26 January 2021

Dear GNSO Stakeholder Group and Constituency Leaders,

**Call for a second call for EOIs for the Community Representatives Group**

Members of the GNSO Selection Standing Committee (SSC) believe that there should be a second call for volunteers to participate on the Community Representatives Group (CRG) to appoint the Independent Review Process (IRP) Standing Panel. The GNSO has the opportunity to appoint up to two representatives to the CRG, and we believe that the GNSO should try and fill that second slot. We believe first in the significance of the IRP to the GNSO, and second to ensure the effectiveness of the CRG in fulfilling its commitment to serving the ICANN community and in this case ultimately selecting the IRP Standing Panel.

Significance of the IRP to the GNSO

The CRG is of particular importance to the GNSO as historically IRPs are resolving gTLD or gTLD policy issues – which is the remit of the GNSO. A second call for volunteers is not solely about appointing two members from the GNSO to the CRG but ensuring that the GNSO has the opportunity to appoint the most qualified candidate(s) to the CRG. The SSC wishes to make clear that our concerns have nothing to do with the suitability of Heather Forrest and we have recommended her appointment to the CRG. The SSC appreciates that the call for volunteers for the CRG is not just a GNSO issue, but a broader community issue.

Effectiveness of the CRG

We also believe that a second Expressions of Interest (EOI) should not interfere with the work and timelines of the CRG. However, the IRP is a critical accountability mechanism for ICANN. As a body that will be appointing the IRP Standing Panel, that is future IRP panelists, it is crucial that the CRG undertake all necessary actions to demonstrate its effectiveness and fulfill its commitments. The following points set out potential threats to the effectiveness of the CRG:

1. The [call [icann.org]](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.icann.org/news/announcement-2020-11-18-en__;!!PtGJab4!syy6u67faUMncrTw70VfM7JXKehYfZey52d81-GEJWsrbb_9ivRm8_4MFNSKYFON5ZzinSmtoA$) for volunteers was only open for 17 days and overlapped with public holidays celebrated around the world, and had the background of the ongoing global pandemic;
2. The initial call for volunteers contained minimal detail about the role, such as the expected time commitment, which likely resulted in a small number of applicants responding to the call; and
3. The expected size of the CRG is set out to be between 7 and 15 members, however, only six individuals across all ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SOs and ACs) submitted an EOI. We also appreciate that previous discussions favour ensuring a qualified group of members are appointed to the CRG rather than appointing a set number of community members. As there are fewer applicants than the anticipated minimum size of the group and there is no guarantee that all six applicants will be appointed, we in the GNSO believe it is prudent to conduct a second EOI.

Members of the SSC believe that given the importance of the IRP to the GNSO, the need for the CRG to be viewed as an effective body and ensuring the most skilled and qualified candidates are appointed to the CRG, a second call for EOIs for the CRG should be issued.

Kind regards,

GNSO Standing Selection Committee