multi-stakeholder process are to comply with the Expected Standards of Behavior. With this, I'll turn the call back over to Karen Day. Please begin.

KAREN DAY:

Thank you, Terri, and good afternoon, good evening, good morning, everyone. I'm glad to be here, and let's just start off this new session of the SSC with some introductions. And while we're

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at it, if anyone has any updates to their statement of interest while we're going around, you can let us know about those at that time. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Karen Day, I am the Registry Stakeholder Group representative to the SSC. I work for a large multinational software company, SaaS software, and we are the registry operators for two dot brand TLDs.

I'm here on behalf of the registries, and looking forward to working with everyone here. And let's just go through the list. I'll just go through the attendees as I see them in order here. Starting with our two staff members in addition to Terri, as our secretariat, our two staff members here today, Julie and Saewon, would you like to?

JULIE HEDLUND:

Sure, yeah. Thanks, Karen. And welcome everyone. This is Julie Hedlund, and I'm a policy development staff. I'm based in Arlington, Virginia, and yes, the cherry blossoms are doing well, and they're going to go early this year for those of you who might be interested. And I've supported the SSC for probably five years or so, or at least well, as long as it's been in existence. So longer than that, I think, and happy to continue to do so. And thanks to Karen for volunteering as chair and for Segunfunmi for volunteering as vice chair. And again, welcome everyone. Saewon. I skipped over Terri. Terri.

TERRI AGNEW:

Oh, I don't mind, Saewon. Go ahead and go first.

SAEWON LEE: Sorry, but thank you Julie, and thank you Terry. Hi, my name's Saewon Lee. I'm here to support Julie and the team and obviously SSC so that all of you could have a smooth process during the year. I have joined ICANN newly as of December, so I'm still in my learning process. And again, I hope to do my best to support the team. One last note, I'm based off of Pittsburgh remotely and I'm tied to the Washington D.C. office. Thank you.

TERRI AGNEW: Hi everyone, I am Terri Agnew, policy team supporting the GNSO and I am policy operations specialist on the GNSO team. I am based in Illinois, and always happy to support. I am the one spamming your emails all the time, so you are welcome. And I'm gonna go ahead and pass the torch according to the SSC membership page. So Jothan, I'll throw it over to you.

JOTHAN FRAKES: Ah, okay. Thank you, Terri. What a great handoff. And I'll pick the next person somehow. Hi, I'm Jothan Frakes. This is my third term here with two gap years in between. So I'm somewhat familiar and I have the privilege of perhaps meeting many of you, but not yet, so I look forward to that through this process. I am the CEO of a very small registrar. I currently serve as the vice chair of tech ops for the Registrar Stakeholder Group, and I'm here representing the Registrar Stakeholder Groups inside of the GNSO Contracted Party House. And I now tag Desiree.

DESIREE MILOSHEVIC EVANS: Thank you, Jothan. Good evening, everyone. My name is Desiree Miloshevic, and I'm a NomCom appointee to the GNSO. Bit of an old ICANN participant, and I also participate in the registrar constituency when I consult for Name.com. So looking forward to working with everyone. I'm familiar with NomCom work, but not so much with the Standing Selection Committee, but I hope it will be equally fun. Thanks.

KAREN DAY: Okay, let's go to Bruna next.

BRUNA MARTINS DOS SANTOS: Hello. Hi everyone. I'm Bruna Santos, I'm a representative of the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group in the SSC, and also serving currently as a GNSO Council for the same group. And I'm based here in Berlin, which means no cherry blossom so far and still a little bit dark, but I cannot complain about the weather so far, and really looking forward to working with all of you. I think I'll hand it to Tomslin, if he's around still.

MESUMBE TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: Thanks, Bruna. I am around. I was hoping the members of SSC will finish before I come in, but nice to meet you all. I am here in my capacity as the GNSO Council Vice-Chair. I'm an ex-officer member to the SSC, so I'm not voting, just watching so I can report back to the council leadership. But yeah, I'm looking forward to this year of work with you all. I'll pass on to Remmy.

