

TERRI AGNEW:

The recording has started and this is Terri Agnew. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, and welcome to the GNSO Standing Selection Committee call taking place on Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 2025. We have no listed apologies for today's meeting. 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, and an email will be sent to the group when the recordings are ready.

As a reminder, participation including this session is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy, and the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct concerning statements of interest. With that, I'll turn the call back over to the chair, Julf Helsingius. Please begin.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Thank you, and welcome, everybody, and thanks for making the call. This is the first one for us, new formation of the Standing Selection Committee, so welcome to all the new people, and welcome back to all of you who are doing your second term. For those who haven't been on the Standing Selection Committee yet, this actually works on consensus, so we actually—hopefully, we don't need to do too much negotiations, but we better get used to talking to each other and discussing things

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through. Even though a lot of things can be done by initial voting, it's not the vote that decides. We really need to find a consensus in the end.

On our agenda, our first point is welcome SOIs, so if we could do a short round of introductions, and at that point also say if there's any sort of updates to our SOIs or anything that needs to be noted. So, I guess, I could start. If you wonder about my weird English, it's because I'm a Swedish-speaking Finn, but these days I say I'm the other Swedish-speaking Finn in ICANN. But I've been living in Amsterdam for 27 years with my American wife, so I'm culturally confused.

I was first under the GNSO Council 10 years ago, so first two years as NomCom appointee and then three years as sort of liaison to the GAC, and then two years as sort of chair of the non-commercials. Now I'm back on the Council. So the one only update to my SOI that I just did today is that, as of 1<sup>st</sup> of January, I'm also the chair of Finnish Internet Association, which is the Finnish ISOC chapter, so that's good to note.

And one small thing I wanted to note that because this is something that appoints people to different positions, my record, my one really big thing that I brag about in my record of hiring and recruiting people and appointing and other things, was this young guy I hired and recruited more than 25 years ago, who was a really bright technical expert who had started a small ISP with his business partner. He was called Kurtis Lindqvist. On that note, how about Vivek, you go next.

VIVEK GOYAL:

Sure, Julf. Thank you so much. My name is Vivek Goyal. I'm the COO and the co-founder of LdotR. It's an online brand protection company I

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started about five years ago in India. I actually really love domain names and I've been trying to champion the cause of domain names in India for quite some time and hopefully will continue to do so.

I have been a member of the BC for all my association in ICANN and look forward to working with all of you and maybe picking up some Swedish while I'm at it. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Good luck with that. Thank you, Vivek. Who's next? Who wants to go next?

JEFFREY NEUMAN:

I can go next. This is Jeff Neuman. I am pretty young to the ICANN community. I'm kidding. I've been in the ICANN community a long time. In fact, I at one point followed Julf as the GNSO liaison to the GAC. I guess, I'm just trying to follow in his footsteps. I was appointed by the Registry Stakeholder Group. I am their current vice-chair of administration and this is one of our duties if you're elected to vice-chair of administration.

Yeah, I think, I do have one update to the SOI, which is I was just elected chair of the SPIRT, the Standing Predictability Implementation Review Team. Is that right? Yeah. So, that's something I'm starting, I guess, this week as chair. Other than that, I'm looking forward to this. I'm the newbie to this group and I will learn from you all. Thanks.

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JULF HELSINGIUS: Thanks, Jeff. And I just want to say, that was my last job in my previous round in the Standing Selection Committee was actually appointing you. Okay. Shall we try to go in some sort of sensible order based on the list? So, after Jeff, it will be Natalie next. But is she on? No. So, then it's Susan.

SUSAN MOHR: Hi, Julf. Hello, everyone. Just coming off mute. Thank you. This is Susan. I'm having some internet issues today, so I'm not going to go on camera. But I am in the ISPCP. I've been involved with ICANN probably a short amount of time compared to others in the group. I started in 2018. I've been with ISPCP the entire time. I work for a US-based company called Lumen Technologies. We run one of the biggest internet backbones in the world, and located in Denver, Colorado. I guess, the one other area, I was elected this year to be on the GNSO Council, and so, I'm very excited about that. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Thank you, Susan. Then we would have Cameron.

