
ICANN82 | CF – GNSO: SCCI Session
Saturday, March 08, 2025 – 16:30 to 17:30 PST

TERRI AGNEW

And for the online folks, just making the announcement, we'll start in just under one minute. All right, we're going to go ahead and begin. Please start the recording.

Hello, and welcome to the SCCI session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior and the ICANN Community Antiharassment Policy. 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 in Zoom and onsite participants will use the physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace.

I will now hand the floor back over to SCCI chair Manju Chen. Please begin.

MANJU CHEN

Thank you, Terri. Hello everybody. This is Manju and this is our first meeting, our kickoff meeting as the sitting committee on continuous improvement, SCCI. Starting from now we're calling it SCCI, okay? I sometime forget, but we have to remember it. If I call it wrong, people remind me. Julf?

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JULF HELSINGIUS

Just want to point that in Dutch “saai” means boring.

MANJU CHEN

The perfect name for this group. Can we move to the next slide please?

So, the agenda of today’s meeting, we’re starting with a welcome, of course, because this is our first meeting, and then we will discuss the meeting frequency and schedule, what is SCCI and our proposed project plan, which Julie will be walking us through for this, and then next steps and AOB.

We’ll move on to the welcome and brief introduction. This is, as you can see, our current members. We were thinking of going around the tables and have the members introduce themselves, but most of them, well, half of them I think are not here because we’re having a CSG session currently happening now, so we’re not having most of them, but I see some of them online, too, and then apparently there’s another CPH session going on, which robbed us more people, but we still have several here, so we still start with the introduction. You know me. I’ll move on to our lovely vice chair, Ajith.

AJITH FRANCIS

Hello everybody. Thanks Manju. My name is Ajith Francis and I’m with the Public Interest Registry.

MANJU CHEN We'll move on to Thomas. Go ahead and name yourself. Please, be more... How do you say it? Automatic.

THOMAS RICKERT Thomas Rickert, ISPCP.

JULF HELSINGIUS Julf Helsingius, non-commercials.

JOHN MCCABE John McCabe, Who's Who registry.

PRUDENCE MALINKI Prudence Malinki, Mark Monitor, RrSG.

STEVE CHAN Steve Chan, support staff.

SAEWON LEE Hi everyone. Saewon Lee, support staff.

MANJU CHEN I think we have several online. Are you also a member?

Nenad Orlic I was standing committee. BC. Nenad Orlic

MANJU CHEN

Thank you very much, and I think we also have several online participants who are members of SCCI. If you want to introduce yourself please raise your hand. If you're not able to speak we understand, too. I'll count to five. Okay. One, two, three, four, five. I see Peter's hand. Peter, please.

PETER AKINREMI

Yeah, thank you Manju. Peter Akinremi, NCSG. Thank you.

MANJU CHEN

Okay, yay. Let's move on to... Sorry. Did you raise? You didn't, but go ahead.

GLEN DE SAINT GERY

Sorry, it's Glen do Saint Gery, I can't raise my hand, but just to say hello to you all. I'm unfortunately not in Seattle but I'll be part of the group and I think you know me. I'm now in the IPC and I was GNSO for many, many years.

MANJU CHEN

Thank you, Glen. Julie, please.

JULIE HEDLUND

Thank you, Manju. This is Julie Hedlund. I'm support staff, also, for SCCI, thanks.

MANJU CHEN

It's SCCI. Okay, let's move on to the next slide. We're having observers, so we have the board liaisons, which there are GNSO appointed board members, and then we are having the chairs of the old SGs and Cs and the GNSO council chair. We have also our supporting staff, which have introduced themselves already. Let's move to the next slide.

Meeting frequency. The leadership is suggesting we do it weekly for continuation and we suggest at this time to meet, starting from next week. I think it's going to be Wednesdays at 12:00 UTC for 60 minutes. Is everybody okay with this time at this frequency? I'm counting to five. If I'm not seeing any objection we'll go with this. One, two, three, four, five. I think we're good with this time and this frequency. Cool. Let's move on to the next slide.

Overview of SCCI. Sorry, I'm reading the chat now. What time is that Pacific? I have no idea. We will have to check later and probably someone... Oh, it's going to be 5:00 a.m. for Pacific, starting tomorrow I think because today is still not Daylight Savings.