REMMY NWEKE: Okay, good evening once again, everyone. Thanks, firstly. My name is Remmy Nweke. I'm one of the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group appointees to the Standing Selection Committee for GNSO. I'm a consulting strategist with Digital DigitalSENSE Africa, a project of ITREALMS Media. We are actually an At-Large structure based in Lagos. I'm also on the Board of Trustees of Nigeria Internet Registration Association. I'm glad to be here, I hope to work with everyone. Thank you very much for having me. Thank you.

KAREN DAY: Thanks, Tomslin. Mike Rodenbaugh.

MIKE RODENBAUGH: Hey Karen. It's Mike Rodenbaugh, I am representing the Intellectual Property constituency. I am an attorney in Santa Cruz, California, small law firm. Been involved in ICANN for about 20 years. I sat on the GNSO Council prior to the last application round for four years. I was actually in the Business Constituency at that time. And currently I'm in various ICANN working groups and pretty active in the IPC. Looking forward to meeting some of you I've never met before and working with you all in this group. Thanks.

KAREN DAY: Thanks, Mike. And that leaves us with Segunfunmi, our esteemed by chair.

SEGUNFUNMI OLAJIDE: Hi everyone. My name is Segunfunmi Olajide, and I'm representing the Business Constituency. I'm also an experienced software developer and IT consultant based here in Nigeria. I'm happy to be here and I look forward to productive meetings and collaborations with every one of you. Thank you.

KAREN DAY: Thank you, and thank you for agreeing to back me up on this one, I appreciate it. With that and not hearing any need for expression of statement of interest updates, I'm gonna turn this over to Julie, who is gonna walk us through an overview of our charter and what we've got ahead for this year. Julie, go ahead.

JULIE HEDLUND: Thanks, Karen. This is Julie Hedlund from staff. And I'm just noting, Terri put in the chat, I think it's important to note that we have a few members who are not on today's call; Marie Pattullo, Christian Dawson. Marie is with BC, Christian Dawson is with the ISPCP, and Arsene Tungali with NCSG. So maybe when we have the next call, we'll peg them to make introductions.

So let me bring up next the charter of the SSC. And one second while I share my screen. I thought it would be helpful if we went through this so we all know what we're doing here, and then you can ask me any questions. And I'll ask Karen to help facilitate the discussion. All right. I hope you can all see that.

All right. The group was established in 2017, and the revised charter was approved in 2018, and there was another revision to the charter in 2022, and that's the charter we're working with now. And I hope that's big enough for you. Oh, there's a link in the agenda that we sent around if you want to follow along that way. We can also put a link in the chat. Let me just check and see if you need to watch the chat. Oh, I see the charter's right there on the chat. Thank you very much.

All right, so moving along through the charter. And stop me at any time if you have questions, and I'll ask Karen to keep an eye out for hands up. Let's see. So, mission, purpose, and deliverables. I'll just pause for a second, then you can take a look at that. I won't try to read every word of this. Really though, I think it's important to know that there are selection processes that are identified here in the charter, but the council can at any time determine to request the SSC to take on a selection process.

So just because something isn't listed here doesn't mean that we can't be asked to run a process. You may not know the SSC is essentially, well, it is a standing committee of the council, and as such then serves at the request of the council. And that's essentially what we say under the mission and scope here.

KAREN DAY:

Julie, just for our education, has council ever come up with anything sort of outside the list here that they've sent to SSC?

JULIE HEDLUND: Well, early on, yes. Karen, thanks. This is Julie again. That's a good question. So when the SSC was first established, I think the Empowered Community, the EC, did not exist. And I think one of the first tasks for the SSC after the Empowered Community was established, was making the selection for, I think the council representative on the SSC.

And I know there are other examples. Oh, for instance, last year we had the Customer Standing Committee, the CSC, determined that there could be alternates. They had members, but they had not had alternate members who could serve if somebody was not available. They decided to establish alternate members. So the GNSO had to then select an alternate member of the CSC. So that was a new process, and was then handed down to the SSC to take care of that process. So yes, it has happened in the past. I'm sure there are other examples that I just don't remember at this point.

KAREN DAY: Okay, thank you.

JULIE HEDLUND: Let me just move on down here. One thing of note in this mission and scope is that the SSC operates as full -- and you'll see this later in the decision-making process -- the SSC provides full consensus recommendations, that means that any recommendations must be agreed by all members. There cannot be dissenting opinions. And it's not happened to my memory, that the SSC has not agreed on a recommendation, I suppose it could,

and which case we probably would have to run the process again until there is agreement. Or if there's no agreement on any candidates for a selection, then I imagine we might have to go and run through the whole process again, including getting other candidates. But so far, that's not happened.

