

Minutes of the GNSO Council Meeting 09 January 2025

GNSO Council meeting on Thursday, 09 January 2025 at 05:00 UTC: <https://tinyurl.com/p69xapak>

21:00 Los Angeles (Wednesday); 00:00 Washington DC; 05:00 London; 06:00 Paris; 08:00 Moscow; 16:00 Melbourne

List of attendees:

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): – **Non-Voting** – Anne Aikman Scalese

Contracted Parties House

Registrar Stakeholder Group: Hong-Fu Meng, Greg DiBiase (apology – proxy to Prudence Malinki), Prudence Malinki

gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group: Nacho Amadoz, Samantha Demetriou, Jennifer Chung

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Desiree Zeljka Miloshevic Evans

Non-Contracted Parties House

Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG): Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, Vivek Goyal, Osvaldo Novoa, Thomas Rickert, Damon Ashcraft, Susan Payne

Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG): Farzaneh Badii, Bruna Martins dos Santos, Julf Helsingius, Tomslin Samme-Nlar, Peter Akinremi, Manju Chen

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Paul McGrady

GNSO Council Liaisons/Observers :

Justine Chew : ALAC Liaison

Sebastien Ducos: GNSO liaison to the GAC

Antonia Chu: ccNSO observer

ICANN Staff:

Mary Wong - Vice President, Strategic Policy Management (apologies)

Steve Chan – Vice President, Policy Development Support & GNSO Relations

Julie Hedlund - Policy Development Support Director (GNSO)

Berry Cobb - Senior Program Manager, Policy Development Support

Caitlin Tubergen - Policy Development Support Director (GNSO)

Saewon Lee - Policy Development Support Manager (GNSO)

Feodora Hamza - Policy Development Support Manager (GNSO)

John Emery - Policy Development Support Senior Specialist (GNSO)

Terri Agnew - Policy Operations Senior Specialist (GNSO)

Devan Reed – Policy Operations Coordinator (GNSO)

Item 1: Administrative Matters

1.1 - Roll Call

1.2 - Updates to Statements of Interest

1.3 - Review / Amend Agenda

1.4 - Note the status of minutes for the previous Council meetings per the GNSO Operating Procedures: [Minutes](#) (Part 1) [Minutes](#) (Part 2) of the GNSO Council Meeting on 13 November 2024 were posted on 02 December 2024.

[Minutes](#) of the GNSO Council Meeting on 19 December were posted on 30 December 2024

Jennifer Chung, RYSG, updated title change in her SOI.

Nacho Amadoz, GNSO Vice-Chair, updated Council of changes to the agenda with items 5 and 7 being moved to the February meeting.

Item 2: Opening Remarks / Review of Projects & Action List

2.1 - Review focus areas and provide updates on specific key themes / topics, to include review of [Projects List](#) and [Action Item List](#).

Item 3: Consent Agenda

- Confirmation of Standing Selection Committee (SSC) Leadership and Members

All Councilors present voted in favor of the motion

[Vote Results](#)

Item 4: COUNCIL DISCUSSION - Board Readiness Small Team Update

4.1 - Introduction of Topic (Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair) - [Slide presentation](#)

4.2 - Council Discussion

4.3 - Next Steps

Nacho Amadoz, GNSO Vice-Chair, introduced the topic and guest speaker Kurt Pritz.

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, shared the following [slide presentation](#).

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, noted that the team has been making progress although the aspirational timeline in the slide presentation is about a month behind schedule due to the holiday and availability of interviewees. He also highlighted how there is a productive discussion about the availability of appropriate expertise (such as legal experts) and the addition of the Board liaison role in recent years.

Nacho Amadoz, GNSO Vice-Chair, discussed the questions the chat

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, asked in chat: How do you select the interviewees? How do you ensure balance of stakeholder groups when interviewing? or is it selection by random?

Jennifer Chung, RYSG, answered in chat: We looked at the participants of the PDPs/EPDPs and discussed within the small team who we thought would represent a good balance - small team members who were part of the EPDP/PDP also opined and gave context

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, queried further about balancing stakeholder groups noting it is an issue in other groups advocating for equal stakeholder representation. She noted that there should be an effort for specific NCSG outreach.

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, responded that they aspire to get someone from every group. He added that if there are consistent points across interviews then the team feels they have an accurate picture. If not the group seeks additional interviewees and asks follow up questions. He emphasized that there is not rigidity to this process to allow flexibility to get a complete picture.

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts, BC, suggested that ICANN legal may influence some of the surprises of non-adopted recommendations.