CAMERON PANEPINTO: Hey, everybody. Cameron Panepinto here. I was just appointed by the IPC to join this committee here. I'm actually a relatively new member of the IPC. I joined in the spring of this year, 2025. I'm an associate at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, a law firm here in the United States. I'm located in the Boston area, and I'm looking forward to

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increasing my participation in this committee and in ICANN in general.  
Thank you for having me, and I look forward to working with everyone.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Thank you, and great for having you aboard.

CAMERON PANEPINTO: Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: I guess, Pedro's next.

PEDRO DE PERDIGÃO: Hi, everyone. I was going to say I was the youngest on the group, but Cameron just stole my thunder here. I've been following ICANN since 2020, but actually my first ICANN meeting was in 2023. I'm here as part of the appointed by the NCSG. I am part of the NCSG and NCUC Executive Committee, but [inaudible] in March this year.

I work as a lawyer. I'm doing my PhD on intellectual property, and I may have seen a few others in other internet governance space mostly in our society, because I'm vice president of the Brazilian chapter. I also have held some roles in the organization as a volunteer. I think that's it.  
Thanks.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Thanks. Frank doesn't seem to be on the call, so Gaurav.

GAURAV VEDI: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Gaurav Vedi, and I'm a NomCom appointee to GNSO CPH, and I've been in this space for over a decade. I spent almost a decade working with Verisign and Dominion Registries on their rootregistries.com.net. I work as a Technical Engineering Manager with Verisign, Sunrise, Trademark Clearinghouses. You name it, I've worked on pretty much everything with Verisign.

I'm no longer working with the registry or registrar, but again, I spent almost five years working with the Registry Stakeholder Group. Just like Susan, I started working with ICANN in 2018 and almost working five years with the Registry Stakeholder Group and represented them on our Customer Standing Committee, working very closely with PTI board as well. And then there was a gap of two, three years, and now I'm back working as a NomCom appointee to GNSO CPH. So, I'm definitely looking forward to working very closely with everyone, so thank you so much.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Great and thank you. Peter?

PETER AKINREMI: Hi, everyone. I don't know if you can hear me. Okay, awesome. I joined ICANN yesterday and just a newbie in the ICANN environment. I'm sure that they know we're not a newbie. So I've been part of ICANN since 2013 and joined NCSG. I'm currently a GNSO council member and also, the appointed CPH vice-chair of the council. And I was once a vice-chair

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of the Standing Selection Committee as well. And I was once a NomCom appointee as well. And I'm here representing the GNSO. I will be wearing my listening hat. And also, just happy to contribute and to listen to you and to dialogue with you. So, thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Thank you, Peter. And then we also have on the call, we have Benjamin, but he's in a noisy environment, so he did post his thing in the chat. Right, that takes care of the SOI introductions. Next point on our agenda is the SSC overview. I don't know if staff has something prepared to sort of go through the basics. I think so, but I mean—

SAEWON LEE: Hi, Julf.

JULF HELSINGIUS: I'm sorry, yeah. Go ahead.

SAEWON LEE: Yes. So, if it's okay with you, I'll be taking over from here.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Sure.

SAEWON LEE: I think some of you may be familiar with me from last year as well. And I just wanted to give a brief introduction. I'm Saewon Lee from ICANN org

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for the record. And together with Caitlin and Terri on this call, I will be the lead support staff for the SSC.

I haven't actually turned this page on the screen because I kind of want to start from there related to SSC overview. In consideration of Vivek's horrible time right now, I was hoping that we would be very brief and cut it short. But as we are kicking off with new members and quite a bit of new members this year, leadership team and staff thought it was appropriate to provide you with a brief overview of our work and our charter. So hopefully I'll try to go as quickly as possible.

