

Registrar Constituency Position on Proposed ICANN Bylaw Revision Concerning GNSO Council Member Term Limits

November 3, 2008

BACKGROUND

In October 2008, the members of the Registrar Constituency (“RC”) were asked to provide feedback regarding a proposed modification of the ICANN bylaws that would implement term limits for GNSO Council members. This Position Paper captures the overall sentiment expressed by the RC members who provided feedback about this matter and seems to reflect the general sense of the RC. However, due to time constraints, no formal vote regarding this Position Paper was taken.

RC POSITION

The RC supports the proposed modification of the ICANN bylaws implementing term limits for GNSO Council members.

The RC agrees that it is in the best interests of the ICANN community to have term limits for GNSO Council members, and the RC agrees that the exceptions provided for in the revision are appropriate and sufficient. Term limits will enhance inclusiveness and enable more people to become involved in Council activities. The GNSO Council will benefit from the fresh ideas and perspectives that a regular introduction of new Council members brings. It is significant that both the Board Governance Committee's report of February 3, 2008 on GNSO Improvements and the majority of the GNSO Councilors agreed on this need for term limits. The proposed term limit modification also mirrors the spirit of the RC's own bylaws, which prevent an RC member from serving more than two consecutive terms as a GNSO Council representative.

The RC notes that some questions have been raised as to whether the pending GNSO restructuring presents issues for the implementation of term limits that should be considered before term limits are adopted. The RC has considered this carefully and believes that no such issues exist. The questions being raised appear to be attempts to delay the implementation of term limits by those who do not support them. The RC supports the proposed bylaw modification as written and encourages its immediate implementation. The RC looks forward to the diversity that term limits will bring to the GNSO Council and its activities.

CONCLUSION

The opinions expressed by the RC in this Position Paper should not be interpreted to reflect the individual opinion of any particular RC member.