

Candidates

ICANN72 | Virtual Annual General Meeting – ccNSO: Questions and Answers Session with Council Candidates
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – 09:00 to 10:00 PDT

KIMBERLY CARLSON: Thank you and welcome to the ccNSO Council candidate Q&A session. My name is Kim, along with Claudia and Kathy. We are your remote participation managers for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper format and we'll put that in chat now. We will read your question or comment aloud during the time set by the chair or moderator of the session. If you would like to ask your question or make your comment verbally, please raise your hand. When called upon, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Please state your name for the record and speak clearly, at a reasonable pace. Mute your microphone when you are done speaking.

This session also includes automated real-time transcription. Please note that this transcript is not official or authoritative. To view the real-time transcript, click on the closed caption button in the Zoom toolbar. And with that, I will hand the floor over to Irina Danelia, our session moderator today. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you very much, Kim, and good morning, good day, good afternoon, good night—whatever it is in your time zone. I'm glad to see all you here and thank you for joining. This is the session for questions

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.

Candidates

and answers with ccNSO Council candidates. Let me introduce them at this moment.

So we have Biyi Oladipo from Africa region. We have Nick Wenban-Smith from Europe. We have Demi Getschko from Latin American and Caribbean region. We have Pablo Rodriguez from North America. And we have Jordan Carter and Anil Kumar Jain from Asia Pacific.

You might have noticed that from four regions, there is only one candidate nominated and seconded. That means, effectively, that there will be no voting on them. But from Asia Pacific, we have two candidates and those within this who are from Asia Pacific region will have to vote, and to make your choice, and to select the best candidate to take the position of the ccNSO Council.

So this session is a great opportunity for you to ask questions, to meet your councilors or future councilors, to probably raise your concerns and to learn them a little bit more. And even all these six people here are not new to ccTLD community, I still think that among the attendees of this session, there might be people who do not know them very well.

Therefore, we will start with a short introduction. I will give each of candidates three minutes to introduce themselves and to speak a little bit about their background and where they come from. And then we will immediately start with my and your questions.

So let's start now in the order the candidates appeared on the list. So may I suggest, Biyi, why don't you say a few words about yourself. You have three minutes, please. Biyi, we do not hear you.

Candidates

BIYI OLADIPO: Sorry. My Internet access is a bit unstable so I lost connection at some point and I'm just getting back. And I missed all the—

IRINA DANELIA: Wonderful. Welcome back.

BIYI OLADIPO: Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA: So you have three minutes to tell us about yourself a little bit for those who had no chance to meet you before.

BIYI OLADIPO: Okay. My name is Adebisi Oladipo but simply called Biyi so that it's easier for everyone to pronounce. I am from Nigeria. I represent .NG in the African domain space. I also have been a councilor. So this is actually my nomination for a second time on the seat of the ccNSO. I would like to appreciate the nominees, .KM and .CI for nomination and seconding.

In the ccNSO, I'm a member of the SOPC and also the OISC. It's OISC now but I used to be part of the Community Onboarding Program Committee, as well as the Travel Funding Committee. Also, I was part of the Review Working Party of the ccNSO, which actually worked at



Candidates

reviewing the ccNSO processes and worked with the consultant to come up with the recommendations for going forward as far as the constituents of the ccNSO is concerned.

Yes. I think that's about myself. I sat of the executive board of the .NG for about 14 years. My time expired earlier this year. As a vocation, I work in consulting. I'm the consultant and I work in organizational performance, as well as helping organizations to develop and grow their capacities in the areas that they operate. Do a lot of work in the technology space also. And that's me in a nutshell. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you very much, Biyi. And now I want to give the floor to Anil. Please, Anil, tell us about yourself a little bit. You have three minutes.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, as for the timings we have. First of all, my name is Anil Kumar Jain and it is known as Anil in the community. And I am from India, .IN ccTLD. The present work which I am focused, or the mission on which I am focused, is working to extend the benefit of Internet to the last man in the society. The second mission which I am carrying right now is building a superhighway of data which will bring the facility of Internet to every corner of the globe. And third is breaking the language barrier and bringing the multilingual Internet to everybody.

