ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

Name:	GNSO Standing Selection Committee

Section I: Working Group Identification

Chartering Organization(s):	Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council
Charter Approval Date:	15 March 2017, Revised Charter v. 1.1 Approved 24 May 2018, Revised Charter v. 1.2 Approved [DATE]
Name of Standing Committee Chair:	
Name(s) of Appointed Liaison(s):	
Standing Selection Committee Workspace URL:	https://community.icann.org/x/aL-RAw
Standing Selection Committee Mailing List:	Mailing list archives: http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/gnso-ssc/

GNSO Council Resolution:	**Title:**	Preliminary Adoption of GNSO Standing Selection Committee (SSC) Charter
	Ref # & Link:	https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/resolutions#201703

Important Document Links:	

Section II: Mission, Purpose, and Deliverables

Mission & Scope:

The GNSO Standing Selection Committee (SSC) is tasked, as requested by the GNSO Council, to 1), where applicable, prepare and issue calls for applications related to the selection or nomination of candidates for ICANN structures such as ICANN review teams, 2) review and evaluate all relevant applicants/candidates, 3) rank candidates and make selection/appointment recommendations for review and approval by Council and 4) communicate selections to all interested parties.

This charter sets out the general guidelines and principles that the SSC is expected to apply to any selection process, recognizing that depending on the scope or nature of the selection in question certain modifications may have to be made. For any selection process, the SSC is expected to communicate in advance the expected steps and timeline that will apply to that specific selection process.

The SSC is expected to provide its full consensus recommendations to the GNSO Council for consideration, which will make the ultimate determination on any appointments, selections and/or nominations. In case no full consensus is achieved, the SSC will inform the GNSO Council accordingly, providing the details as necessary and agreed by the SSC as to why it was not possible to achieve full consensus.

Objectives & Goals:

To provide full consensus recommendations to the GNSO Council on the selection and/or nomination of GNSO representatives to ICANN structures, such as, for example, review teams.

Deliverables & Timeframes:

At the beginning of its work, the SSC developed a standard timeline as well as expected steps for the different appointments and/or nominations. This document serves as a resource for the SSC on an ongoing basis as the SSC develops specific timelines for individual assignments.

The SSC delivers recommendations on selections/appointments for review and approval by Council for roles such as the:

- Nominations for ICANN review teams as provided for in the ICANN Bylaws (note, that this does not include the SCWG & IFR RT – appointments for those efforts are made directly by GNSO SGs);
- GNSO Appointed Mentor to the ICANN Fellowship Program;
- GNSO liaisons to Operational Design Phases;
- GNSO liaison to the GAC, and;
- The GNSO non-registry liaison to the Customer Standing Committee.

See the SSC wiki homepage for the latest version of the standard process document:

https://community.icann.org/x/aL-RAw

Section III: Formation, Staffing, and Organization

Membership Criteria:

The SSC shall consist of a total of 9 members (not including the ex-officio members), appointed as follows:
- One member appointed by each Stakeholder Group of the Contracted Party House;

- One member appointed respectively by each of the Business Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency;

- Three members appointed by the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group; and,

- One member from one of the three Nominating-Committee appointees to the GNSO Council.

In addition, the GNSO Chair or one of the Council Vice-Chairs will serve as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the SSC to ensure that there is always a direct link between the SSC and the GNSO Council.

If a member is not able to participate in a selection process, that member will be responsible, in accordance with the processes of the appropriate SG/C, to identify an alternate who is expected to participate in the SSC deliberations in case of absence of the member or in cases where a member may be conflicted (e.g. in case the member is one of the candidates to be reviewed by the SSC). If an SSC member is a candidate for a position for which the SSC is expected to carry out the selection process, the member in question is expected to recuse from the deliberations and decision-making process concerning that specific position.

A member is required to declare to the SSC if the member has a personal or professional relationship with a candidate that may be perceived as having a material impact to the decision process. Recusal is not required. Members are encouraged to use good judgment in determining whether to participate in a selection process or identify an alternate.

Members or alternates do not need to be Council members but they do need to be appointed and/or reconfirmed by the leadership of the appointing SG and/or C.

The SSC is expected to select its Chair from its membership. The SSC may also select one or two Vice Chairs from its membership to assist the Chair.

The Chair serves as a neutral facilitator who calls meetings, presides over SSC deliberations, and manages the process so that all participants have the opportunity to contribute. The Chair and Vice Chair(s) are also contributing members to the SSC deliberations and participate in consensus calls. Because members of the leadership team are serving in two roles, they are expected to make clear when they are providing input as a member as opposed to speaking in a leadership capacity.

Committee Formation, Dependencies, & Dissolution:

The SSC will be a standing committee. The membership is expected to be confirmed by each Stakeholder Group and Constituency and the nominating committee appointees within 3 weeks after the end of the ICANN AGM. The term for an SSC member is 1 year. Members may not serve for more than two consecutive terms, with the exception of the GNSO Chair and/or Council Vice-Chairs. At any time the GNSO Council may decide to dissolve the standing committee should there no longer be a need for such a committee.

The SSC may request from the GNSO Council a review of the Charter annually or if the members identify a need for a specific review.

Committee Roles, Functions, & Duties:

The ICANN Staff assigned to the SSC will fully support the work of the committee as requested by the Chair including meeting support, document drafting, editing and distribution and other substantive contributions when deemed appropriate.

The standard Committee roles, functions & duties shall be applicable as specified in Section 2.2 of the Working Group Guidelines.

Statements of Interest (SOI) Guidelines:

Each member of the Standing Committee is required to submit an SOI in accordance with Section 5 of the [GNSO Operating Procedures](#).

