

---

ICANN81 | AGM – ccNSO: Q&A with Council Candidates  
Wednesday, November 13, 2024 – 13:15 to 14:30 TRT

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Hello, and welcome to the ccNSO Members Meeting Session. This is the Q&A session with the Council candidates. My name is Claudia Ruiz, and I am the participation manager for this session. Please note this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form as noted.

Interpretation for this session will include English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English, and speak at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Thank you. And with this, I will now hand the floor over to Barrack Otieno, chair for this session. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much, Claudia. Good afternoon, and welcome to the Q&A Council candidates' session. Before we move into the session, I would like to invite Elizabeth Fields, the ICANN ombudsman, to make

---

***Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.***

---

some opening remarks and also introduce herself to the ccNSO community. Elizabeth, over to you.

ELIZABETH FIELD:

Thank you. This is Elizabeth Field. Liz, I go by Liz, and I'll speak in English. First of all, thank you for the time and the opportunity to introduce myself. I'll be brief, and then if there are any questions, I'd be really happy to answer them. I see a couple of familiar faces, so I apologize if you are already getting bored of hearing me introduce myself. But anyway, so I am the new ICANN ombuds. I'll cover in my introduction two things. I'll cover just a little bit about the role, for those who don't know, and just a little bit about my background. And I'll also share with you three principles that I have for evolving the ombuds office.

Just in terms of the role, the role is set out in the ICANN bylaws. I have a role to play in evaluating complaints from the community who believe they've been treated unfairly. I investigate complaints under the anti-harassment policy, and I have a role to play in requests for reconsideration. I also have a role as an advocate for fairness, and this is something I take quite seriously in terms of promoting a positive environment and taking steps as ombuds to look at what we want in ICANN.

Two things that are very important for me to state about the role. One is that the role is independent. As is best practice for ombuds, it goes into the highest level of the organization, so I report directly to the Board. In terms of my background, I feel very well prepared for the

---

ICANN environment. I have two decades' experience working as ombuds conflict resolution mediator, conflicts coach, facilitation, dialogue processes, but also as organizational development, so that's working on the system.

I think most importantly, all of these roles have been in multilingual, intercultural, global settings. I have also worked for an organization called Amnesty International, which is a similar organizing model, bottom-up, consensus building, volunteers at the heart, and I've worked for UN agencies, and I am based in Geneva currently right now.

Just to say in terms of the three principles for evolving the office, I think there's a very solid foundation to build on and a lot of interesting opportunities coming up. One thing I'd like to say is that I will be using data to develop a strategy with prevention at the heart of it. Part of that data is I want to hear from the community in terms of what the needs are and respond to those needs. The second principle is around communicating and engaging with the community, so I hope to really involve people in identifying and measuring the services that are offered to the community as ombuds.

Finally, the third principle is around the promotion of the positive, creating the environment, and providing services that support prevention of escalation and things like working with conflict relationships and behaviors. I guess, finally, to say that my aim is to work collaboratively, so I really hope to have contact with you, the community. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to take them. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you for keeping time. Any questions for Elizabeth? I think she deserves a round of applause for keeping time. Thank you very much. All right. We transition into the Q&A session for the Council candidates, and we are going to have it in two parts. The first part will take a maximum of 10 minutes, and it will focus on non-contended councilors. And we'll have a second part, which hopefully will take 25 minutes, for Council contenders. After that, we will wrap up with a Q&A session for the Board candidates that will take 25 minutes.

And I think Elizabeth has set the tone for us in terms of time management, so I hope that the candidates will also follow suit. So, we start with the non-contended part, and we'll start with the Africa region, and I'll give the floor to Biyi Oladipo to introduce himself and also share his candidate statement, if at all he has one. Welcome, Biyi.

BIYI OLADIPO:

Thank you, Barrack. Good day, everyone. My name is Biyi Oladipo from the .ng ccTLD. And I don't want to say so contested when I'm contesting on the platform of the African region. I've been on the Council for a couple of years now, and I'm currently vice chair, one of the vice chairs of the ccNSO Council. All through the period that I've been on the Council, one interesting thing for me is the interest in ensuring that we have continuity and sustainability in the things that we do.

And I've taken special interest along with Pablo on working with people who are newcomers and also trying to see how we can make the

---

process a lot interesting for people to join and also continue to. More importantly, on the African continent, we have all worked together with the regional organization to ensure that we have more Africans coming to the process and also being active in the ccNSO. This I will continue to do when I am back on the Council. Thank you.

**BARRACK OTIENO:** Thank you very much, Biyi. I will move to the North American region and invite Pablo to introduce himself and give his candidate statement.

**PABLO RODRIGUEZ:** Thank you, Barrack. Good afternoon and greetings to all. For those of you who do not know me, I'm Pablo Rodriguez from the North American region. Basically, station based in Puerto Rico. I figure some of you may have known that we have celebrated several ICANN events in Puerto Rico. That has given me an opportunity to participate in numerous working groups, allowing me a diverse view on the different needs and opportunities that are available to the various participants.

Specifically, like we mentioned to newcomers and in that induction of newcomers in helping out and facilitating others to be able to participate in this ecosystem. So, throughout the years, I have been able to develop the set of skills necessary to work effectively and efficiently within this ecosystem. And I'm looking forward to continue doing so and facilitating the road for others to come. Thank you.

---

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much, Pablo. I will move to the EU region, and I'll invite Nicklas to introduce himself and also give his statement.

NICKLAS POUSETTE: Hello, everyone. My name is Nicklas Pousette, and I'm from the EU region. My daytime job is being the CTO for the Swedish Registry, the Swedish Internet Foundation, ccTLD manager for .se. So, what I hope to contribute to the ccNSO Council is a stronger connection with the technical community and balance the work done in policy work and tech work in a good way.

