

Dear Council Members,

As discussed during ICANN59 in Johannesburg, the GNSO Council is looking to form a Standing Committee consisting of interested GNSO Council members focused on the ICANN Budget and Operational Plan. You will recall that the GNSO Council submitted comments as part of the FY17 & FY18 ICANN draft budget and operating plans. These past efforts have been ad hoc and somewhat reactionary. Given changes to the ICANN bylaws and the new powers afforded to the Empowered Community, one of which is the power to reject the ICANN budget, it was discussed that the formation of this new Standing Committee could formalize the Council's consideration of future budget cycles in a more proactive and continuous manner. As a reminder, this standing committee is not expected to compete with or overtake any work that SG/Cs may undertake in relation to the ICANN budget and operating plans. The Standing Committee is expected to focus solely on the aspects of the budget that are considered within the remit of the GNSO Council. Obviously as there are common interests, the Standing Committee may want to consider how to engage and facilitate dialogue with SG/C members that are involved in the budget planning process, but as said, the Standing Committee is in no way intended to overtake those separate efforts.

A draft of proposed activities is attached here. In short, the intent of the Standing Committee is to better prepare the GNSO Council for the yearly draft ICANN budget and operating plan that begins at the start of each new calendar year. It is anticipated that the Standing Committee will also monitor and inform the GNSO Council on a quarterly basis as ICANN delivers its quarterly reports of actual spend as compared to the approved budget for the current fiscal year. It is also anticipated that this committee could also help inform the GNSO should the Empowered Community decide to trigger the power to reject the ICANN budget.

Council leadership is placing this call for volunteers to Council members that are interested in participating. Please submit your interest to join this Standing Committee to gnso-secs@icann.org.

At one of the upcoming GNSO Council meetings, we will make this topic an agenda item to discuss who volunteered and to further consider the Standing Committee's statement of work.

Near-term action items to prepare this committee include:

1. Submit Call for Volunteers and compile member list (this email and attached charter)
2. Revise draft charter as required and formally launch the Standing Committee
3. Staff will create a dedicated wiki page for the Standing Committee within the GNSO Council section
4. Staff will create a separate email list to which anyone interested can be added as an observer
5. Provide updates on the Standing Committee's planned activities at future Council meetings and on the mail list as appropriate

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your participation in this important effort.

James Bladel, Heather Forrest, Donna Austin
GNSO Council Leadership Team

GNSO Council - Standing Committee on ICANN Budget and Operations Charter

Adopted by GNSO Council on [date]

Description and Objective

The goal of the Standing Committee on ICANN Budget and Operations is to coordinate and facilitate dialogue to fully understand ICANN's strategic and operational planning and budgetary processes in preparation for the annual budgetary comments cycle as it relates to the GNSO Council's remit.

The Committee is expected to develop and provide recommendations to the GNSO Council concerning positions to take and input to be provided to relevant public comment forums. GNSO SG/Cs may be invited to contribute to or support the position or input of the GNSO Council as recommended by the Standing Committee. Membership of the Committee is open only to GNSO Council members as elected by their respective Stakeholder Group or Constituency.

Chair, Members and Support

Members of the Standing Committee will be comprised of volunteers from the GNSO Council and the nomination of the chair will be determined by said committee. Members will be listed on the community wiki. Stakeholder Group and Constituency members that are interested to follow the deliberations are encouraged to sign up as observers. The Standing Committee may decide to invite the input from observers as deemed appropriate.

Membership to the Standing Committee is based on a Council member's term. Constitution of the Committee will be reviewed at each AGM (Annual General Meeting) as Council member terms expire and new members are elected by their respective groups. The Standing Committee may decide to solicit additional volunteers throughout the year as needed.

Support for the Standing Committee is provided by ICANN's GNSO Support staff.

Scope

The Committee's scope of activities will encompass monitoring and formulating positions that are submitted to the GNSO Council for approval with regards to ICANN's Budget and Operating Planning cycle in addition to following quarterly reporting activity of actual spend as it relates to the GNSO Council and GNSO as a Decisional Participant to the Empowered Community.

The Standing Committee will provide regular feedback to the GNSO Council on the strategic and operational plan and any formulated positions.

In achieving its objective the Standing Committee will undertake, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- Disseminate and summarize information relevant to ICANN's operational plan and budget;
- Formulate and prepare comments to be submitted as part of ICANN's and PTI's fiscal year budget cycle;
- Monitor and disseminate information pertaining to ICANN's quarterly review as it pertains to actual spend versus planned budget;
- Inform or advise the GNSO Council should a rejection of the ICANN Budget be triggered;
- Organizing GNSO focused strategy and operations sessions at ICANN events as required.

Review of Standing Committee Charter and Activities

A review of this charter and activities will take place at each AGM (Annual General Meeting) or when considered necessary, for instance when the general ICANN process will change and affects the charter of the Standing Committee.

Reporting

The Chair of the Standing Committee will report regularly through email to the GNSO Council and provide a full report at the GNSO meetings held during the ICANN meetings regarding the activities of the Standing Committee.