

Call for Volunteers: GNSO Council's Standing Committee on ICANN's Budget and Operations

In Brief

The GNSO Council's Standing Committee on ICANN's Budget and Operations (SCBO) seeks Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies (SGs/Cs) to collaborate on developing proposed GNSO Council input in relation to the annual fiscal year budgeting process. The SCBO charter can be reviewed [here](#) [PDF, 158KB].

What The Standing Committee Will Do

The task of the SCBO is to coordinate and facilitate dialogue to fully understand ICANN's strategic and operational planning and budgetary processes, in particular in preparation for the annual budgetary comments cycle as it relates to the GNSO Council's remit.

The committee's scope of activities will encompass monitoring relevant information and formulating proposed positions that are submitted to the GNSO Council for approval with regards to ICANN's Budget and Operating Planning cycle as it relates to the Council's remit of managing the GNSO's policy development process and the GNSO's role as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community. The SCBO cannot initiate any action or decision on its own, unless specifically instructed by the GNSO Council – any and all recommendations will need to be submitted to the GNSO Council for its consideration.

While GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies file their own comments specific to their respective SG/C, interested SMEs are invited to contribute to the input for the GNSO Council as recommended by the SCBO. It is anticipated that this collaborative forum will enhance the GNSO's understanding of ICANN's budgetary process and allow for increased coordination of input submitted across groups within the GNSO. Note that when needed, decisions of the SCBO will only be made by the Council members that have joined the standing committee, but input from SMEs as a part of that process will be welcomed.

How The Standing Committee Will Work

The SCBO will function much like ICANN Working Groups using transparent, open processes. The meetings of this standing committee will be recorded and the recordings will be made available to the public. The mailing list for the SCBO will be archived publicly. The group will collaborate using a public workspace for draft materials and all final work products and milestones will be documented on the [SCBO's wiki](#).

As deemed necessary, the SCBO will also coordinate interactions with ICANN's Finance team to present on activities around the budget process and to respond to clarifying questions prior to any public comment submissions.

Note that the SCBO's charter was adopted by the GNSO Council on an interim basis. Following the FY19 budget cycle, the SCBO is expected to review the charter and communicate the outcome of this review as well as any lessons learned to the GNSO Council so it can make a determination if the SCBO requires adjustments to its charter or whether the formation of the standing committee continues as a function of the GNSO Council.

How to Participate

Subject Matter Experts – members within the SGs/Cs of the GNSO that are interested in ICANN's annual budget and operating plan process can volunteer to join the SCBO as a SME by expressing interest to their respective leadership teams. Members and SMEs of the SCBO will be required to provide a Statement of Interests ([SOI](#)).

In addition, there will be opportunities to provide input through the public comment processes via your respective SGs/Cs as always performed in the past.

How to Join

SG/C leadership teams should communicate this call for volunteers among your respective groups. The SCBO is relatively closed except to those who are involved in ICANN's financial matters and Councilors of the GNSO. Once you have identified interested members among your respective groups, SG/C leadership should communicate their selections to the GNSO Secretariat by sending an email to gnso-secs@icann.org. After which, staff will update their membership to the SCBO and add their email address to the mailing list.

All Members, SMEs, and Observers will be listed on the SCBO's [wiki page](#).

Next Steps

It is anticipated that ICANN will launch a public comment period for the FY19 Draft ICANN Budget on 15 January 2018. One week after (22 January at 14:00 UTC), to allow time for review of the budget documents, the SCBO will hold its first meeting to begin deliberations on the formation of a draft of public comments for the GNSO Council. As interested SMEs join the SCBO, staff will send out calendar invites and reminders.

Background

In prior years, the GNSO Council submitted comments as part of the FY17 & FY18 ICANN draft budget and operating plans. Despite having volunteers from the Council

and coordination from the Chair and staff, these past efforts were ad hoc and somewhat reactionary. With 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 suggested at ICANN 59 that the formation of a standing committee could formalize the Council's consideration of future budget cycles in a more proactive and continuous manner. This issue was discussed over several GNSO Council meetings with an [adoption of an interim charter](#) for the SCBO at its 21 December 2017 meeting.