I hope to work for even more diversity and inclusion. I think it works well today, but I think it can be even more improved to get more people on Board, more people joining the work, different perspective on questions and so on, which I think is an important thing to do. I hope to bring a deeper insight of the many times smaller TLDs that operate in Europe and how the business is for them and what can be done to make things better. And in a way to make even more people join the ccNSO to contribute in all way they can. And that's about it for me.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much, Nicklas. We move to the Asia Pacific region, and I'll give the floor to Jordan Carter to follow suit. Kindly introduce yourself and share your candidate statement.

---

JORDAN CARTER:

Thank you and good afternoon, everyone who's here in Istanbul. It's nice to be before you again. I'm just going to tell you a little bit about me, about why I'm motivated to seek election to the Council and some of the work I've been doing recently and what I want to offer in another term. I'm a Canadian, New Zealander who lives in Australia. So, if you don't find that confusing, believe me, I do sometimes. I've been there since '22, leading internet governance and coordination and public policy work for auDA, the .au ccTLD.

I've been involved with and around ICANN for must be 20 years or so now. I started out in APTLD as the secretary manager there and then developed a bit of a link through hosting ICANN in New Zealand and have been fairly fully involved here since 2013, mainly through the ccNSO, but also during the IANA stewardship transition as part of the accountability working streams.

And so, I built a lot of links with people in other parts of the ICANN community that have been really helpful in actually doing the job of a ccNSO Council member as well. One thing you might not know about me is that I'm actually a bit of a shy person. So, if I haven't had a chat with you yet, I know Alejandro is laughing at me, that point of meeting new people is always a bit of anxious to me. So, if I hadn't said hi to you yet, that's why.

I'm motivated to do this job again, partly because of what we do in this room, the people-to-people links that we have in the ccNSO. It's nice to be in a room where we take our issues for what they are, not necessarily for what countries or regions that we come from, and have the chance

to genuinely work together in the interests of something, the internet, that is, I still think, pretty much a positive force for people all around the world. And I want to keep helping the ccNSO to do its job as best it can for all of our interests.

In the last term on the Council, one of the things I was happy about was chairing the Triage committee, a job that we handed over to Nick last year, and helping to get a bit of a clearer picture about what the ccNSO's strategy is, the purpose and strategy on a page. And also now, in the last year or so, helping to deal with the policy gaps questions that were given rise by the LB thing.

If you elect me, Asia-Pacific CCs for another term, I do have the time and ability to focus on this job, so to do the work that needs to be done. auDA is a strong supporter of ccNSO and ICANN, and I can spend the time to do the job. I will bring a diplomatic, collaborative, and hopefully sometimes humorous approach to the work, keeping things light and engaging. And I'll keep in contact with the Asia-Pac community. I usually make it to at least one APTLD meeting a year. I'm always keen to hear from people in the region and to engage as much as I can. So please vote for me, and whatever happens, I know that in Thuy we've got another excellent candidate. So, the future of the ccNSO is strong. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much, Jordan. And we have a second candidate from the Asia-Pacific region. Nguyen, you have the floor to introduce yourself and also share with us your candidate statement.



NGUYEN THI THU THUY: Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy. I'm from .vn ccTLD. And I would like to take this chance to introduce something about myself. I am the Director of Department of Cooperation and Internet Resources Management of .vn. I have worked for .vn for over 22 years, and I have four years experience of APTLD board. And I have my desire to contribute my path to ccNSO. I think that I have experiences, quite good experiences in domain name industry. For 22 years, I worked for .vn, as well as four years of working in the roles of APTLD board members. And I believe that I would like to contribute more to ccNSO first.

For me, personally, I would like to contribute my path. And for my organizations, I mean .vn, I would like to encourage my staff, my colleagues to jump up and join more in the overall and the high-level forums of our industry. For our region, I mean Asia Pacific, I would like to contribute more for Asia Pacific region. I believe that if I have chance to work and to join ccNSO Council, I can bring more the voice of Asia Pacific to the international forum. And on the other side, I can help to bring ccNSO spirit to our region as a role of APTLD board.

One more thing I would like to share is that in my organization, I mean .vn, we are following the visions of internet for all and for APTLD's vision. As a member of APTLD board, I also follow the visions of internet for all. I'm the chair of working group of APTLD for the statement for internet for all. And now, being with me is the spirit for internet for all, I would like to contribute and follow this vision to contribute to ccNSO

as a ccNSO Council member. And I'm very new to ccNSO Council. And I also would like to learn more from you, excellent people, your valuable experience. And I believe that if I can be a ccNSO Council, I will try my best to contribute to ccNSO. And I also believe that I will learn a lot from you, the ccNSO forums and community. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much. We move to the Latin America and Caribbean region. And I would like to pass the floor to Diego to introduce himself and also share his candidate statement.

DIEGO ERNESTO LUNA:

Thank you. My name is Diego Luna. I'm part of the ccTLD .co. First of all, I want to greet everyone here in Istanbul and also everyone that is in the Zoom meeting. I would like to apologize to maybe most of you in here in Istanbul, but from now on, I'll be speaking in Spanish, so maybe you want to grab the translation machine.

Thank you very much, everyone. It's a pleasure to be here in Istanbul with all of you. My name is Diego Luna and I'm part of ccTLD .co. I'm part of the legal team. And for many years, I have been working in the legal and political LAC TLD team. So, my participation from the very beginning has been really very strong in the ccNSO. I'm part of DASC together with Nick, who introduced himself, and also with Jordan.