And you'll see that that's repeated under objectives and goals. And of course, the timeline is different for all these processes and we don't know necessarily when they will occur. I know there's probably going to be some sort of Customer Standing Committee process at some point this year probably, and I'm not sure of the timing of that.

Some of these other things that don't happen every year, certainly not. And the nominations for review teams, for example, are something that would happen sort of on a one-off basis.

So you'll see some of the usual selections processes here lays onto the GAC as the process we'll talk about today. And as I mentioned, the non registry liaison to the Customer Standing Committee; that's an important point, it's only the non registry liaison that the GNSO selects. The registry liaison is selected by the ccNSO, I believe.

Just moving on down here. So this is the membership you see here, and that's laid out in the Wiki as well. And I thought it was very helpful that you all introduced yourselves so we know who the various representatives are. And then in the last update of the charter, the section on recusal was added. And I'll note that there is a process that organizations would identify an alternate in case of recusal.

Oh, yes. And thank you, Saewon, for putting a link to the members in the chat. So the selection process we completed at the beginning of this year was necessarily, very time constrained because of various deadlines, and there was not time to appoint alternates, but normally we would have an alternate appointed. At the time, we didn't necessarily have a full slate of membership. So normally if a member has to recuse, we would allow and have time for that organization to appoint an alternate member to take that person's place. And just moving along on the chair.

Both the chair and the vice chair do participate, they're contributing members, unless, of course, they have to recuse if they're standing as a candidate. But they are to make clear what their roles are when they are participating. The term is one year, and members may not serve more than two consecutive terms [00:21:03 - inaudible].

And again, the SSC stands at the pleasure of the council. If there is no longer a need for the SSC, it would be dissolved. But there's continue to be a need for the SSC, so we don't anticipate that happening. The SSC may request the council review the term annually. It was last reviewed, as I noted, in 2022. If you feel that we need to run a review again this year, we certainly can do so.

And the processor doing so is for the SSC members to review the charter, suggest any changes. And those would be discussed over a meeting or two depending on how accepted they might be. And then once the SSC is agreed on changes, those would be put forward to the council for approval or confirmation, really, and I think that's usually a good agenda item. And that's just a role of staff.

And then, generally, the processes are transparent, so they reside on a wiki and it's public, and the information, the names of the candidates and so on are all public. But in some cases, we've been requested to keep these materials private. I think there's really only one case, I'm trying to think of the selection process, in which case there's a firewall and the information related to that candidacy is kept in a separate place on the wiki that can only be accessed by members of the SSC. But standard process is that it is all published publicly on the website. When I say website here, really it's the wiki.

And principles, I'll just pause here and let you look through this. While I'm pausing, are there any questions so far? I don't see anything, but I might have missed. So this is primarily about adequate representation on the SSC from the SGs and Cs. Usually, the selection process begins with an expression of interest, which goes out publicly.

And then the SSC, usually by way of a survey, a short survey, ranks the candidates once the expression of interest time period has closed. And that ranking is just really for discussion purposes. It is in itself not the selection process. Once the SSC ranks and selects applicants, they're discussed at a meeting, and it's that discussion and the subsequent consensus call where the selection happens.

So there's essentially three parts to the selection process. There's a survey or evaluation poll, there's a discussion at SSC meeting or meetings, and then there's a call for consensus. And once the full consensus is reached, the name of the candidate is put forward to the council, which is again then confirms that candidate at its next

meeting. And we've not had the council ever not confirm a candidate.

This is again, the process I just described briefly. So just notes here that if the council disagrees, which has never happened, but it is possible, I suppose, with the recommendation, it has the ability to prove the recommendations in part or return the recommendation to the SSC. I'm not sure if you have one candidate how you to prove that recommendation in part. But once the person is confirmed, the candidate is confirmed, the secretary will inform the candidate and the other candidates of the results of the second process. And as mentioned before, the SSC operates on full consensus or unanimous consensus.

And the council will be informed if there's no consent achieved. And again, that has not happened, though it's always possible. And of course, the SSC are governed by ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior and the working group guidelines, sessions 3.4, 3.5, and 3.7. And I can read through all this.