Candidates

I got the opportunity to work in the community, in ccNSO, in ccPDP Working Group 4 as the vice-chair. And I am also chair of the subgroup of the deselection in the same working group. I am also attending the IDN EPDP of GNSO and I am also thankful that I am appointed as liaison between the ccPDP Working Group to the IDN EPDP. Outside the Council, I am chair of the working group of APTLD, which is for the strategic planning for next two years. And I am also the chair of India IGF, who is going to host their first IGF.

As far as the academy is concerned, I am a postgraduate in management, Prime Minister Gold Medalist, and I am an engineer and in electronics and telecommunication. As far as experience goes, 40 years' experience as a technocrat. That is class one officer, directly as a leadership position from day one. And currently, I am working as chief executive officer of NIXI, which is managing the ccTLD, IDN ccTLD, national Internet registry, and also the first Internet exchange of India. Thank you for listening.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you very much, Anil, for this introduction. And now I want to give the floor to Jordan. Jordan, please, a few words about yourself. You have three minutes.

JORDAN CARTER:

Thank you, Irina. Kia ora kouto. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone. It's a delight to be here with you this morning, 5:00 AM from this time zone. My background in Internet policy

happened by accident, actually. I was a student at university and heard about the organization that I now work for and was fascinated by the potential of the Internet to be a good thing for people. That was in the early 2000s, so around 20 years ago now.

I first heard about ICANN when New Zealand hosted a meeting in Wellington back in 2006 with past colleagues like Keith Davidson, and Debbie Monahan, and so on in our capital city. I've been attending ICANN meetings on and off ever since then and joined InternetNZ in the CEO role around 2013. InternetNZ is the ccTLD manager for the .NZ domain name space.

So that's the way I got here. When I got involved with ICANN, it was to do with the work that we did to do the IANA Stewardship Transition back in 2014, '15, and '16. I was one of the co-chairs of that working group, helping to do the transition on the accountability side of things. I work closely with my colleagues, Brent Carey, who's the vice-chair of APTLD and Ellen Strickland, who among other roles, sits on the board of DotAsia.

My focus in the ccNSO, since I was elected three years ago, has been on helping to focus on the processes of the organization, which has led to me being the chair of the Triage Committee. It's one of the smaller and less famous committees compared to some of the others. But our job is to deal with all of the incoming work requests and work closely with Alejandra and Pablo, as vice-chair, to help with the administration of the group. The reason I'm seeking a second term is to continue with that work but I think we'll talk about that later.



Candidates

My areas of interest, aside from the accountability stuff, I'm an observer on the SOPC, the committee that Giovanni is chairing. I've been following the Retirements and Appeals Working Group more recently. And my ethos in doing this work ... We've hosted the inaugural New Zealand Internet Governance Forum, which we call NetHui.

I see strong connections between the communities that use the Internet and people like us who are helping to govern it. New Zealand's had a long history of making a contribution at that level. And that's why I'm standing for election again—to be able to continue contributing to the work of the ccNSO and our members.

That's all about me. Thanks for the chance to make an introduction and I look forward to the questions.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you very much, Jordan. Now, let us move to Europe. Nick, you are welcome.

NICK WENBAN-SMITH:

Good evening from Europe. It's coming up on my dinnertime. Everyone knows me as always hungry so looking forward to my dinner later on. So yeah. I have been on the Council for three years so I'm seeking a second term. I think there's an interesting question about whether or not it's appropriate to stand for further terms after two terms. I think two terms could be plenty. I will make that decision but I would prefer for this to be my last term, I think is where my instinct lies.

Candidates

So yeah. By way of background, I work for Nominet UK, which is the ccTLD for the United Kingdom, which is for the time being, at least in the European region, in terms of ICANN definitions. So yeah. Thanks very much to the supporters who have nominated me, Sweden, the Netherlands, Estonia, and Ukraine. Thanks to them for their support and trust.

In terms of my background, I'm a lawyer by profession. So I'm now slightly scarily coming up on 25 years of legal practice and have worked with Nominet for 14 years. But prior to that, I did work in biotechnology and financial services, as well as some private practice law firms in the UK.