And my contribution may be seen from a change of perspective. And of course, it's quite understandable that this is a technical component. It's proper to internet dynamics. But of course, we need another

---

perspective, the lawyer's perspective from the legal perspective. But it's not to say no to anything, because I know most of you think that lawyers say no to anything. But in my case, if you know me, those who know me, know that I like results. I like actions.

And I try to see things from a different perspective so as to achieve different results. So, it's a great pleasure for me meeting you all. And any people willing to chat with me, of course, you may find me around the aisles. Thank you very much.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much, Diego. And we move on swiftly to Everton from the Latin America and the Caribbean region as well. Everton, over to you.

EVERTON TELES RODRIGUES: Thank you very much. For those who are watching here in the room, and hi all to those following us online. I'm Everton Rodrigues from NIC.br, from .br, specifically from Brazil. Well, I've had the opportunity of many of those debates since 2006, when I first joined NIC.br.

Around this time in 2006, ICANN27 was taking place in Brazil in Sao Paulo. That was the first time when I came across ICANN and to follow ICANN. Some years later, I joined ICANN51 as an ICANN fellow. So, that's one thing that I like to emphasize the importance of this ICANN program. And for all of those supporting those programs of training and capacity building within ICANN.

---

And since 2019, I've been following ICANN more closely, working as an advisor to the board of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee. So, that puts me in contact, in much closer contact with ICANN and specifically with ccNSO. In that role, I have been working with the Meetings Program Committee. I have the honor to chair the Meetings Program Committee, and many of the members are here in the room and also following us virtually. I've also been part of the IGLC, the Internet Governance Liaison Committee, and also I have been following other and contributing to other forums and committees at the ccNSO.

So, I'm pleased to be here, and I am very pleased to be one of the candidates from Latin America and the Caribbean, so that we can keep on advancing the ccNSO to meet its targets and its objectives, while not forgetting the original principles of the Internet and the original principles of the CCs. So, I'm very pleased to be here as one of the candidates. I would like to thank you all for being here, and I'm open to questions. Thank you very much.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much. I would like to open up the floor for any questions to our candidates. We have quite a number, so let's keep it short and simple. Before we transition to a session with our Board candidates, and then we will wrap up, is there any question to any of our candidates from the floor? Yes, kindly introduce yourself and address the question to a specific candidate.

---

ATSUSHI ENDO: Sure. Thank you very much. My name is Atsushi Endo. I'm from .jp registry Japan, JPRS. Thank you very much all candidates for showing your willingness to serve for the ccNSO Council. I have a question, especially for contested Asia-Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean. I'd say candidates have already touched on your statement, though my question is, what is the most urgent issue ccNSO or ccNSO Council needs to solve? And as a councilor, how do you contribute for solving the issue? Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much. I think this question is addressed to the candidates in Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. So, I'll start with Jordan, and then we'll have Nguyen, then Diego, and finally Everton in that order. If we can be short.

JORDAN CARTER: Yeah, I'll be as short as I can. I think one of the big issues facing us, and thanks for the question, Atsushi, is the amount of work in front of us and the limited amount of volunteer time that we have to do it. And so, the Council collectively is working on that. A contribution that I've made has been trying to just improve the way we prioritize the work in front of us. So, we are making sure we're spending the time we all have to devote to this on the most important things. Thanks.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you. Nguyen, do you have anything to add online?

NGUYEN THI THU THUY: Yes, thank you. I'm also in charge. I think that ccNSO is facing with the rapid change of techniques. And the second one is to expand, to have more participants from medium or small ccTLDs. So, I think that the important issues for ccNSO is to have more activity for ccTLDs to have, can be adapted and following the change of the technique as well as have more workshops or activities for ccTLDs members through the workshop and through the experience or exchange between the members. So, if I am the ccNSO Council member, I will take part in and have my contribution to this thing. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much. Diego?

DIEGO ERNESTO LUNA: Thank you very much for the question. From my perspective, I think that we have two big tasks ahead. First of all, the ccNSO Council has a different work because we have different areas and different talks to be addressed that are very different. But of course, we have to assign priorities to these various tasks. Additionally, I think that we need some engagements for the various ccTLDs that are part of the ccNSO.

So, the Council has to look for a representation to be an actor representation. So, the ccTLDs from the various regions where we come from should be more engaged in the various working groups, the various sessions, the various meetings, because that will certainly ensure that our work, using that global perspective, let's say, but focus

---

in the incumbent areas of the ccTLD, will work on what we consider the most important area.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much. Everton?

EVERTON TELES RODRIGUES: Thank you. Well, one of the most important issues and more urgent issues that I see is to keep our community engaged with the work which needs to be done. So, every time that we see a challenge ahead of us, it's important to keep all of the community aware of the importance of what we have been doing and what needs to be addressed, and the importance of keeping the whole, as much of the community aware of what needs to be done.

So, it's also important to consider the volunteer fatigue, which is an important aspect of what we have been developing. We need to keep bringing new members or to keep them as engaged as possible for us to distribute the amount of work through the community. And in order to achieve that, we also need to pay attention to our mentorship and our activities that will, in the future, bring more ready-to-work members to be working together with us. Those are the most important issues and most urgent issues that I see. Thank you for the question.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much. Do we have any other questions from the audience to our candidates? Yes, Dr. Lisse.

EBERHARD LISSE: Eberhard Lisse, ccTLD manager .na. One question to Diego. How will you engage with ccNSO members, ccTLD members, and the Council when there are no translation services available?

BARRACK OTIENO: Diego?

DIEGO ERNESTO LUNA: Well, I want to point something out. Because we are using interpretation, so when I initially decided to make my presentation in Spanish is because most in the Latin American region, we speak that language. But, of course, this happens with Everton. He speaks Portuguese and some other countries also speak English and French. But my intention was to be clearer to the participants of the region.