Any of you who've been on a working group would be familiar with the guidelines. We have not had to invoke any of these sections of the guidelines in the SSC. And then if SSC is asked to step down and solve, there would be an opportunity for a working group self-assessment. And no, that has not happened. We now have a new working group self-assessment for working groups that allows for an interim self-assessment. So conceivably the council could ask the SSC to perform an interim self-assessment. Although that's somewhat unlikely. All right. And that's it for the charter. Questions, please.

KAREN DAY: Not seeing any in the chat or any hands raised, Julie, so I take it that everyone is comfortable with this. If you want to move on and tell us about the GAC liaison.

JULIE HEDLUND: I will do that. Thank you, Karen. And I see Desiree sums up. Thank you. Alright, let me switch documents here. Okay, I hope you can all see that. For those of you who were in ICANN79 or were following along remotely, there was some discussion in the GNSO council wrap-up session about the GAC liaison and the selecting process.

The new GAC liaison will take over the role at the annual general meeting 2024, which is in November of this year. And there was some discussion in the council wrap-up of trying to run this process that you see here prior to Kigali, ICANN80. Although, there are a couple of reasons not to do so, and leadership discussed concerns about rushing the process at its planning meeting last week.

Particularly, first of all, the council is currently reviewing the guide for the GNSO liaison to the GAC. And that guide was revised, well, created, in fact, in September of 2021 and has not been reviewed since then. So the council is currently reviewing the guide, and there have already been some changes suggested, mainly by Jeff Neuman and Anne Aikman-Scalese, and there may be further changes suggested by council members.

And the revised guide would have to be then accepted by the council, and that would have to be finalized in order for this process to begin because the guide is the document that's used in the expression of interest announcement as the guide for the submissions. So that has to first happen. The very earliest that could happen would be the guide would have to be confirmed at the 18th April council meeting, although that's not clear that that would happen. The other points that were concerned to the leadership council leadership was that it's not clear that we would be able to get funding, travel funding for both the current liaison and the incoming liaison.

And in fact, the deadline for travel funding is very soon. I don't know when exactly it is. Terri would though, probably. But it's not clear that we would get approval to have two people funded. It's also not clear that we'd need to have someone in place by Kigali. The leadership felt that it was important to have someone in place before the annual general meeting, but it would probably be acceptable to have someone in place by, say, September of this year or maybe a couple months prior to the AGM. I mean the actual switchover does not happen until the AGM.

So you see the timeline here of how long we need for each step. We're not then anticipating trying to complete this selection process prior to Kigali. I think that's not necessary from the point of view of leadership. But we would expect to take four to six weeks to have the expression of interest announcement and submissions accepted. It's a very important position as you may know, and it would probably be better to have six weeks, if we can, to ensure that the various groups have time to submit their

candidates and select candidates for consideration. The actual SSC evaluation and meeting don't take too long. Usually, we allow a week for the poll to be open. The poll is very brief. There's just a couple of questions relating to the candidates.

We took a week, for instance, for the evaluation of the fellowship mentor at the beginning of this year. We had 12 candidates and we still managed to complete the valuation process and then discussion at the SSC meeting and then a 48-hour contingency call. And then 10 days prior to the council meeting, where the candidate is going to be considered is the documented motion deadline. That's when we would have to submit the candidate for consideration.

Although, as we saw with the selection process, which was severely timed and limited at the beginning of this year, we submitted the motion without the name after the SSC had made its selection process, and that is acceptable, but that's not standard practice. We would much rather submit the motion with the name. And then at the council meeting, usually on the consent agenda, there's the council vote to control the candidate. And the consent agenda means that there's no need to read the motion and there's no need to discuss. So we don't need two council meetings.

Most things that are on the voting part of the agenda would have a discussion at one council meeting and a vote at the next council meeting. That's not usually the way we do the select and process for the candidates. Usually, they're on the contention agenda and they're on for confirmation. Although you may not know, but anything that's on the consent agenda, any counselor can request

to have that moved for discussion or onto the main agenda for a vote.

So that's how much time we would need for the process. And right now, we're waiting for the council to complete its review of the guide for the GAC liaison. And once that's complete, we can go ahead and start the expression of interest and we can fill this in with dates. So stay tuned. I see there are some new chats. Let me see what I missed here. And Jothan.