I actually joined Nominet because of my interest in dispute resolution. So as a practicing lawyer, I was very interested in the background in dispute resolution. I came in primarily to line manage the dispute resolution team at Nominet. But since then, obviously, I've become more involved in Internet governance and I've taken over the external stakeholder relations role at Nominet. So I host the secretariat for the United Kingdom Internet Governance Forum, which in fact was last week. Really good and interesting and I'm very interested in the broader international context.

In terms of what I've done since I've been on the Council, I've primarily been involved in the PDP on Retirement. I'm also very interested in some of the more legal questions—so for example, review mechanisms that ccTLDs can use if they have an issue with the IANA decisions which

may be averse to them and what sort of recourse, at a reasonable cost and speed of decision-making could be available.

But I'm also interested in lots of the other legal questions that are quite dominant in ICANN, so geographic protections for names in the gTLDs. Nominet is also the registry operator for two gTLDs for Wales, which is a region within the United Kingdom that has its own language and culture, so they have a Welsh-language gTLD and a gTLD in the English language as well. Also interested in the crossover of gTLD policies and ccTLD policies. And I'm also a data protection officer so I'm also interested in personal data use questions.

But I suppose my main pitch is that, especially in written documents, I like them to be really clear and succinct. That's really, I think, my main bring to the community is that as a native English speaker and as a lawyer by background, I try to make things easy to read for people who are coming at it, not from an English-language background. So I want it to be sure and clear. My job is, I suppose, to translate from ICANN language into normal language for everybody. That's what I try to do. That's me. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Nick. That's definitely very important to have a good translator from official ICANN English to the, let's say, normal one. And now, Demi, I see you are ready already to introduce yourself and say a few words to the audience. Please.

Candidates

DEMI GETSCHKO:

Thank you, Irina and good day to everybody. I think I am a quite old face in the ICANN structure still. But anyway, I didn't prepare any meaningful speech for today but I want to say that even from the GNSO times, Dennis Jennings and the old people in this area, I think it's very important to protect the good—the right definition of what is a ccTLD and not allow this to be blurred between the CCs and the Gs. I think it's very important to keep the CCs in their own space and their own freedom, and rights, and so on.

I think it's very important, also, to fight against some things that can put in danger the openness and the liberty of the Internet like, for example, measures against cryptography. I think it's important for us to keep things going in the right direction.

I am from Latin America. I'm responsible for .BR in the IANA database since '89. So of course, we are looking, also, for young people to become part of this Council. I am not so young, as you can see. But anyway, I think we can try to contribute to keep the ccNSO a very strong organization and a meaningful thing without entering in confusing disputes with other ICANN bodies or something like this.

I was on the ICANN Board for two periods, elected by the CC community. I'm very thankful for this to the community. I was also a member of the ATRT2 and ATRT3 teams and so I have some roads crossed all this time. Thank you very much.

Candidates

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Demi. And now, I see that Pablo has joined us, finally. Welcome, Pablo. This is the time for brief introductions. Your fellow candidates have done that already so now it's your turn. You have three minutes to tell to those who is not probably new to ccTLD community and who has not yet had a chance to know you well to introduce yourself and to tell a little bit about you yourself, your previous experience, etc.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much, Irina. Apologies for the tardiness in joining. Previous engagements prevented me from joining. Once again, as Irina already mentioned, my name is Pablo Rodriguez. I represent the registry .PR in Puerto Rico, which I share the geographical region of Latin America and the Caribbean. However, we belong to the North American region, which is a very small region, comprised of six ccTLDs.

I have been involved with the ccNSO since 2003, in which Puerto Rico was the fourth vote to confirm the North American region. Have been involved in different ... I have been participating since then at the ccNSO. And most recently, I have participated as a ccNSO councilor. I'm very much interested in continuing the work of developing involvement, outreach, and just like Demi and others, I'm sure, have mentioned, in getting other people involved in the activities of the ccNSO, in bringing new blood, in getting people involved in all of the aspects of the ccNSO.

Candidates

Consequently, I continue to ask for your confidence, for your trust, for your support in that activity and in other activities, furthermore. I'm also looking forward to support those of you in other regions who are engaging in the ccNSO Council activities.