So, if you see in this slide, which I've been putting on for the last how many minutes, you'll see the membership portion of the SSC. And this is how it is guided in the charter. So, in the top, you'll see how the SSC is composed. And obviously, the 2025 to 2026 membership for us, the membership that will work during this year and next. So basically, each member is appointed by each GNSO stakeholder group and constituency, which makes up a whole total of nine. And obviously, with Peter as the council representative, it makes a total of 10. So, with this, I'll go on to the next overview.

So, if you see in this slide, you'll see the link to the SSC charter at the top. I can also share this with you in the chat. And this is basically the document that will guide us throughout the year. So, I've tried to summarize the important parts within the charter for you. So, starting with the mission and scope on the left, as some of you may already know, the SSC is requested by the GNSO council to basically review and evaluate the candidates for GNSO nominated ICANN roles. And we then



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recommend which candidate should be appointed. And this is obviously subject to council approval.

But if you see some of the examples of the selection processes in the wiki page, you'll see that there are the GNSO appointed positions such as the mentor for the ICANN fellowship program, which is the immediate upcoming process for us, PDP working group chair positions, GNSO liaison to the GAC, which Jeff mentioned in the beginning, GNSO non-registry liaison to the CSC and many more. So, the SSC normally receives several assignments per year. The number varies. I think last year, and you may remember, we had I think twice more than the year before. But over the course of the assignments, we usually attend one to two meetings. So, hopefully it's not too much for you.

Well, obviously, like these appointments will obviously ask each of you to review and evaluate the candidate materials, coordinate with your SGCs, provide inputs, which will take some time. But hopefully, these are minimal between—these are hopefully minimal. If you go on to the next box in the middle, you'll see the SSCs decision making process, which is quite simple. It's based on a full consensus. So, we should basically have no one speak against the recommendations made. And if there are cases where this is difficult to achieve, the SSC will have to inform the council accordingly. But at least in the short or maybe long amount of time that I've supported this group, we've never had such a case. So, I'm hoping we will continue with this.

And on the last box on the right, you'll see that if a member cannot join a meeting, you can simply submit your apologies to the GNSO sec's email address. But if you're not able to participate in a selection

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process, for even conflict of interest purposes, the member should actually ideally identify an alternate where they do need to be confirmed by the appointing group's leadership. Any questions? If not, I'm going to go on.

I've kind of gone over this slide, so I'm not going to go into too much detail because the deliverables are pretty much the examples that I gave on the processes that SSC is involved in. But if you see in the bottom, you'll be able to access the wiki link to the past assignments, where you'll be able to see which assignments are given to SSC. Here in this page, again, it's based on the charter itself, so transparency-wise, all our meetings and our selection processes are actually recorded and public. It's like any other ICANN meetings, but we do also include the names of all applicants and the results, so please be mindful of that when you do conduct the selection processes.

Again, I've never experienced this in the time that I've supported this, but apparently there may be cases where some deliberations may need to be done privately just to kind of move the things forward, but I can't say that I've ever been involved in that. Okay. So, I'm going to go on to the next portion of our agenda, if that's okay with you, Julf?

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Yes, please.

SAEWON LEE:

Okay. And please, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to raise your hands. Going on to the selection processes itself. So again, some of

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you have already been a part of this, but just to briefly explain how our selection processes go. First of all, once a selection process or an assignment is announced or determined to be assigned to SSC, the GNSO council will actually launch the expression of interest through our website and also send it through the SGC's mailing list. SGC's mailing list as in the leadership mailing list, and then assign the work to SSC.

Then if you see in the middle column, the selection and appointments wiki page, which I just mentioned in the previous section, will be updated with all the necessary details for you to check and review. The third column is actually what is important to us, and it's basically explaining what happens within SSC. So, SSC will meet to review the assignment. This is usually done at the end of a prior meeting when what process is coming, but most of the time, this may not even happen. So, for us, the immediate upcoming process, we won't be actually doing that.