We're starting with the recap on how we got here. If you remember, there was this thing called CCOICI, which nobody remembers the full name of it. The CCOICI was a continuous improvement thing, too. It was launched by the council in 2021. It was a pilot. It was to test this continuous improvement effort. Is it worth doing? If it's to be done, how it should be done. After the pilot the CCOICI actually recommended the GNSO council, that it should be formalized, and also we thought the name could be changed because nobody could

remember CCOICI. In 2024, November, the council adopted the charter of the SCCI and SCCI was launched. We started the call for volunteers between last year and this year, and this year in March, now, currently we're having our kickoff meeting. Next slide please.

As you can see from the title of this committee we're focusing on continuous improvement, right? Here we're just breaking down to the important elements of what we're going to do and what was improved from CCOICI to SCCI. The scope of SCCI should be improvements to the existing process and not policy development. It's important because we have an existing process for policy development which is called PDP and EPDP and GPP, all kinds of policy development things. We will focus in on existing process and we will be involved in the ICANN community in continuous improvement efforts, but it's limited to GNSO-wide impact only. That means that if there's something like, for example, if NCSG is urgently needing improvements we don't bring it to SCCI because NCSG could do it themselves. We're only doing efforts that's going to impact the GNSO as a whole.

The CCOICI was a council only committee. All of the members on the committee were councilors, but now as you can see the composition of this group, we're having a lot more members than just councilors. That means that our effort will not be limited to council only, either. Then the membership model and structure, as I said, we're opening it wider than the councilors and it's a representative model. How we designed this membership is that

we seek to achieve balanced representation, as you could have seen in the membership list.

For the decision-making methodology we're seeking non-objection, but if there are any objections we will use the standard decision-making methodology as outlined in the GNSO working group guidelines session 3.6.

I'm pausing here to see if anybody has any questions. No? Let's move on. If you want to see the slides yourself, I think it's already on the agenda wiki page also, so just go there and download it.

This is SCCI structure. As you can see, we're getting assignments from the GNSO council. When the GNSO council looks at a task and thinks that it should be done by SCCI, SCCI will take over the task and when SCCI feels like there are too many things on their plate, they could decide to start a task force and make the task force focus on one task that SCCI wants the task force to do. As you can see from the flowchart, SCCI will be taking responsibility for the bulk of the improvement work and task force mainly serves as an overflow mechanism. GNSO council of course will be overseeing our work. Anybody has any questions? If not, we can move to the next slide.

Key highlights of the SCCI charter, as our welcome email has suggested, it would be better if you have read the charter but we'll just quickly go through this also. We already talked about scope of work. It's not limited to council. It involves all efforts that affect the whole GNSO community and we're having the council oversight, as you can see in the flowchart.

For the project assignments and key deliverables, will be dived into more deeply by Julie in the later sessions. Just skip it now. Membership structure, we already kind of discussed this, too. For the task force membership structure, it's actually very similar to SCCI. It will also have a representative model, just a bit less members because we all know we don't have all the people in the world in the ICANN community. If you're a SCCI member and you have extra time and energy you're welcome to participate in the task force, too.

Decision-making, as we already explained, is non-objections, and if any objections we'll follow the existing methodology in the guidelines. Next slide please.

Okay, now we go to the proposed project plan and I'll leave it to Julie's very capable hand.

JULIE HEDLUND

Thank you Manju and welcome everyone. This is Julie Hedlund from staff. Next slide please.

This is the upcoming portfolio work on the proposed timeline. Not that it is a timeline only for the 2025 calendar year and also the timeline does not reflect some other projects that will likely fall to the SCCI, such as things like the ATRT4, ATRT3, board readiness, the pilot holistic review, the organizational review and the draft five year strategic plan. The timing for these projects has yet to be determined, so they're not projected in the timeline you see here.

What is reflected are the projects that we know will fall to the SCCI sooner rather than later, starting with the continuous improvement plan, part one. This is work that was begun by the CCOICI and will be continued by the SCCI. It's in two parts, first the criteria and indicators, then the proposed criteria and indicators to be delivered to the council. I'll have more details for you on the upcoming slide.