I know that language is an initial complication, but it's not a barrier, at least for myself when we are saying that the other language will be English. But I know that this is important for engagement because from my experience at LACTLD, I was able to see that if there are some language barriers, so when you have to participate in the various working groups and there is no interpretation, I've known some cases where some countries certainly do not participate in the working groups because they don't master English, they cannot speak in English. So certainly, this has hindered their presentation.



The idea is to break that barrier. So, we have to work not only with Spanish speaking people but help them from various perspectives so that they may be active, they may learn about the work of the ccNSO, so as to increase and strengthen that engagement.

**BARRACK OTIENO:** Thank you very much, Diego. Do we have any other questions to the candidates? Yes, I will take these two last questions. Please proceed.

**ROELOF MEIJER:** Thank you very much. Roelof Meijer, SIDN .nl. My question is directed to Nicklas. Nicklas, just briefly, can you tell us what you feel is the most important thing that you will bring to the Council? And also important, what you feel is the most important thing that the work in the Council will bring for you?

**NICKLAS POUSETTE:** Thank you for that question, Roelof. Well, as I said, I hope to bring a stronger connection with the technical part of the community since being a member of the technical working group and TLD of Switzerland, to connect them tighter to the ccNSO Council than there is today. That's one thing. I hope to bring thoughts from-- Being from a small country up in the north, I hope to bring thoughts around how could we include different types of people, different types of background, different type of cultures coming more into the family of the ccNSO in general. That's two things.

I hope to bring some kind of balance between business and technology to see how can we balance that in a good way. I don't know really how it fits into the Council work yet, but maybe, I think there will be something there as well. And that's about it, I think. What the Council will bring for me? I think will bring a lot of new perspectives on how other people see on things, and I'll learn and become even more knowledgeable about domain industry in general.

**BARRACK OTIENO:** Thank you very much. We'll take the second question. Please go ahead.

**VIVIEN MAIDABORN:** Thank you. Vivien Maidaborn from .nz. I am interested in the incredible diversity of the Asia-Pacific region and the candidates Thi Thu Thuy and Jordan from that area, and in particular the Pacific. So, I'm wondering what thinking you've done about the needs of the many Pacific Island nations in terms of representation and links with those countries in relationship to the ccNSO.

**BARRACK OTIENO:** Thank you. We'll have Jordan and then Nguyen to respond to the question.

**JORDAN CARTER:** Thanks, Vivien. That's a really interesting question. In terms of anticipation in ICANN, one of the things that I've been trying to do is to build some direct people-to-people connections with people from

Pacific CCs, either in regional events at a hosted one for Pacific CCs in Wellington in September, and then encouraging people to apply for fellowships and participate here.

It's a real problem of logistics, at least in part, and financial resources for people to be able to get involved in ICANN work, especially with these very small countries, some of which are in the Pacific, where one person might be accountable for doing things that whole teams or hundreds of people can do in bigger countries. So, part of how we can help that as well with smaller countries and smaller CCs is to try and simplify the work we do here and make it a more bite-sized chunk, more easy to engage with without having to do five years to learn all the acronyms and stuff. So, I don't have a particular plan to answer you with, but those are some of the things that I've been thinking about.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you. Nguyen, would you like to answer the same question?

NGUYEN THI THU THUY:

Yes, of course, and I would like to thank you for very interesting questions. And as I shared, I think that I would like to encourage small and medium ccTLDs to join ccNSO. And I can share here that I don't think that it's important that the big one or the small one or the medium one ccTLD, we are all the ccNSO members. And I think that at the moment, we have many ways to join ICANN as well as ccNSO activity.

For example, for me now, I'm not in person in ICANN81, but there is no difference for me to join ccNSO meeting. So, I think that we just need

to encourage people, especially a small ccTLD to raise your voice and to pay interest, their interest in ccNSO and ICANN's activity. Similar as we are doing now, I am doing now with my organization, .vn, because actually we are also a small or medium ccTLDs. So, I think that I can try my best to encourage ASEAN and Asia Pacific to join ccNSO and ICANN's forum. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much. I will take one final round of questions. I have Idrissa, please.

IDRISSA SARR:

Thank you. My name is Idrissa. I'm the .sn CC manager. And my question goes to Biyi. And the question is, do you think that African CC are enough engaged in the ccNSO activities? If no, how do you plan to get them more involved? Thank you.

BIYI OLADIPO:

Okay. Thank you very much, Idrissa. That's a very wonderful question. Right now, African CCs are not so engaged, but we are a lot more engaged now than how we used to be. So, it's a work in progress. We have started working together and we are working with AfTLD to ensure that we bring more people on and get them more and more engaged. And that's something that we are going to continue to do. And one of the things that we have also agreed to do is when we have events on the African continent, we would have ccNSO showcased so that people

---

would be aware of what's happening here, and then we'll have more people come on. Thank you.

**BARRACK OTIENO:** Thank you very much. Seeing no other hands, I would like to-- Yes, Suleyman.

**UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I'm going to speak in French. My question is for Biyi. There are several African countries, Biyi, that are not members of the ccNSO. During your mandate, do you wish to invite those countries further? And secondly, we have faced several difficulties, especially for the technical knowledge in some registries. Do you have a plan to advise those registries and perhaps use an automated system? Thank you.

**BIYI OLADIPO:** Okay. Thank you. I'll answer the second one first and then I'll answer the first one after. One of the things that we always say is that the ccNSO does not meddle with individual CCs. However, there are platforms that the ccNSO has that would help those ccTLDs to have information on how to better build their registries and engage. However, there's nothing we would do outside of the regional organization in terms of engaging the individual ccNSO.