I have known most of the people that participate in the ccNSO. And those that didn't know me yet, I am very interested in anything and everything that has to do with the involvement of new blood. So please do join us. I am currently the chair of the Outreach and Involvement Standing Committee. I continue to be interested in participating in that position and in making sure that we will reach out to as many existing members as possible and also bring into the fold those who currently are not members of the ccNSO. Thank you very much.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Pablo. Thank you to all for this introduction. I already see questions coming in the chat. But before moving to that, just one more question from myself. And you will have 30 seconds to answer it. You have spoken about what you are doing—in which activities you are participating. But still, again, what have you already done for the ccTLD community, for ccNSO? What would you consider as your major accomplishment? What makes you proud in your desire to serve this community? Let's start, this time, probably from Nick.

Candidates

NICK WENBAN-SMITH: If I had that right, that was three questions, which I think was very sneaky of you to have put them in. But if I understood it right, you want us to basically explain what we've contributed so far.

As I think I already covered, I've been on the Council for three years and I've been very active in a number of committees, including the PDPs on Retirement and Review Mechanisms. I've been a member of the Triage Committee. And prior to that, I was very active as the ccNSO representative in terms of the geographic protections for regions of the country not being able to be used as gTLDs or the three-letter codes representing countries continuing to be blocked from becoming a gTLD.

So I suppose that's what I'd say in terms of what I want to do and what I'm proudest of. I think it's around the reputations of ccTLDs and I'm very interested in the ongoing DNS abuse discussions and what we can do to make sure that we put forward our best position in terms of the CC community, which has got great examples of what we do, over and above what can be done in a gTLD, and to try to encourage best practices and to essentially avoid any suggestion that ccTLDs need some sort of centralized regulation by ICANN as a result of that. So that's really what I see as something forward-looking as a challenge or an achievement that I want to participate in. Thanks.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Nick. It's always good to repeat once more. That means people will remember this better. Now, let me move to Jordan. Jordan,



Candidates

what do you consider as your major accomplishments in your role, in your position?

JORDAN CARTER:

The thing I'm most proud of is the work that we did around the IANA Stewardship transition, back about four years ago. The reason for that is actually related to something that Nick said, which is that people in lots of authority positions just see domain names and they think ICANN controls it.

It's super important for us, as ccTLDs, to make sure that that perception doesn't become too widespread and so that we have the tools that we need to keep ICANN accountable as well because I think we all want to keep a situation where we can make decisions about our policies and the way we do things on a national basis, not having to come to ICANN to get approval for policy changes and so on. So I'm really proud of work in that area to keep our independence as a group.

Locally and also connected, I'm proud of the shift that we've made in our organization from saying we don't care about any of the bad things that happens on the Internet to really taking a people-focused approach and starting to get to grips with questions like online harm, DNS abuse, and so on because this technology is pointless if people can't actually use it in a way that's good for them. So those are two things I'd mention locally here and in the ICANN environment.

Candidates

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Jordan. Biyi, how would you answer these questions? What do you consider as your major accomplishments?

BIYI OLADIPO: Thank you so much, Irina. And good evening, good afternoon, good morning, everyone, again. One of the challenges for me—and I share that with Pablo; we've talked about that a number of times—is the fact that there's an aging population in the number of people who are working in the ccNSO. And right from the beginning, when I joined the Council, I have been concentrated on how to onboard new people who would take over from where those of us who are there now would stop.

If you notice, these days, it's a lot difficult to get people who would volunteer to work in the things when calls for volunteers are made. Several times. The calls would have to be made several times, over and over again, before we have people who come up to signify. And some people even just come up because we can't find anybody so someone has to come. So we need to bring a new set of people who would.

This is something that I've taken upon myself to actively participate and recruit more people. When the opportunity to serve on the Community Onboarding Program came, I quickly volunteered. Myself, Alejandra, and Laura worked on the design of the program and also the implementation of the initial pilot program. That really came well. But that committee has now been subsumed into the OISC, which I'm also part of right now. And I'm looking at how we can work together to see how we'll bring more and more people in.