Following CIP Part 1 the next item of business will be policy and implementation, policy status report review, and again, more details on that in an upcoming slide. That will be followed by CIP Part 2 and then PDP 3.0. I should note that this timeline is likely to change with the SCCI completes the proposed implementation plans for these efforts. Then the timing may change. Also, although some of these projects overlap, most notably policy implementation and PSR review, we don't anticipate that any of the current projects are urgent, so we don't anticipate at this point that there'll be a need for task forces to be set up, but that could change. Next slide please.

Here's an overview of the upcoming work, and the first is the CIP framework development. This project originated out of ATRT recommendation 3.6, which is to evolve the organizational reviews and enhance the effectiveness of the multistakeholder model. The scope is for the SCCI to formulate a CIP framework, most notably criteria and indicators that are specific to the GNSO and that each SOSE is being engaged to do this for their groups. The principles

have already been completed and they've gone out for public comment. The comments are being addressed as we speak.

Part one is the criteria and potential indicators as key deliverables and part two has the GNSO specific criteria indicators delivered to the council for its consideration. An immediate next step is for the SCCI to review the existing criteria and discuss potential indicators. I'll pause and see if there are any questions. Seeing none, next slide please.

Following the CIP work is the policy and implementation, policy status report review, PSR review. This will remain in the P&I working group, which formulated several more recommendations relating to the policy and implementation procedures and then following that work staff was requested to develop a policy status report, which it did and delivered to the council, the GNSO council in February of 2025. Upon reviewing the PSR the council determined this was a task for the SCCI, so the SCCI will work to review the PSR and will present an implementation plan with the PSR recommendations to the council. That will be the key deliverable, and the next steps are to develop and confirm the project plan in the form of an assignment form and perform the review of the PSR. Any questions with this project? Next slide please.

Thanks, Anne, please go ahead.

ANNE AIKMAN-SCALESE

Thank you, Julie. It's Anne. I appreciate your summary regarding the PSR on the previous slide, I guess is the one I want to ask about. The review of suggested recommendation in the PSR. Now, do all of those recommendations come out of the actual review or are there some additional recommendations that are just suggested by staff and have to do with just current processes within an IRT or whatever?

JULIE HEDLUND

Thank you for the question, Anne. The PSR has its own recommendations as provided by staff after a review of the current policy implementation procedures, and in particular most importantly those procedures that are new as a result of the P&I sessions, the GNSO input and the... Excuse me.

ANNE AIKMAN-SCALESE

Okay, so it's not limited to just the review of what the policy and implementation working group did. It's broader than that, then. Yeah.

JULIE HEDLUND

Oh, it's broader than that. it's looking at implementation of the procedures, and the only ones that, well, the new procedures that have been used so far is the applicant support for the GNSO.

ANNE AIKMAN-SCALESE

Okay, great, thank you.

JULIE HEDLUND

Yes, thank you. Thanks Anne. Thanks for your question. I'll move ahead then. PDP 3.0. At the SPS of the GNSO council in January 2018 staff drafted a PDP 3.0 on the effectiveness of the PDPs and it was adopted with 14 improvement strategies. This PDP 3.0 has not been reviewed or evaluated, so it's implementation, and so the SCCI is to look at the improvement strategies and determine whether there needs to be any changes to them and the key deliverable would then be a final report and an implementation project plan for the council. The next step would be to confirm a project plan in assignment form and also review and staff analysis of PDP 3.0 improvements. Any questions? Next slide please.

So, as mentioned previously, there are some other possible areas of work for the SCCI but these have details that are yet to be determined and we need further guidance from ICANN org and the community in order to determine how they should fall into SCCI's project plan. They're not reflected at the moment, but they include ATRT4, which was referred by the board in 2024, ATRT3, which has 15 recommendations approved by the board and seven are in progress for implementation. Board readiness, this is a GNSO council project to be presented to the council in 2025. The pilot holistic review, the draft five-year strategic plan and the organization review or GNSO3 review, which has been deferred but will still be coming down the pike at some point. Any questions? Next slide please.

MANJU CHEN

Sorry Julie, I didn't really have questions, but I thought because we have board readiness here and we luckily actually have several readiness small team members on the committee. Not to put you guys on the spot, but I'm putting you guys on the spot. Do you want to share updates on how your progress was, and then when do you expect to wrap up that task? Anyone?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER

I think the work is currently ongoing. I think there was an original aspiration that we would have gone a little further than we have, but the reality is that the board readiness work involves quite a lot of scheduling of personal interviews of past participants, and that's really hard to do and also requires a lot of effort, both from the support staff and also the members of the board readiness group. I do agree that it should be folded eventually under SCCI, but I'm not the chair of this little effort. But I think it does make a lot of sense if we're looking more holistically and trying to streamline who we allocate resourcing.