Talking about the ones in Central Africa, if they haven't shown up, I always say this to people, the first thing is to show up. Be there. If they're not there, there's absolutely nothing anybody can do. Even if

---

we organize outreaches on the continent, if they're not there, if they're not available, there's nothing we can do. I know that AFTLD has done a lot of outreach, reaching out to even some of the tiniest ccTLDs on the continent, but if they don't come, there's nothing we can do. We'll continue to emphasize and continue to send information and all of that, but it's going to be difficult if they don't respond to us.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much, Biyi. I think with that, I would like to transition to our Board candidates in the interest of time, and I would like to invite Byron Holland to take the floor and also share with us his candidate statement.

BYRON HOLLAND:

Thank you. And good afternoon, everybody, and thank you very much for your interest in this session, both for the councilors and for the Board seat. It's great to see a full house for a session like this. As president and CEO of CIRA, the .ca manager since 2008, I'm honored to seek your vote for ICANN Board seat 12, and I want to extend my thanks first to Rosalia Morales Acosta from Costa Rica for nominating me and to both Sean Copeland and Pierre Bonnet for seconding my nomination. And of course, I would also like to acknowledge my good friend and ccNSO colleague Nick for his commitment to this community and willingness to stand for this election.

Many of you know me, certainly a number of you do not, but at CIRA, I lead the management of the .ca TLD and a suite of other services and

---

programs that include our global Anycast, cybersecurity services, our partnership with SIDN and registry platform, as well as CIRA's Net Good initiative, which has invested millions of dollars through grants back into the Canadian internet ecosystem.

In other words, it's a relatively complex organization engaged in a range of activities, both domestically at home and around the world. I believe that ICANN actually has some very serious issues facing it in the coming years, such as the advocacy and defense of the multi-stakeholder model for critical internet functions like the domain name space, as well as its obvious financial and operational challenges. For these and other reasons, I believe I would be an excellent candidate for the Board.

And today I want to share with you what I believe are a few of the top reasons that I would complement the existing skills on the ICANN Board of directors and help support the next evolution of the organization, as well as effectively represent the ccTLD community's perspectives and views. The three reasons really are around my extensive leadership and governance experience, a long standing and significant commitment to the multi-stakeholder internet governance and model, and my work championing the multi-stakeholder driven community engagement processes.

First, from a leadership perspective, alongside nearly two decades of experience being a CEO, I bring proven experience both in corporate and not-for-profit governance, focusing on strategy, strategic collaborations, and strong operational and financial oversight. I've done this through many different roles, of course, as the chair of the

---

ccNSO Council. For one, multiple terms as the vice chair of the ccNSO Council. I was the inaugural chair of the ICSC, which took on the oversight responsibility for IANA. I did that for a couple of terms.

I was the inaugural chair of the SOPC, and as you heard yesterday, and please don't blame me for this, I was the inaugural chair of the finance working group. Also, on the Board at CENTR, the European Regional Organization, and I'm currently also vice chair of the Toronto Internet Exchange, which is Canada's largest IXP, and I've done terms at ARIN on their nominations committee.

And finally, from more of an academic and certification perspective, I hold the Canadian corporate director's certification, and that, while academic, brings valuable insights and governance practices. And through all of this and more, I've gained significant governance experience, strategic insights, and strategic planning, as well as, I think very importantly, professional ethics that would be fundamental to my role as an ICANN Board member.

Second is my long-standing commitment to multi-stakeholderism, internet governance, and this very body, the ccNSO. I'm deeply committed to the principles of multi-stakeholder internet governance, which I think are at the core of ICANN's delivery and execution of its mandate. And importantly for this community, my DNA, my background in this industry, is rooted in the history as a ccTLD operator and a perspective informed by my commitment to the ccNSO. And as many of you know, I can be both diplomatic and blunt as the situation requires. And I'll provide a couple of examples.



---

Within and beyond my leadership roles at the ccNSO, I have a long history of advocating for the ccTLD community and multi-stakeholder principles within ICANN, from my leadership role during the IANA transition, to pushing ICANN hard over the years on budget and strategy discussions. And more recently, under my leadership, CIRA is one of the founding members of the TCCM, the Technical Community Coalition for Multi-Stakeholderism, which is bringing together operators from around the world to advocate and defend ccTLD's perspectives on multi-stakeholder internet governance. These experiences position me to advise ICANN as it navigates complex geopolitical and internet governance challenges.

Third, I have a long history leading high-impact initiatives that promote community-driven internet policies. During my leadership, CIRA, my organization, created and has operated what we call our Net Good Grants program. We've invested over \$13 million over the last decade in projects in Canada that help benefit and make better Canadians' experiences with the internet.

CIRA also serves as the secretariat and primary sponsor of the Canadian Internet Governance Forum, which fosters multi-stakeholder dialogue on internet governance and digital issues, and then is able to bring that back to the global IGF. These and many other experiences would allow me to contribute very effectively to ICANN's mission to ensure a secure, stable, and unified global internet, one that's driven by the multi-stakeholder community.

And to close, ICANN needs a Board that ensures strategic oversight and represents a diverse set of interests from the various communities, ours in particular. With my leadership and governance background, long-standing commitment to the multi-stakeholder model of governance, and championing and building of communities, I'm confident that I can deliver on this need as your candidate for Board Seat 12. Thank you for your support.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much, Byron. And now, Nick Wenban-Smith, you have the floor.

NICK WENBAN-SMITH:

Thank you, Barrack, and thank you, Byron, for the kind words. We're old friends, so this is sort of an awkward situation, I guess. But good afternoon, everybody, and thank you for your interest and engagement in this process. My name is Nick Wenban-Smith. Most of you will probably know me from my past six years on the ccNSO Council representing the European region and for chairing our standing committee on DNS abuse.