Candidates

Also, as a passion and as a vocation, I see opportunities and how ccTLDs could be sustainable. On the African continent, one of the things that I'm actually doing as to how to get more and more ccTLDs on the African continent to participate in the work of the ccNSO, such that they learn more and see how we can keep ourselves sustainable and see how we can run this as a business, rather than just as a community service.

It's good to run it as a social service, as a community service. However, to sustain the operations, the business has to be taken as a business and this is something that I'm seeing as a challenge, which I'm working with the guys in the AFTLD on and the rest of us on the African continent. More and more, by and large, it's how do we get more and more people involved in the work of the ccNSO and promote the ideals of the ccNSO and give the ccNSO a voice in the ICANN community.

Outside of the ccNSO, I've volunteered for the ICANN leadership academy, which also goes in line with the desire to get more and more people understanding the work of ICANN but with special focus on what the ccNSO is all about. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Biyi. Now, Pablo, what would you say would you consider as your biggest achievements or accomplishments.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ:

Personally, I believe that being in the company of every one of you, it is a major personal accomplishment for me. I consider that each one of

you are the best of the best in your respective countries. And it is a privilege and an honor to be able to serve with you.

That being said, I also have participated in the ... For two years, I participated in NomCom, allowing me to meet and exchange ideas, interview extremely interesting individuals, allowing me to identify that talent and placing that talent not only within my colleagues in NomCom but also in being responsible for ensuring that these talented individuals would take a special leadership position within the ICANN community.

Specifically, within the ccNSO, I'm also very proud of the councilors that have come on board from NomCom because without a shred of a doubt, these are outstanding individuals who are completely committed to the improvement and the betterment of their respective communities, and specifically our ccNSO community.

Furthermore, I find that one of the privileges, rather than a major accomplishment for me has been the opportunity to represent the ccNSO in the regional organization, LACTLD, and bringing the ideas and the concerns to get more people involved and participating in there. I have been able to do that, along with outstanding individuals such as Alejandra, and Margarita, and so many others. I can see so many names here—see so many of you who have participated in this type of events and that is a major accomplishment as well because it continues to enrich our community.

Candidates

Also, it provides me a sense of privilege and honor to have been able to engage in supporting other initiatives and in participating in the identification, as I mentioned earlier, of new individuals, to get them involved in the ccNSO community.

Now that I see Stephen coming on, I'd like to say also that I would like to thank you for the support that you've given me, for guiding me, for teaching me. That relationship, that interconnection, it is a huge part of the work that we do. I'm very thankful. I'm honored and privileged to participate in here. So once again, thank you for that opportunity.

IRINA DANIELIA:

Thank you very much, Pablo. Now I'm going to give the floor to Anil. What would you consider—what would you name as your major accomplishments? Anil, you are still on mute.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Am I audible now?

IRINA DANIELIA:

Yeah.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Irina. I have already covered a good amount in my introduction itself. But as you said, it is always good to repeat. So first of all, I am really thankful for ccNSO community who gave me the opportunity to work in the IDN ccPDP Working Group 4, in the main full

Candidates

group and also in the subgroup of deselection as a chair. I am also thankful for giving me this opportunity to work as a liaison to IDN EPDP of GNSO.

Now, if I consider the development of ccTLD in India is also a part of development and work for the ccNSO, yes, we have grown ourself very rapidly. We are growing at a rate of almost 32%, year after year. Today we are 2.9 million ccTLD registrants with us. Most important thing is that we are able to promote IDN in 22 languages. I think this is a major contribution which we are able to do that.

And now, we have also formulated a policy to extend a helping hand to the nearby country for establishment of IDN ccTLDs and also for implementation of universal acceptance. So there are works which we have done. Now, the focus which we have is, number one, capacity building because a lot of new gTLDs are on the frame to get allotted. So I think with the DNS abuse and all those things, it's a disturbing area. Capacity building at all levels, whether it is registry, registrar, or registrant, I think it is important.

And second, I think it is important to keep an eye on the development in gTLDs, with the new gTLDs which are there, so that we can ensure and preserve the rights of ccNSO Council members and also ccNSO community. Thank you, Irina.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Anil. So, Demi, your turn. What you have done for us, for the community?

