

Registries Stakeholder Group Statement

Issue: **Proposed Revisions to Bylaws Section 11 - Additional Voting Thresholds**

Date statement submitted: **4 May 2018**

Reference URL: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/bylaws-section11-voting-2018-03-26-en>

Background¹

- Changes to Section 11.3.i of the ICANN Bylaws to reflect additional GNSO voting thresholds which are different from the current threshold of a simple majority vote of each House.
- The additional voting thresholds are intended to address new or additional rights and responsibilities in relation to the participation of the GNSO as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community.
- The GNSO Council unanimously recommended the changes to the ICANN Board. ([30 Jan 18](#))
- [Redline version of the ICANN Bylaws Section 11](#)
- [RySG Comment on GNSO Operating Procedures and ICANN Bylaws](#) (August 2017)

Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) comment:

The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Revisions to the ICANN Bylaws Section 11 on additional voting thresholds for the GNSO Council, pertaining to the GNSO's new rights and responsibilities as Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community.

As expressed in our [earlier comment](#) on the issue the RySG 'fully recognises the authority of the GNSO to speak on behalf of the GNSO as Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community. This is in line with current practice and working methods and respects the existing equilibrium within the GNSO's structure.' We believe that the additional voting thresholds are needed for the GNSO to exercise its new rights and responsibilities as a Decisional Participant.

The RySG notes that the proposed wording of 11.3.j.viii needs to be changed to make sense and proposes the following wording, which we believe is consistent with the intent of the the proposed Bylaws changes.

¹ *Background: intended to give a brief context for the comment and to highlight what is most relevant for RO's in the subject document – it is not a summary of the subject document.*

The RySG suggests a minor change to the wording of 11.3.j.viii :

“(viii) Approval of a petition notice to remove a director holding seat 13 or 14 as contemplated in Annex D, Article 3, Section 3.2(f): requires an affirmative vote of at least three-quarters (3/4) of the GNSO Council (~~which should~~) and at least three quarters (3/4) of the House that appointed that Director.”

The RySG also notes that ‘three quarters’ and ‘three fourths’ is used interchangeably in the document and recommends that this be addressed for consistency.