THOMAS RICKERT

Yeah, just to add to that, we've done a lot of work already, but it's still early days in terms of the outcome. We're trying to identify patterns of what went wrong so that the board was not in a position to approve recommendations coming out of the GNSO, and I think that once we have sufficient facts at our fingertips we will relay that back to council and then it's for council to inject that into this team,

but I think that you're right that this is going to be the way the events are going to happen in the next months to come.

MANJU CHEN

Thank you guys. I'm definitely not rushing you or suggesting that it should come sooner. It can come never, I don't mind. But yeah, please continue, Julie.

JULIE HEDLUND

Thanks Manju. Next slide please. Here's a draft work plan for the SCCI in Q1 and the assumptions are that the council will confirm the SCCI leadership at the council meeting on the 12th, next week. Then we have of course today's kickoff meeting. Then we will, at the end of March we'll resume weekly meetings and we'll start with staff development of the CIP criteria and indicators. You see the plan here. Today's meeting, the confirmation of Manju and Ajith, thank you. Starting our meetings the week of March 24, then continuing with the next week and into April with CIP and then moving on to the policy and implementation PSR. Next slide please.

The next steps we have to decide, settling on regular meeting times, and that we've done. We'll start with meetings on that 1200 UTC on Wednesdays. If it's needed to change times we'll do a doodle up accordingly, but we'll start with that and see if that time works since there were no objections to that proposal and the SCCI will begin with the CIP framework or criteria, GNSO specific and discussing potential indicators. Then, following that, the SCCI will

consult with various stakeholder groups and constituencies and get input on the criteria and indicators. Any questions? Next slide please.

I'm going to turn things over to Manju for any other business. Thank you.

MANJU CHEN

Thank you, Julie. Thank you very much. Last chance if anybody has any questions for the last part. If not, is anybody having any AOB? Okay. Oh no, you're just playing with your fingers. Okay. Yes, please.

JOHN MCCABE

John McCabe, for the record. Manju, is this 1200 UTC, are you in Taiwan? Yes, so that's midnight right. No, sorry, that's 10:00 p.m., right? Sorry. You are going to be taking that on at 10:00 in the evening all the time. Is that something that's—

MANJU CHEN

8:00.

JOHN MCCABE

Oh, because you're further East than Hong Kong, right? Good, that's great. If you're willing to do it, that's great. Thanks.

MANJU CHEN

Yeah, for the CCOICI we used to do 1200 UTC and if we're doing my a.m. I don't think more than half of us will be willing to meet. Yeah, that's how if you live in APAC you do your calls at night, but 8:00 p.m., it's all right. It's not 11:00 p.m., so I'm okay.

Any other AOB?

THOMAS RICKERT

This is Thomas speaking. It looks like it's not going to be boring for the near future. With respect to the backlog of things that Julie presented in these five packets, ATRT3, 4 and other dependencies, are there any expectations that have been laid down somewhere in writing or otherwise, until when we need to deliver on those, or is that for us to decide?

MANJU CHEN

I think we asked about the same question to staff and they answered it very well, so I'll just ask them to repeat it.

JULIE HEDLUND

Yeah, thank you very much for the question. At this point there isn't sufficient information for us to determine the parameters of those projects. We are awaiting further guidance from ICANN org concerning the ATRT4, ATRT3. Yeah, here you see them. Pilot holistic review, the draft five-year plan and the org review. All of these need further guidance from ICANN org as far as coordination before CI work. No, we don't have any more information at this time

to be able to see that the timeline will be for these particular projects or the expectations for the SCCI. Thanks for your question.

THOMAS RICKERT

Thank you so much Julie.

SAEWON LEE

And just to give an additional information on this slide itself, as you can see ATRT4 and 3, they're not in numerical order and that's done purposely because of the anticipated order of things. We anticipate ATRT4 work to come before ATRT3 work and as you can see this is how we anticipated it. But we are, as Julie just mentioned, we are still waiting for further guidance from org and we don't really have a specific timeline yet for any of these. As we just also heard on the board readiness update, we are still trying to work. We're trying to figure out the exact timeline of things and that's why we can't really give you a specific answer, but this is the order that we do anticipate it coming down the pipeline for SCCI.