Candidates

DEMI GETSCHKO:

You know it's not my thing. But anyway, let me say that, first of all, it's an honor to be part of this group. Actually, we are under the leadership of Alejandra and also Pablo. It was, before that, Katrina and others, but a valiant people.

We are a quite small community. Basically, we are the registries of the CC community—the 3166 ISO lists. And normally, we are not-for-profit and we began as academic in the old times. Now we are more or less not government [now]. But anyway, there is a big variation between the CCs but I think we have to strive to strengthen and to steer what we think are our principles.

One example, we have to fight against some ideas of DNS abuse that is not related to our job. We have a technical job. We understand DNS abuse as a technical thing. We are not involved in content of anything, normally. At least in Brazil, we don't want to be involved with any kind of discussions about content. But of course, we can take some measures if you see technical damage to the DNS structure and so.

Then I think we have to keep together, to strive to protect these kind of principles against what we are seeing today, many times involved in good-faith things but that can cause harm—a meaningful and maybe a big harm to the Internet, as we know, from the very beginning. So I think it was important in the old times to separate the CCs from the Gs in the old GNSO and to keep our way forward without involving in political things like content or struggles that is not related to the good

Candidates

management of a registry of a top-level domain like the domains of the 3166 list.

So I think we have a lot of things to change between us. We have to strengthen our movement against the possible threats we see today and I think we can keep going on in a good shape. Thank you very much.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you so much, Demi. And now, I think it's time to give the other attendees the opportunity to ask you questions. And I see a question in the chat from Margarita Valdez. Margarita, probably you want to speak up yourself. Otherwise, I can read it.

Okay. Let me read the question from Margarita. "A question for all of candidates. How can they encourage new participants for the ccNSO Council that permits to continue our work after we leave as councilors?" So since this is the question to everyone, who wants to answer it? Anil, please.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Irina, and thank you for the question. It is interesting that more number of people should join ccNSO movement. So let us first look at the objective of ccNSO. It is to nurture the consensus. It is for technical cooperation and for skill building among ccTLDs. I think these are the three pillars on which we have to work. And I personally feel that, still, there are several countries that are unconnected to ccNSO concept.

Candidates

So first thing is that we have to start connecting them and becoming part of us by capacity building, by giving information to them, by holding the webinars and teaching them what is important because it is very, very important if the community together works and then we raise, from the bottom-up approach—that is, the multistakeholderism—I think the movement will be stronger and we should be able to contain more problems and more futuristic shocks comfortably because Internet is becoming a part of us.

So I personally feel that if we able to do that, we will be able to not only attract the more countries, coming to attracting the young population. Young population, like in India, we have started Internet Ambassadors. So those people—young boys and girls we are taking from the colleges—they are going to various states and various cities. They are spreading the message of Internet governance, and ccNSO missions, and what ccNSO is doing, and we are able to generate a lot of momentum in the college girls and boys and also young entrepreneurs.

So this is the way I think we should involve more and more people. Thank you, Irina. Thank you for this opportunity.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Anil. Is there anybody else who would like to answer Margarita’s question on how we can attract more new people in the ccNSO Council? Okay. I think Jordan was first and then I’m not sure Nick or Pablo. Let’s say Jordan, Nick, then Pablo. Jordan, please.

Candidates

JORDAN CARTER:

Thanks, Irina and thank you to Margarita for the question. You asked about how we get new people in the Council. My experience was that you hear about ICANN as a participant in the ccNSO world but you don't really know what it is until you attend a meeting, or three, or four. You learn the acronyms. You learn the complexity of how it works.

So I think the best way to get a flow to the Council is to encourage people to participate in a working group or participate in a PDP, just so they start understanding what the work is and so they start making connections with other people because that's the only way to make a success of a role around the Council table.

The things that we can all do, as ccTLD managers, to help that process is to think of younger, fresher staff who are working on issues where something is happening in the ccNSO and encourage them to start participating.

At the moment, that's just virtual but even getting on a Zoom, even if it's at strange times of night, that just starts getting you familiar with things. It is that familiarity that ... Like me, I was 33 years old when I started getting involved with some of the working groups and the accountability stuff. You can start to meet people, start to learn stuff, and then go, "Yeah. I'd like to make a contribution at the Council level."

