

## Minutes of the GNSO Council Meeting 29 October 2025 Part 2

GNSO Council meeting held in Dublin, Ireland 15:30-16:00 GMT: <https://tinyurl.com/3dwc8fvr>  
Coordinated Universal Time: 15:30-16:00 UTC. 05:30 Los Angeles; 08:30 Washington DC; 12:30 London;  
13:30 Paris; 15:30 Moscow; 23:30 Melbourne

### List of Attendees:

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

Contracted Parties House

Registrar Stakeholder Group: Hong-Fu Meng, Ashley Heineman, Prudence Malinki

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

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Gaurav Vedi

Non-Contracted Parties House

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

Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG): Farzaneh Badii, Bruna Martins dos Santos, Julf Helsingius, Peter Akinremi, Tapani Tarvainen, Benjamin Akinmoyeje

Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA): Christian Dawson

GNSO Council Liaisons/Observers :

Justine Chew : ALAC Liaison

Sebastien Ducos: GNSO liaison to the GAC

Antonia Chu: ccNSO observer

Guests: Tomslin Samme Nlar, former GNSO Vice Chair

### ICANN Staff:

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

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

Julie Hedlund - Policy Development Support Director (GNSO) (apology)

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)

Julie Bisland - Policy Operations Analyst (GNSO)

Devan Reed – Policy Operations Coordinator (GNSO) (apology)

[Zoom Recording](#)

[Transcript](#)

## **Item 1: Seating of the 2025-2026 Council**

1.1 - Roll Call

1.2 - Updates to Statements of Interest

### **INCOMING COUNCILORS & LIAISONS:**

Susan Mohr [SOI](#) Commercial Stakeholder Group (ISPCP)

Tapani Tarvainen [SOI](#) Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)

Benjamin Akinmoyeje [SOI](#) Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG)

Gaurav Vedi [SOI](#) Contracted Parties House (CPH) Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA)

Christian Dawson [SOI](#) Non-Contracted Party House (NCPH) Nominating Committee Appointee (NCA)

1.3 - Review / Amend Agenda

**Tomslin Samme Nlar, Former GNSO Vice Chair**, stated that he was present as a neutral party to aid in the election process of the new Chair.

**Tapani Tarvainen, NCSG**, noted his SOI would be updated in the page to note his work in the Latin Diacritics PDP Working Group that was not listed.

**Tomslin Samme Nlar, Former GNSO Vice Chair**, invited incoming Councilors to introduce themselves.

**Christian Dawson, NCPH NCA**, reflected on the fact that his first PDP was PPSAI 13 years ago and it is quite surreal to be talking about implementation 13 years later.

**Susan Mohr, ISPCPs**, noted that she is coming from the ISPCPs and her first time on Council and is excited to work with everyone.

**Benjamin Akinmoyeje, NCSG**, shared that he is an academic and he looks forward to working with and connecting with everyone here.

**Tapani Tarvainen, NCSG**, stated that he has been a part of ICANN since 2009, but has never been on the Council before. He was originally a mathematician but is now working for the Electronic Frontier Finland.

**Gaurav Vedi, CPH NCA**, stated that he is the NOMCOM appointee for the GNSO CPH and he is looking forward to working with everyone. He is nostalgic coming off of a three year gap.

**Action Items:** none

## **Item 2. Election of the Chair**

One nomination was received for this position from Susan Payne of the Non-Contracted Party House (NCPH). Susan circulated her candidate statement to the GNSO Council on 10 October 2025. Here the GNSO Council will proceed to hold the election for its Chair for 2025-2026, according to the GNSO Operating Procedures (note Section 2.2 of the GNSO Operating Procedures on Officer Elections: Chair and Vice-Chairs (see Appendix 1 below)).

**Tomslin Samme Nlar, Former GNSO Vice Chair**, stated that there was one nomination for the position for Susan Payne of the Non-Contracted Party House. Susan circulated her candidate statement to the Council on 10 October 2025. The GNSO Council will proceed to hold its election of the Council according

to the GNSO Operating Procedures (note Section 2.2 of the GNSO Operating Procedures on Officer Elections: Chair and Vice-Chairs).

**Terri Agnew, ICANN org**, proceeded to a vote by acclamation as the Council Chair shall be elected by a 60% vote of each house with the choices of either Susan Payne or none of the above. All Councilors voted in favor of Susan Payne.

**Susan Payne, GNSO Council Chair**, thanked the Councilors for putting their trust in her and she would endeavor to live up to it. She is looking forward to working with everyone next year. Let's get to work!

**Damon Ashcraft, IPC**, congratulated Susan and noted the privilege of working with her one-on-one representing the IPC on the Council. She is a fantastic person, a fantastic lawyer, and will be a fantastic Chair. He also congratulated Peter and Jen as Vice-Chairs.

**Action Items:**

**Item 3. Selection of GNSO Council Vice Chair 2025-2026**

Non-Contracted Party House - Taiwo Peter Akinremi

Contracted Party House - Jennifer Chung

**Terri Agnew, ICANN org**, formally announced the GNSO Council Vice-Chairs for 2025-2026 to be Taiwo Peter Akinremi and Jennifer Chung.

**Action Items:**

**Item 4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

4.1 - TBD

**Meeting Adjourned at 15:41 IST/UTC**