THOMAS RICKERT

It's Thomas again. Anne wrote in the chat the board will have to decide whether to further delay ATRT4 by its own deadline in April. Maybe that's one that we can put on the back burner safely because that's for the board to react to. Would it be good for us to maybe consult with council to ask whether they would like this group to deal with the oldest things first, to catch up, or whether they want us to work with the most recent things first so that we get those through the door as quickly as possible. I'm not sure whether it's

appropriate for us to totally determine that in isolation. Just asking. Do you have any ideas on how we best navigate that, Manju?

MANJU CHEN I think these are not the immediate next steps, right? For this year the immediate next step is the previous slide, which is—

THOMAS RICKERT Correct, yeah.

MANJU CHEN Give me the previous. This one. This one is this year and those are in the pipeline, but that is a super long pipeline. It's not going to come to us until the end of this year.

THOMAS RICKERT But this year is almost over. I mean in ICANN terms, it's two more weekends. Time is running.

MANJU CHEN Yeah, I definitely take your prospect of time into... I think we will definitely have to present this work plan to the council and if council feels like we should do it differently then they will definitely advise us to change our work plan, but are you suggesting we actively ask council, should we change it?

THOMAS RICKERT

I think for these items that were presented, I'm totally fine with that. It's not like I want to put things upside down, but if we then move further I think it's a general question whether we want to deal with the oldest things first or whether there's a different type of priority that the council would like us to take.

MANJU CHEN

Yes, definitely. I guess in a sense it's a thing that we put on our mind and in the future when we're planning toward that we ask the council whether they want us to do that or in the sense that the future pipeline, when we reach there we start planning for executing or implementing or working on the efforts, we will definitely present the work plan to the council and ask if the sequence is what they prefer. Right? Cool. Steve. Please.

STEVE CHAN

Yeah, thanks Manju, this is Steve from staff. I think what is maybe helpful to understand is unlike a PDP where you can have the whole sequence of things and you can project the project plan and it may or may not happen exactly like this. In this case I think this is even more iterative than normal, so even some of the outputs of some of these projects like the policy implementation review and the PDP 3.0 review, there's looking at the suggested improvements and then there's determining which ones you want to implement. Even right now we don't know what the implementation plan for those things looks like, so therefore we can't plan out the duration of them and what it's really going to look like to implement. That's a long way to say that I think what's going to happen is there's going

to be constant, maybe not constant, but quite a few touchpoints with council. SCCI gets its direction from the council, be frequent touchpoints, and then there can be conversations about whether or not the sequence makes sense and a course correction is necessary. Thanks.

AJITH FRANCIS

Just picking up on what Thomas was saying, I think procedurally, purely procedurally, I think though it makes sense to probably put a flag sometime to have that exact conversation because you're right, in terms of time within ICANN space is quite limited at the moment, but maybe in Prague or Oman, having that conversation of what does this look like going forward, to at least agree on that in the moment, that this is when we re-open this question, might be useful.

STEVE CHAN

I'm on a role now. This is Steve again, from staff. One of the outputs from the strategic planning session was actually to provide an update to the council on the work of the SCCI, because it was me doing it and I wasn't honestly prepared to do it, but I think we're in a better position to be able to provide the council with a comprehensive overview of what's in the pipeline and I guess maybe in the extended pipeline, too. That can be another way for the council to get informed of the work of the SCCI.

MANJU CHEN

Just a clarifying question. Are you suggesting we present a more detailed presentation to the council in the upcoming council, future, I don't know which one but probably in April or May council meeting, or are you saying... I wasn't sure.

STEVE CHAN

I don't think I was suggesting anything specific, but that's probably a good idea, though. In the course of presenting the project plan, also provide context on what those projects mean for the council's benefit. We teamed up on a great outcome. Thank you.

MANJU CHEN

Cool. I think we were at AOB. Has anybody any other AOB? If not, I give you back 16 minutes of your life. We're ending 16 minutes for the first day. Yes, everybody has to dance your way out of this room. I'll see you next-next week online. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]