Prior to that, my contributions have been to the policy development processes for the retirement of ccTLDs, the review mechanisms in relation to adverse IANA decisions. As I've worked with the CIRA colleagues very closely, I've in the recent past held the rotating chair of the secretariat for the TCCM, our Technical Community Coalition for

---

Multi-stakeholderism, which has been organized by some of us in the run-up to the WSIS+20.

In terms of working style, I hope that everybody who knows me would agree I have a very open and collegiate approach, very supportive and encouraging for diversity and inclusion. So, those things are all part of my way of working. My day job is I'm the general counsel for Nominet, which is the .uk registry. It is obviously a well-known, large and successful registry with many complicated operations and customers and quite a complicated facet. I've been there for 17 years, which is a long time, and was never really my plan. I say to people that it's more interesting than it ought to be. They're like that. It's a fantastic job, very interesting and very reflective, I think, of how this industry works.

I do have Nominet's full support for the role. In fact, if I'm successful, I will reduce my contracted hours with Nominet and hand over some of my day-to-day responsibilities to other members of the legal team there, give them an opportunity to develop as well, which is a nice thing to do.

My reasons for running now are basically threefold. Firstly, I've really enjoyed my time on Council, and my second term comes to an end next March. So, in terms of my next step, in terms of contributing to the community on behalf of ccTLDs, this is a very logical next step for me. If I have any faults, one of them is to be quite logical. I think that with my legal background, I'm in a great position to continue to advocate for the ccTLD community.

---

Secondly, I'm not going to read out my CV and candidate statement, you'll be pleased to hear, in full. However, I do think I have a lot of the skills and experience that are needed to be a good ICANN Board director. We do need someone with Board experience, strong track record of work in the community, have a lot of energy and willingness to contribute in the context of the global multi-stakeholder model. But I think also, crucially, I do have the time and capacity to do the role. All of those factors combined, it's a big ask. And I think it was the realisation that there's a very small number of people who have those combination of factors, and actually I'm one of them.

So finally, I just say it's a bit of a coincidence, and it's before I knew that there would be a vacancy, but I had drinks with Curtis—he's the incoming CEO for ICANN in London—shortly after his appointment was announced. I think he will be a great appointment. And he's definitely somebody that I could see myself working on, working with in terms of some of the challenges which is facing the ICANN org. I've set those out, some of them in my candidate statement.

ICANN's bylaws, this is a problem with a lawyer, require that it operates with efficiency and excellence. It's fiscally responsible and accountable to the community, and operates at a speed which is responsive to the needs of the global internet community. And I think as the Council discussed it with the ICANN Board yesterday afternoon, that is one area which is in the could do better category, shall we say. I think one of my abilities is to ask some difficult questions, and to not be impressed with evasive answers. I'm very sorry, not sorry, if you've ever been on the end of one of my pointy questions previously.

---

And with that, just thank you very much for your time and attention. It would be a great honour and a privilege to take on that role on behalf of you all. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much, Nick. And I'll open up the floor for questions. I'll start with Chris Disspain. And I understand there is Annebeth in the-- Yes, I'll take all the floors. Let's start with Chris, and then I'll take the rest of the questions.

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

Thanks very much. This is Chris Disspain. First of all, I just want to say huge respect to both of you for being prepared and willing to put your names forward for this role. It's tough, it's a tough role, but I think you're both more than capable of doing it. I have a question which, Nick, you have heard me ask in the gTLD directors' Board Seat 13 discussion. But just so everyone knows, I did tell Byron that you'd heard the question, and I told Byron what the question was.

My question is this. You are on the Board. You're involved in a discussion. It doesn't matter what it's about, but it's a discussion clearly where you're not conflicted, so no problem there. And you're involved in a discussion. You think the answer to the question or the discussion you're having is A, the ccNSO is tending towards thinking that the answer is B, and your employer thinks the answer is B. What would you do?

---

BARRACK OTIENO: I can start with Byron and then Nick.

NICK WENBAN-SMITH: This is very British. After you, no, after you. So, thank you, Chris, for the question and thank you for priming Byron because I would feel uncomfortable with the previous experience of the question. I once had to advise a Californian subsidiary, and I know that Californian law is no less strict than UK law in relation to interests and conflicts of interest. So, I guess the first thing is it's important in the question that you say that there isn't a conflict of interest. It's just so there's no situational conflict of interest, as you would say.

And I think it's actually a pretty easy question to answer because as a director of a company, you have an obligation to act with due school care and independence of judgment. If you think that the answer is A to the problem, even if it's popular with other people in the community, then you have to answer A. And sorry, I'm not going to say right off the case maybe, but that is the reality of the situation.

BYRON HOLLAND: My answer would be relatively similar. I may look at it from a slightly different perspective. I will probably use different words for a similar answer. I would look at that particular situation from a duty of responsibility, fiduciary responsibility perspective. And in the role of a Board member of ICANN, your fiduciary responsibility legally is to the organization ICANN.

---

So, where and how you advocate in the discussion leading up to the decision, I think is really the important part. In that if there are views that are deeply held by the ccNSO and similarly my own employer, I think that ICANN would need to be very, very well aware of those. And I think that's where a strong advocacy stance from a Board member, not representing the interests of but ensuring the perspectives of the ccNSO and ccTLDs are well understood.

In what I would hope would be a relatively rare circumstance where ccTLD operators and ICANN are taking entirely different views on a situation, ICANN would need to know very clearly why those communities are feeling the way that they do. And I think that that perspective would very much enrich the decision. But at the end of the day, if you're a Board member, your fiduciary responsibility is to the organization you're a board member of.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much. Can we hear from Annebeth and then Nigel Roberts?

