

Guidance from the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group to the Nominating Committee (NomCom) on Important Skills for Board Members

7 May 2018

The Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) appreciates this opportunity to offer guidance to the Nominating Committee (NomCom) on what we consider to be important skills possessed by Board Members. While we believe that Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Article 7 of the ICANN ByLaws set forth very helpful criteria regarding the selection of the Board Members in terms of diversity in geography, culture, skills, experience, and perspective, we do hope that our guidance is helpful to and considered by the NomCom when candidates are under evaluation.

We would like to emphasize the following skills and attributes:

1. A demonstrated understanding of the role of non-commercial stakeholders in the ICANN process together with an understanding of the multistakeholder model and the role of different stakeholders therein.
2. Good understanding and, ideally, experience of working, contributing, and/or participating in a bottom-up, multistakeholder process.
3. A good understanding of the working of Internet, Domain Name System (DNS), and the need to protect the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS would be welcomed (but not necessarily required).
4. Strong collaboration and consensus building skills, as these will be of great help to be effective in the ICANN process.
5. A good understanding of, and ideally experience working with, national and regional Internet governance initiatives.
6. Effective and demonstrable communication skills, including extemporaneous public speaking, responding to questions, and participation in email lists with diverse groups and individuals.
7. Good understanding of, and ideally experience with, contributing to working groups, committees, and similar consensus-driven structures.
8. Must understand the role and remit of ICANN within the Internet ecosystem.
9. Must possess a demonstrated understanding of the implications of the DNS on privacy and internationally-recognized human rights.
10. Must understand and be sympathetic to non-state and non-market interests, and seek to protect the rights of noncommercial users and uses of the DNS.
11. Must understand and accept the limited, narrow, and technical mission of ICANN.