But going just immediately onto the next part, basically, the first step is to conduct a survey that will be sent by the staff. This survey, or let's say a poll, is not actually official and does not determine the result itself, but by the result, this result is to guide our discussions and to facilitate the deliberations, so that we could reach an agreement during the meeting. And then once preliminary consensus is reached, a consensus call will be conducted for 48 hours, held by non-objection through the mailing list. And obviously, I've explained this before, but SSC will be submitting the recommendations to the GNSO council for their approval at the next council meeting.

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Moving forward, so this is pretty much the upcoming processes. The immediate upcoming process that at least we are aware of currently is the GNSO nomination for the ICANN Fellowship Program Mentor. This again, you'll find on the wiki page under the selections and appointments section. I actually, when making this slide, didn't actually know about this process yet, and I happened to find out that the call for nominations was announced last week. I think it was 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

So, if you see in the yellow announcement bubble, this is actually outdated as of now, but with this announcement, the GNSO council will be sending out call for volunteers soon on our webpage, as in the GNSO council webpage. And so, please watch out for that. And with this, we can, I think today, at the next steps, set up our next meeting for mid-January. And I think Julf and Vivek, we've discussed will be proposing this during the week of 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of January. And this will be after the holidays, because again, the steps that I've explained. We'll have to go through all this process before we actually meet to deliberate.

Again, just for announcement purposes, the name should be submitted to the fellowship program by 10<sup>th</sup> of February. So, hopefully we have enough time and we'll be discussing this during our next steps. If you actually see in the second timeline, you'll see that DNS Abuse Working Group chair is listed, but this is a TBD item for now, because again, I've also put it into the yellow bubble for you, but the PDP hasn't actually not been initiated by the council yet. And the leadership call for volunteers also have not gone out accordingly. It's just something that we may anticipate if there are many volunteers for the chair role. I think I'll stop here before we go into next steps for any questions. And if Julf wants to add anything.

JULF HELSINGIUS: No, thank you. I think that was very informative. The only thing I want to sort of underline and just repeat from what you said, that sort of everybody is aware, one is that sort of formally, when we select something, it's not the final decision. The final call is always with the GNSO council, but I can't remember a single case when the GNSO council wouldn't have followed the Standing Selection Committee recommendations.

And the other thing is that yes, for transparency, pretty much of everything we say is recorded and is public, so be careful what you comment about candidates. Those were the only things I wanted to be sure everybody understands. But yeah, I think we are—does anyone have questions about any of this? I don't see any hands. Right. Shall we go to next steps, then?

SAEWON LEE: Julf, so I can start this off, and then if you'd like to lead the discussions on the next steps.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Sure.

SAEWON LEE: Basically, as you can see in this slide, staff will be sending out a Doodle poll to set the next meeting related to the ICANN Fellowship Program Mentor Selection. And again, this will be during 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of January

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week. And obviously, Julf will be mentioning this later, but we will definitely try to consider the rotation of time zones, and I think that's it. So, I'll hand it over to you, Julf.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Well, thank you. And just to explain the choice of dates is that it's of the week after the GNSO strategic workshop. So, we don't want to be in that week, but we also want to be able to respond in time. So, that pretty much settles which week we have to do our next meeting. But yeah, exact day to be determined by poll, and we'll try to look at—I think we should look at times where we don't always force poor Vivek to sort of stay up rather late or very early. Any comments or opposition to the possible dates or anything? Are we okay with this? Don't see any hands. Don't see any comments. I think we are clear on how to proceed. You will get a poll of our dates.

So, any other business? Does anyone have anything they want to bring up? I see no hands. I hear nothing. I think some of us want to go to bed. Some of us want to have their morning coffee. Thank you, everybody for attending, and I guess, we'll meet again in January. So, have a good holiday if we don't see each other before that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Thank you. Happy holidays.

TERRI AGNEW:

Bye-bye.

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VIVEK GOYAL: Thank you, everybody. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]