ANNEBETH LANGE:

Hi, this is Annabeth Lange from .no. Thank you for being willing to do this. We all know that it's a great task and it's a huge task and we have had good representatives before and now we have two really good. And whoever wins, we know that both of you will do a super job for ccNSO or the CCs. Actually, Chris asked what one of the questions that I would have liked to ask, but I can add another one.

---

And that is, how much time are you prepared to use for this? I know that you have said something about it, but not a little clearer. You both have important jobs at home, perhaps especially Byron as a CEO and president, and it might be a conflict there that we have to be sure that it will be the work for the CCs in the Board now that will be the most important. Even if it's really a crisis at home, you have to find a solution on that. Could you give us some answers? Thanks.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you. Allow me to take two more questions so that you can tackle all the questions at a go in the interest of time. So, I'll take one from Nigel and we have one more question. I think I'll come to Roelof in the next round. Nigel, please take the floor.

NIGEL ROBERTS:

Okay. So, my name is Nigel Roberts. I was one of the two Board members elected by the ccNSO up to 2021. I was intending to ask a question about conflicts of interest, maintaining confidentiality, and fiduciary duties, but much of that was anticipated by what Chris's question has highlighted. In any case, I think what I want to hear can be reduced to this one question. How do you see the role of an ICANN Board director and the skills needed by the member of the Board differs from that of a top CEO?

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you. Please answer Annebeth and Nigel's questions and then we'll take the two last questions.



BYRON HOLLAND:

To Annebeth's question, yeah, I've thought long and hard about this because having spoken to many Board members over many years, it is a significant level of effort and time commitment. I get different estimates from different people, but a couple of days a week is an estimate that you hear frequently. I suspect that given I work directly every day in the industry and very well versed on the general issues, I can shave a little bit of time off of that, but that is my expectation, up to two days a week.

It has been a conversation with my own board because I certainly wouldn't take it on without explicit support from my own board. From a process standpoint, board meetings happen in a certain cadence. I have a board meeting on November 25th where the expectation is they will have a written resolution of support for the time commitment.

So, I have that support at home from my bosses and I have developed a very good team at CIRA that I have full confidence that can take on the share of work required. And I will have to change my game too, right? I will have to elevate the things that I participate in compared to what I have been doing in the past and I am prepared to do that work. But yes, I have the support from above and a good team with me, so I am confident on that front.

I will just go to Nigel's question then. So just to rephrase, it was what do you see as the differences between what makes a good CEO and what makes a good Board member? Roughly, what are the key attributes and traits--

---

NIGEL ROBERTS: Specifically in the ICANN context.

BYRON HOLLAND: Specifically in the ICANN context? Well, from a CEO perspective, to a very great degree, you are going to be working directly in the operations and leading the operations of a business, setting the strategy, leading the operations, at least in the scale of organizations that we tend to operate. And that is a particular kind of skill set that has the ability to actually define strategy but then execute on it. There are many good CEOs in this room and that tends to be the sweet spot, the ability to translate strategy to action, monitor it, course correct as required.

In the ICANN context, my sense is what is really needed is somebody has a very broad strategic perspective, can ingest significant amounts of diverse information from diverse populations, stakeholder groups, and to be able to synthesize that and weigh the puts and takes of what is the best path for ICANN. And to me, it's the ability to communicate with a broad set of stakeholder groups and really distill down the essence of what they're looking for, what their needs are, hear them, and then weigh the balances, the trade-offs that are inevitable as you come to decision-making.

And then internally is the ability to be transparent and candid and respectful. Candid without respect is just being-- We can all fill in our blank word for that. You need candid and respect, diplomacy. Those are all skills that are elements of communication. So, I think that's the

other really critical one, is the ability to communicate effectively with your peers. So, those would be kind of the two key traits I see on this Board distinct from what a real operating CEO does.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you. Nick, any reaction before--

NICK WENBAN-SMITH:

Yeah, thanks, Annebeth for the question. I think I covered it before, but to be clear, I have looked very closely at the time commitment. The nominating committee guidance is about 20 hours a week. I have no interest in working 40 hours a week for Nominet plus 60 hours in total with the 20 for the ICANN Board for the next three years. Thank you very much.

I will get back time because I'm leaving the Council, but I'm also going to reduce my contracted time with Nominet by 20%. So, that would then mean that I get some compensation from ICANN, which matches that. So, I wouldn't feel comfortable taking ICANN's compensation and working 60 hours a week and being paid 100% FTE by Nominet for this sort of role. So, that's how I'm tackling that.

And in terms of the differences, I think Byron's answer was excellent. The CEO runs the company, leads the company, sets the strategy, organizes the resources, deploys them, and ultimately is accountable for the delivery. And that's exactly how I would expect the incoming CEO at ICANN, actually, already no different to a commercial

---

organization, has different mission and objectives and all the rest of it. But ultimately, the CEO is the leader.

Whereas the ICANN Board role for the Seat 12, this is more like a non-executive director. You're there to ask questions, check rigorous information, test the assumptions that have been built in, ask for more information if it's clearly not of sufficient detail for an intelligent decision to be made. And clearly, it's one of 16 votes around the table. There's no point being "right" and being in a minority.

You need to work collegiately, build consensus, understand where people are coming from, try to find good solutions in terms of hopefully unanimous positions on the Board without too much difficulty. And where there are differences, then they need to be teased out and explored as to why is it that we have a different opinion on different questions. But ultimately, yeah, everybody is working in the best interests of the organization, trying to make good decisions in good faith.

Why is it that there's a difficulty or some friction? So, that, as Baron very capably explained, requires communication skills and diplomacy, and I think the time and patience to come to those sort of consensus decisions. And if not, they need to be very clearly explained. Thanks.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much. We have five minutes to go. I will give Stephen a minute and Roelof, and then I'll request for two minutes to wind up, and one minute for the question to be answered. Stephen.