Thomas Rickert, CSG, answered that ICANN legal input is welcome, but stated the point is more nuanced. While it is helpful to have their input for the community, lawyers have different opinions especially with clashing legal opinions from org and community, which both mean an increase in costs and a recipe for disaster. Reconciling these could expedite the processes and reduce friction within the process.

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, added that some of the questions for the Board members will be what are their sources of information and how did they base their decisions. These questions are more for Board members rather than Legal to answer Lawrence's question.

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, answered a question by Vivek Goyal in the chat about how to make the aspirational schedule happen to get into our operational rhythm with scheduling.

Vivek Goyal, BC, offered to open this small team up for more volunteers to help with interviews in timezones to speed up the process.

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, responded that the team would discuss this in their next meeting and is open to volunteers.

Peter Akinremi, NCSG, sought clarification on how the team was conducting analysis of the data.

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, , explained how the interviews are conducted in-depth and noted it will become more formalized as we continue on with PDPs to let the results guide the interviews and analysis.

Peter Akinremi, NCSG, responded that he understood the process, but queried about the problem statement that we are trying to arrive at in such a way that we ask the same questions to interview the samples selected and a method to address that. He emphasized the necessity of a formal method of analysis.

Kurt Pritz, Board Readiness Small Team Chair, responded that the questions were designed specifically to elucidate the interviewees to identify shortcomings or gaps in the process. The team does not want to point the interviewees in any particular direction.

Prudence Malinki, RrSG, responded to Peter and Farzi thinking about how the team analyzes the data. This is intentionally flexible with a set of questions that address the concept of Board readiness, but allow the interviewee choose how to respond openly to what they thought the issues were. There are explicit questions and explained how the responses are collected. This deals with the overall process to give the interviewees what they believe should have happened to accept the recommendations and improve the process in the future. Notes are taken during the interview and then that is compared to the recording to establish a compiled list of responses.

Anne Aikman-Scalese, NCA, is concerned about equating Board readiness and the Board accepting the exact recommendation and there is a multi-stakeholder model where the community might see a rejection as improper.

Thomas Rickert, CSG, reiterated that this is not to please the Board, but situations where there is GAC advice, but the community has proceeded in a different way. With this in mind the team recognizes that sometimes there will be conflict.

Nacho Amadoz, GNSO Vice-Chair, thanked the team and called upon other Councilors to join in the effort.

Item 5: COUNCIL DISCUSSION - Update on ICANN’s Enforcement of DNS Abuse Mitigation Requirements - Six Month Progress Update

This item has been moved to the February agenda.

Item 6: COUNCIL DISCUSSION - EPDP Temporary Specification Phase 1, Recommendation 18 - Urgent Requests Trilateral Meeting Preparation

6.1 - Introduction of Topic (Nacho Amadoz, GNSO Vice-Chair)

6.2 - Council Discussion

6.3 - Next Steps

Nacho Amadoz, introduced the discussion from the mailing list and comments within the document

Caitlin Tubergen, ICANN org, noted the updates to the letter from Anne, Farzi, and Jen. Support staff edited the wording that had been crossed off. One sentence that was added to the second paragraph clarifying how the IRT would proceed within the bylaws. She gave an overview of the comments and asked for input before sending the letter.

Nacho Amadoz, GNSO Vice-Chair, explained how the conclusions from the previous call was: is this policy or should we find a new way to tackle this issue? That is something we should consider when we go into the February call if we think we have to inform the two other entities of our opposition.

Anne Aikman-Scalese, NCA, queried in the chat: Why would this be anything other than implementation?

Susan Payne, IPC, stated that the view that this should be implementation and then reached a stalemate in the IRT. It is worth making the point to the GAC as they have used the word more policy work and giving this to the IRT interchangeably and that is not correct.

Nacho Amadoz, GNSO Vice-Chair, asked to keep the text as it is now as long as there are no other concerns. Concluded that this will be the text provided to the GAC.

Item 7: COUNCIL DISCUSSION - EPDP Phase 1 on the Temporary Specification - Implementation Question re: Billing Contact

Moved to the February agenda

Item 8: COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Review of Projects List and Action Decision Radar

8.1 - Introduction of Topic (Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair)

8.2 - Council Discussion

8.3 - Next Steps

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, discussed the purpose of the [project list](#) and [action decision radar](#) for Council. He noted that at ICANN79 there was a decision to review these annually. The purpose of the in depth review now is to continue this and to introduce this to new councilors and refresh the memory of councilors prior to the SPS. He stated that the project list and ADR are provided on a monthly

basis and proceeded to go into detail of the project list and action decision radar slides in detail linked above.

Anne Aikman-Scalese, NCA, clarified on the topic of Han script that it should not be considered a roadblock for the next round gTLDs.