JOTHAN FRAKES: Hi. And Julie, thank you for walking us through this. So if I understand it correctly, the next thing we have up is potentially going to be the review of one or more representatives as a GAC liaison for the GNSO, correct?

JULIE HEDLUND: That's right, yes.

JOTHAN FRAKES: Okay. Well, that's perfect, and the timeline is super helpful here. I think that really helps us understand what the effort will be. So this is super appreciated, Julie. Thank you very much for all the work on walking us through this.

JULIE HEDLUND: Thanks, Jothan. Appreciate that. Desiree.

DESIREE MILOSHEVIC EVANS: Yes, thank you Julie. So the last thing you've said was that GNSO will review the GAC role, and I wonder whether that's with a small team, I might have missed that part. But that will happen within four to six weeks, and then the expression of interest will be published. Am I correct in assuming that?

JULIE HEDLUND: Thanks, Desiree. That's a really good question, and apologies if it's not clear. I'm glad you mentioned small teams. Surprisingly, the review of the GAC is not happening in a small team, it's happening in the full council, and the guide was submitted with the council action items early last week. It was discussed at the wrap-up session and then submitted.

DESIREE MILOSHEVIC EVANS: Yes, it was discussed at the wrap-up session, but I do not recall seeing the full text. I'm sorry I interrupted you.

JULIE HEDLUND: Well, it's a very good point. Maybe it's time I sent a reminder. I'll send a reminder. It was linked in the action items, but it was kind of buried in an email. I think I'll extract it and send it out as a separate -- yes, Saewon is noting it's an email, so I'll go ahead and extract it and send it out as a separate message. So thank you, that's really helpful. So the council in the process of reviewing the guide, and I forgot the date, but it's very soon that they're supposed to make a decision. I think actually comments are supposed to be submitted by, maybe even today. That may have to be extended.

So then the timeline for that would be-- we need to wrap up that if we want the council to consider the changes to the guide by the 18th of April meeting, then -- Yes, thank you, Saewon. Yes, then the guide would have to send around with its changes for consideration by the 8th of April, the document and motion deadline. So that's really what we're working towards, but very good point. I'll send around a reminder and pull that out of the email to make it clear. Any other questions? Karen, anything I might have missed?

KAREN DAY:

I can't think of anything, but I did thank you again to Desiree for bringing that up. That wouldn't help us if council got to their meeting and didn't realize they were supposed to have reviewed that, so I appreciate that, Desiree, a lot. But I think you covered everything that we know to this date. And I'm sure staff will keep us informed as the council deliberations progress and we get ready to approach the time to pull together the expression of interest. Is there anything, Julie, that we should know about our involvement in the actual drafting of the expression of interest?

JULIE HEDLUND:

Thanks, Karen. What I will say is usually what we do is when a selection process is kicked off, and this goes to Jothan's question, is we usually have a meeting to go over the assignment for that selection process. Staff creates a separate wiki page for that particular process. So even though we've done the GAC process before, we set up a wiki page with the dates established for that particular process. So we'll do that as soon as we have a date of

when we can start this process up with the exception of interest announcement and submissions and the guide is approved by the council.

We'll set up that page and we'll schedule an SSC meeting to go through those dates and process, see if there are any questions, walk through the wiki page, and then, yes, exactly, Jothan, we spin up as needed. Exactly. So as Saewon is noting, it would be with the next GAC liaison selection, so stay tuned.

We should know if the council is done reviewing the guide very soon. And if that is approved by the 18th of April, then we could start the EOI announcement and start accepting submissions soon thereafter. And we'll then go ahead and schedule an SSC meeting at the time. The secretariat staff would send around a doodle for scheduling our meeting. So that timing is TBD.

KAREN DAY: Understood. Thank you, Julie. We'll just sit back and wait for Terri to come ping us.

JULIE HEDLUND: Exactly.

KAREN DAY: All right. Well, if there are no other questions, we'll let you have 10 minutes back of your afternoon all.

JULIE HEDLUND: Well, thank you, Karen, very much for sharing. Very helpful. Thank you all for joining, and we'll look forward to seeing you soon when this process kicks off. Thanks all.

KAREN DAY: Thanks all. Talk to you later. Bye-Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]