Transparency

Unless otherwise directed by the GNSO Council, the names of all applicants and all documents received during the selection process shall be considered public and published on the GNSO web-site or other ICANN web-site as standard practice. To facilitate its deliberations, the SSC may decide to conduct some or all of its deliberations in private, but if so, it is expected to provide a rationale with its recommendations. If the SSC determines that it needs to keep certain application materials private, for example to protect personal information provided by applicants, it is also expected to provide a rationale for doing so. At a minimum, the SSC will publish the names of applicants and links to the applicants' Statements of Interest, when available.

Section IV: Rules of Engagement

Review Team Appointments Principles

For any appointments and/or nominations, the SSC is expected to apply the following guiding principles, noting that depending on the scope or nature of the selection in question certain modifications may have to be made. For any selection process, the SSC is expected to communicate in advance the expected steps and timeline that will apply to that specific selection process.

1. The SSC should ensure adequate representation and participation of its members to ensure diversity of views. Should there be any concerns in relation to participation of selected members, the SSC is expected to raise those concerns with the appointing SG/C.

2. Following receipt of the list of candidates, the SSC is expected to reach out to each SG/C to confirm affiliation as stated by candidates.

3. Each SG/C should be provided with sufficient opportunity to provide this confirmation as well as any other information the SG/C deems useful through its member representative(s) for the SSC to consider as part of its evaluation.

4. In those cases where the SSC is responsible for the call for volunteers or has been requested to provide input, it will, at a minimum, list the nature and responsibilities of the position, the skill set desired of applicants and the criteria that will be used by the SSC to rank and select applicants. The call for applications shall be submitted to the GNSO Council for review prior to publication.

5. Members of the SSC are expected to individually evaluate all candidates. Following that, the SSC will collectively review and evaluate all the applications and other materials relevant to the selection through a method determined by the SSC (for example, a survey tool may be used to assess the skills and qualifications of candidates).

6. The SSC will, based on this review, by consensus (see next section), rank the candidates according to the criteria listed in the call for applications.

7. The SSC shall strive as far as possible to achieve balance, representativeness, diversity and sufficient expertise appropriate for the applicable selection process. In order to achieve balance and diversity on the Review Teams, the SSC is strongly encouraged to employ a system of rotation to Review Team selections. Any Stakeholder Group which nominated candidates(s) for a Review Team but did not have a candidate selected for that Review Team shall be preferred as a qualified applicant from their Stakeholder Group for one of the three guaranteed slots for the next GNSO Review Team appointment processes.

The SSC shall communicate to the GNSO Council the selected candidate(s), including proposed ranking where applicable. The SSC shall notify candidates of its recommendations to the GNSO Council at the same time that it notifies the GNSO Council of its recommendations, making clear that the recommendations are subject to GNSO Council consideration. The level of consensus reached by the SSC on the selected candidates will also be communicated as well as any additional guidance or comments the SSC would like to provide. If the SSC is unable to reach consensus on a recommendation, the SSC will inform the GNSO Council accordingly, providing the details as necessary and agreed by the SSC as to why it was not possible to achieve full consensus."

Following receipt of the SSC recommendations, the GNSO Council is expected to consider the proposed candidate(s) for approval. Should the GNSO Council disagree, or partially disagree, with the SSC recommendations, it has the ability to 1) approve the recommendations in part or 2) return the recommendations to the SSC with a request for further consideration.

Following approval by the GNSO Council, the GNSO Chair, with the assistance of the GNSO Secretariat, will inform the relevant party (for example, in the case of Review Team nominations, the SO/AC Chairs) of the selection and possible ranking of candidates.
Decision-Making Methodologies:
The Chair will be responsible for designating the position as having the following designation: ● **Full consensus** - when no one in the group speaks against the recommendation in its last readings. This is also sometimes referred to as **Unanimous Consensus.** In case no full consensus is achieved, the SSC will inform the GNSO Council accordingly, providing the details as necessary and agreed by the SSC as to why it was not possible to achieve full consensus.
Status Reporting:
As requested by the GNSO Council.
Problem/Issue Escalation & Resolution Processes:
{Note: the following material was extracted from Sections 3.4, 3.5, and 3.7 of the Working Group Guidelines and may be modified by the Chartering Organization at its discretion} The SSC will adhere to ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior as documented in Section F of the ICANN Accountability and Transparency Frameworks and Principles, January 2008. If an SSC member feels that these standards are being abused, the affected party should appeal first to the Chair and, if unsatisfactorily resolved, to the Chair of the Chartering Organization or their designated representative. It is important to emphasize that expressed disagreement is not, by itself, grounds for abusive behavior. It should also be taken into account that as a result of cultural differences and language barriers, statements may appear disrespectful or inappropriate to some but are not necessarily intended as such. However, it is expected that SSC members make every effort to respect the principles outlined in ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior as referenced above. The Chair is empowered to restrict the participation of someone who seriously disrupts the SSC. Any such restriction will be reviewed by the Chartering Organization. Generally, the participant should

first be warned privately, and then warned publicly before such a restriction is put into place. In extreme circumstances, this requirement may be bypassed.

Any SSC member that believes that the member's contributions are being systematically ignored or discounted or wants to appeal a decision of the SSC or CO should first discuss the circumstances with the WG Chair. In the event that the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the SSC member should request an opportunity to discuss the situation with the Chair of the Chartering Organization or their designated representative.

In addition, if any member of the SSC is of the opinion that someone is not performing their role according to the criteria outlined in this Charter, the same appeal process may be invoked.

Closure & Working Group Self-Assessment:

At any time the GNSO Council may decide to dissolve the standing committee should there no longer be a need for such a committee.

Section V: Charter Document History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	15 Mar 2017	Interim Charter approved by GNSO Council.
1.1	24 May 2018	Revised Charter approved by GNSO Council.
1.2	[DATE]	Revised Charter approved by GNSO Council.

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