STEPHEN DEERHAKE:

Thank you, Stephen Deerhake representing .as, American Samoa, for the record. As you know, Annex B of the ICANN bylaws addresses the issue of ccNSO policy development. And I have a very specific question regarding this because I sense that the ICANN Board is going down a slippery path of selectively applying or, more appropriately, ignoring their obligations under the bylaws.

Specifically, Section 15A of Annex B states "the Board shall meet to discuss the ccNSO recommendation as soon as feasible after receipt of the Board report from the issue manager, taking into account procedures for Board consideration". My two-part question is as follows. Do you believe that the clause, taking into account given the Board-like consideration, gives the Board a license to indefinitely postpone the consideration of a duly and legitimately proposed ccNSO policy?

And if you do not believe that's the case, what are your thoughts on what kind of time limit might come into play with regards to this? Are we looking at maybe one year, maybe multiple years? And if it's multiple years, do you think there should be an upper bound? Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much, Roelof And then we'll have the candidates to respond as they give their closing remarks.

ROELOF MEIJER:

Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Roelof Meijer from .nl for the record. Knowing you both and hearing your responses to the questions, I think, oh my God, we're so happy to have you both in the ccNSO and I wish the Board could have you both. I don't have the illusion that I can come up with a question that will be decisive on who to pick.

So, with fresh memories of an election that I think we all share, where most of the people who had to choose probably felt they had to choose between a rock and a hard place. And which in the end was a hugely expensive, slaughtering campaign at the cost of a whole country and with an impact on the whole world. I thought, let me approach it from a different way.

We have this luxury position where we have two excellent candidates as the ccNSO we cannot lose. I hope you guys feel the same way. It's going to be one of you two, which one I don't think really would make a huge difference to us. I'm sure we all have our preferences. It might seem like a strange question, might feel a bit awkward. You use that word, Nick. It might even annoy you a bit. Don't see this as a hang yourself question, but something like integrity, people skills and also self-confidence. It's an identical question towards a difference. That's the name of the other candidate.

So, Nick, if you were another candidate and you would have to vote for Byron, what would be the main reason you would? And Byron, same question. If you would have to vote for Nick, what would be the main

---

reason? Knowing you respect each other, please keep it short and to the point.

BARRACK OTIENO: Over to you. I think we start with Byron and then Nick, then we could end the session.

BYRON HOLLAND: Okay. I'll start with Stephen's first. I mean, the short answer is yes, I think there should be a in terms of a response. Obviously, the more challenging, or not obviously, but I think the more challenging question is what is a reasonable time? And I think that that has to be a bit contextual because it depends on the complexity and challenge of the issue itself. But I think most people can look at something and say, what is a reasonable time? The kinds of policy issues that I know you're talking about, but in general are complex, long lasting.

To my mind, a decision on something like that should be rendered in under a year. Definitely. Can I put a fine point on it like six months or nine months? I don't think that's useful in the context of this discussion. I think, yes, it should be time boxed. It must be reasonable and prescribed. And in a difficult and complex decision with long-lasting impact, I think no more than a year should be required. I mean, that's three ICANN meetings giving appropriate cycles, etc. That seems reasonable. And I think the Board should be held to that kind of standard.

---

As far as Nick goes, just to be frank, if I wasn't running for this, I would have no problem voting for Nick. I would be happy to vote for Nick. I've worked with Nick for many years, like many of us. Nick does the work. That's an important one in a volunteer-based organization. He does it at a high quality. He's regularly willing to put his hand up and jump in. He does it with a sense of humor, which I think is integral in sometimes challenging situations. And that is a great attribute and characteristic.

And I've always marveled at his ability to go out late and get up early and do it again in a way that I don't think anybody else does. So, he does the work. He does it with grace and humor, and he's never afraid to roll up his sleeves and help other people. And from what I've seen from time to time, likes to socialize as well.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you. Nick, finally.

NICK WENBAN-SMITH:

Thanks, Byron. Firstly, for the question. Coming back to Stephen's question, this as soon as feasible. There are obviously some parameters which allow the Board to delay dealing with something. As Barron said, you have to look at it in the context of the subject matter that they are asked to recommend or approve or implement, and also, in the context of the other Board priorities that they have.

But I think if they are going to exercise the discretion in terms of the get out to deal with it promptly, I think they owe it to the community to really clearly explain why it's been delayed and when it's going to get



done. And I think that in this situation it has been unforgivable, frankly. The silence is something that for those of us who the most scarce commodity which makes this whole set up work is the volunteer capacity, there's nothing more demoralizing than to put in long hours at antisocial times of the day and then silence for months, if not years, years. And that is an area of concern.

In terms of Byron's excellent qualities, it's hard to know where to start. Byron is an extremely good company. It has a very strong charisma, charm, leadership, athleticism. He's absolutely a great guy. CIRA are so lucky to have him as the CEO. And I just I think that there are very many strong qualities. I think what the standout for me is the strategic perspective and ability to step back and really look at where are we really trying to get to over the longer term and then how is that going to be done. I think that's a real key strength of Byron's and it's been a privilege actually to share this Q&A together. So, yeah. Thank you. Thank you, Byron. Thanks, everybody, for all your questions.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you very much. And that brings us to the end of this session. I wish all the candidates the very best and all the best to the ccNSO as well. I have a point of order from the chair, Alejandra.

ALEJANDRA REYNOS:

Thank you, Barrack and everyone. Good evening. Just a quick reminder that we will have a virtual Q&A with the Board candidates by the end of

---

January or early February. So, please be aware of the announcement that will reach your inboxes. Thank you.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**