

Board Governance Committee Report



Roberto Gaetano
Chair

28 June 2007

San Juan, Puerto Rico



Board Governance Committee Members

- Peter Dengate Thrush
- Roberto Gaetano (Chair)
- Njeri Rionge
- Rita Rodin
- Vanda Scartezini
- Paul Twomey*

* board participant - not on committee

BGC Current Work Items

- **Discussion of Board work load**
- **Discussion of timing for posting agendas before public meetings**
- **Guiding Independent Reviews & Working Groups**
- **Review and discussion of proposed Ombudsman Framework**
- **Discussion on selection of the NomCom Chair and filling of the Academic & Research position**
- **Discussion of filling Board Committee positions**
- **Discussion of additional training for Board members**

Independent Reviews

- They are part of ICANN's ongoing commitment to its evolution and improvement, which includes a comprehensive schedule for independent review of ICANN's structures, as well as of the Board.
- Reviews are intended to ensure an independent examination of the role and operation of key elements of ICANN; they are conducted in an objective manner by independent evaluators, under guidance from the Board, with opportunity for public comment on the results of the reviews.

Independent Reviews

(Order Approved by Board)



1. Nominating Committee

Status: Interisle Consulting Group, LLC selected to conduct independent review; contract signed this week; work to begin immediately

2. At-Large Advisory Committee

Status: Final Terms of Reference and Request for Proposals posted; accepting applications from independent evaluators

3. DNS Root Server System Advisory Committee

Status: Staff developing draft Terms of Reference

4. Board

Status: Preliminary discussion on Terms of Reference

5. Security and Stability Advisory Committee

Status: Estimated launch January 2008

6. ccNSO Supporting Organisation – estimated launch July 2008

Status: Estimated launch July 2008

7. Address Supporting Organisation (ASO)

Status: Estimated launch December 2008



GNSO Improvements

- BGC GNSO Review Working Group (BGC WG) of current/former Board members, is guiding efforts to recommend a comprehensive proposal to improve the effectiveness of the GNSO, including its policy activities, structure, operations and communications.
- Board is committed to working with the community to approve and implement GNSO improvements.
- Board is at the point in the GNSO review process where recommended changes must be identified, and we must work towards a final set of recommendations for the Board to consider and have implemented.

BGC Working Group's Working Draft

- 19 June 2007, BGC WG posted -- for discussion with BGC and the community in San Juan and on line -- a working draft and supporting documents.
- Includes discussion of areas of emerging agreement, possible recommendations, and questions that need to be addressed.
- Does not reach, and should not be interpreted as reaching, any definitive recommendations or conclusions at this time, for there is not yet agreement among all members of the BGC WG.

BGC WG Objectives Include:

- Maximizing the ability for all relevant and interested stakeholders to participate in the GNSO's processes;
- Ensuring recommendations are developed on gTLD "consensus policies" for Board review, and that the subject matter of "consensus policies" is clearly defined;
- Maximizing the quality of policy outputs, ensuring that policy work receives adequate support and is informed by expert advice and substantive stakeholder input;
- Supporting Council efforts to prioritise and benchmark GNSO objectives and align resources as appropriate; and
- Ensuring policy development processes are based on thoroughly-researched, well-scoped objectives, and are run in a predictable manner that yields results that can be implemented effectively.

Emerging BCG WG Agreement

- Constituency operations can benefit from improvements; constituency re-structuring also could lead to GNSO improvements but other changes should be tried first.
- Formalize the working group model as the focal point for policy development. This could enhance the policy development process by making it more inclusive and representative and – ultimately – more effective and efficient.
- GNSO Council should move away from being a legislative body focused on voting and become a more strategic entity with strengthened management and oversight of the policy development process.
- See working draft for a fuller discussion of all points.

Next Steps



- Public comments and discussion of the working draft are occurring in San Juan and afterwards.
 - BGC WG received valuable, extensive input at a forum it sponsored in San Jaun on GNSO improvements
- BGC WG will consider all input and prepare final draft for public comment and consideration by the BGC.
- BGC will consider the WG report and public comments, and finalize its recommendations on GNSO improvements for Board action.



Next Steps – Estimated Timeline

- 19 June – 19 July
Additional public discussion/input on working draft
- 19 – 23 July
Summary of public comments posted
- 23 July – 2 August
Additional input solicited; recommendations developed
- 2 – 31 Aug
Preparation of final WG report
- 31 Aug – 7 Sept
Status report publicly posted; additional input solicited
- 24 Sept
Final WG report (w/ full set of recommendations) submitted to BGC
- 24 Sept – 14 Oct
BGC consideration of final WG report
- 15 Oct
BGC submission of full set of recommendations to Board
BGC full set of recommendations posted for public comment
- 29 Oct
Public Forum on GNSO improvements at ICANN LA meeting
- Nov – Dec
Board consideration/action on BGC recommendations



Next Steps

- Adequate funding has been included in the proposed budget for next fiscal year to support immediate implementation of approved recommendations.
- As BGC WG and community works together to recommend appropriate changes, it is important to keep in mind that this is an evolutionary process that reflects the importance of the GNSO to ICANN and builds upon the GNSO's successes. gTLD policy development is a core function of ICANN and dependent upon volunteers who have helped build the GNSO into what it is today.

More Comments Encouraged

- Email them to:
gnsso-improvements@icann.org
- Updates on BGC WG efforts posted at:
<http://icann.org/topics/gnsso-improvements/>
(linked at “Current Topics” on ICANN homepage)

Thank You