So to reiterate, get people involved. And each of us can help with the diversity and get more people involved by getting younger staff in our organizations to starting participating in ICANN. And hopefully,

Candidates

sometime soon, we can get together in-person to share those experiences and bring people along as well. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Jordan. Now, Nick, you're up.

NICK WENBAN-SMITH:

Yeah. I agree that participation in a working group is a good way to start. I suppose I'll answer this question slightly differently, in the sense that we're all representatives of our regions. So I think it's our responsibility as incumbent councilors to identify a pipeline of suitable people from our regions.

For me, personally, my route in was through participation in the regional organization and having very positive mentor influences from longer-standing people from my regional organization, Europe, through CENTR, who showed me, when I started going to ICANN meetings what I needed to do, which rooms I needed to be in, who it was useful to have conversations with, who it was useful to network with, so that you start to build out your own personal network of contacts. And I found that immensely valuable. So that's my advice.

I think we're very lucky from the European region. My main disappointment, I would say, from this session is that there aren't any women panelists. But we are very lucky in the European region that we have a lot of members—nearly 60, I believe—and we have a big and

Candidates

diverse population of people from all over the region who were interested, potentially, in these sorts of things.

I guess it's my responsibility as an incumbent, when my time comes to an end, to make sure that suitable candidates are warmed up ready because, as Jordan described, it's not a five-minute process to start to become educated in the acronyms. You need to have a lead-in of 24, 18 months as a minimum, before you can really start to find your own feet in these fora. Thanks.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Nick. For the sake of time, please, 30 seconds. Pablo?

PABLO RODRIGUEZ:

Thank you very much. The one thing that I will tell a potential participant to engage in the ccNSO work is that your concerns, your interests are important to us. As Nick mentioned, you are a representative of your respective country and possibly of your region. And like Jordan also mentioned, you need to make those connections.

So it doesn't matter whether you represent a huge country, or a developed country, or an underdeveloped country. Regardless of where you come from, what you have to say, what your concerns are, what your interests are, are important to us. And it will be a contribution to the ccNSO community. So engage. And engage because your concerns will most likely be the concerns of others as well. Thank you.



Candidates

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Pablo. Demi, Biyi, I'm not sure who was the first one. So let's—Demi first.

DEMI GETSCHKO: Very short. I agree with all that was said, especially with Anil. I think that we are a quite short community. We're a small community. We are a community represented by the delegates of the CCs in the 3166 list. So I think the most concern is to have all the delegated CCs connected to the ccNSO. I think it's the most important thing to have all the registries of the world to be part of this organization, and to have a voice on that, and also to share with us the things we want to defend.

Of course, there will be new people. It will be excellent to have more people involved on that. But we are the CC community so we have to strive to get all the CCs on board to have more strength in our fights to preserve the community. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Demi. Biyi, what would you add?

BIYI OLADIPO: Okay. Thank you very much, Irina. Just to add to what everyone has said, it's that we, individually, need to become mentors to people and see ourselves as people who would actually mentor new people and bring them in, in our own communities.

First of all, in our specific CCs, for some of the people in the .NG, actually, on this call, which I actually take it upon myself to encourage as many people as can join to join—not only join the meetings but also join specific working groups and participate in specific things. That’s one.

Then secondly, I think, just on a lighter note, if you’re coming to ICANN for the first time, if you don’t understand what is being talked about, it sounds all like a funny language to you. Yes. Thank you so much, Jordan. But you see there are so many opportunities within the ICANN system that can get people involved in the communities—in the discussions, first of all—like the Fellowship program. So encourage as many people to join the Fellowship program. If I am not mistaken, I think Alejandra came in through the fellowship program and today, she is the chair of the ccNSO.

So these are opportunities that are available, which we need to let people know. The truth is, a lot of people are not aware of this. So we need to let them understand that these opportunities are there and that we can bring them in through one of those opportunities. And then they can then come into the ccNSO, and before we know what’s happening, be on the Council. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Biyi. There are more questions in the chat. One of them comes from Nonofa. Hopefully I pronounced it correctly. And the question is, “Which working group would you recommend to someone

Candidates

who is new to ccTLD and ICANN operations?” