

16 December 2019

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

The Business Constituency appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the selection criteria for GNSO Council NomCom Appointees, particularly in relation to the desirable skillsets and traits that, in our experience, can indicate effective members who are able to act in a manner that is beneficial to the Council and, by extension, the entire GNSO.

Our foremost request would be that the candidate should have prior understanding of the DNS and the ICANN Policy Development Process as a whole, even in the case of non-voting members. Given the ever-increasing complexity of the ICANN environment, with multiple large-scale projects happening in parallel, we believe that the role of the GNSO Council is key in ensuring timely and effective management of all gTLD policy discussions and processes. We also believe that we have a responsibility to steer our work towards practical and effective results that will fairly serve all parts of the community.

As such, we strongly believe that all Councilors, including NCAs, need to have significant knowledge and experience of ICANN if they are to be able to contribute effectively to Council. The community's onboarding efforts have demonstrated over the years the difficulty in bringing any new members up to speed, even with the mentorship of several engaged volunteers, so we do not think that it is realistic to expect NCAs to be able to engage in the GNSO's processes, let alone the Council deliberations, if they are not already well-versed in its role.

This does not mean that we would automatically prioritize a GNSO SG/C-affiliated candidate over one from elsewhere in the community, and neither would we discount any non-ICANN experience that may be relevant. However, we do believe that experience and understanding of the ICANN ecosystem itself is vital.

It would be our pleasure to engage in further discussions.

Sincerely,

Claudia Selli, Chair

The ICANN Business Constituency