Jennifer Chung, RySG, recalled from the last call what Councilors could scope for what could be done on Han script and added that she is ready to get that work started.

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, responded that Council has background work currently undertaken on this topic.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, in chat: That's the remaining issue that needs to be addressed?

Anne Aikman-Scalese, NCA, answered that SubPro is on pace with regular sessions continuing.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, asked if the IRT is happening in parallel while we are sorting out the single character Han script question.

Anne Aikman-Scalese, NCA, answered that even if the Han character issue is not resolved that it would not hold up the next round and the same is true for Latin diacritics. There is nothing about the Han single character issue to affect the timeline for the IRT work for the next round.

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, continued with the discussion of the [project list](#) with EPDP Temp Spec and billing contact data, which will be discussed at the next meeting. He then introduced the topic of RPM's phase one for Susan Payne to discuss.

Susan Payne, IPC, noted that there is a potential issue with this work that may come back to Council. There has been a difficulty for RPMs group to get together again and it has not aligned with a Council meeting. The issue revolves around the extent to which a claimant might be able to amend their URS complaint once they have been provided with registration data information regarding the actual registrant. Members of the RPM IRT have different views of what it may permit.

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, thanked Susan and moved on to PPSAI and introduced Paul McGrady for the update.

Paul McGrady, NCA NCPH, stated that the team has been encouraging the IRT members to come back to Council related to new laws that have come into being since the recommendations were originally passed. This and new technologies may affect IRT or internal ICANN policies but should not be an opportunity to relitigate past defeats. Overall, PPSAI members understood this and are working in good faith and he does not foresee any problems.

Vivek Goyal, BC, asked a process question about when ICANN org will get back to us and what is the timeline on that?

Paul McGrady, NCA NCPH, noted there is a timeline and work plan, but the path description is a way that the focus of the things being looked at. There are dates for deliverables and it is on track without having the date at hand.

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, continued on with the program [ADR](#).

Jennifer Chung, RySG, asked a question about the cadence of these updates and what would be feasible going forward.

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, answered that Council leadership and staff will take an action item to discuss that cadence. And noted Susan Payne's support in the chat.

Item 9: Any Other Business (15 minutes)

9.1 - GNSO Liaison to the ccNSO update

9.2 - ICANN82 - update on planning and [draft GNSO schedule](#)

9.3 - SPS reminders

9.4 - Public Comment Opportunities

- [ICANN FY26–30 Operating & Financial Plan, ICANN/IANA FY26 Op Plans & Budgets](#)
- [Draft PTI FY26 Operating Plan and Budget](#)

9.5 - IGF/WSIS+20 Small Team

Desiree Milosevic-Evans, NCA CPH, provided an update on the ccNSO Council meetings and ongoing elections. Firstly, the ccNSO Council Election completed on Dec 20, 2024 which resulted in Latin America and the Asia Pacific region electing each 2 councillors. The annual ccNSO 2024 Chair report was due on Jan 9th by the ccNSO chair so it would be shared later. The ccNSO Council, has a long list of working items and related committees including the DNS Abuse Standing Committee and newish Policy IANA Gap analysis Group and the Internet Governance one. She reminded that GNSO and ccNSO would liaise on the PHR and some timing concerns raised by the ccNSO. Secondly, the ccNSO has 2 candidates for the ICANN Board Seat 12 from .UK and .CA ccTLD registries.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, in chat: When are they going to elect their board members?

Desiree Milosevic-Evans, NCA CPH, replied that the ccNSO Board elections will start on February 4, 2025

Terri Agnew, ICANN org, gave updates for the upcoming SPS and went through the preliminary agenda with Councilors.

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, put forth the question to Council as to whether or not Council should submit comments on the ICANN FY26 Operating and Financial Plan and ICANN IANA FY26 Operational Plan and Budget. He noted that the Council might want to consider the Continuous Improvement Program Framework as well.

Vivek Goyal, BC, asked in chat about Public Comments: Has the council submitted comments on these in earlier instances?

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, replied yes Council has in the past, but not always.

Farzaneh Badii, NCSG, advocated a more formal role of Council in the WSIS+20 process. She noted that governments and diplomats need to hear from Council and diplomats and policymakers do not know what we are doing. She stated that Council should engage with these processes to ensure that Council is doing their job. She wanted to put that on the agenda to provide some rationale to the Council.

Bruna Martins dos Santos, NCSG, added to Farzaneh Badii's point that the scenario changed and the GDC shows that everyone kept things as they are backfired and the technical community was sidetracked. Ongoing efforts will be discussed on the mailing list.

Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Vice-Chair, called the meeting to a close.

Meeting Ended 7:03 UTC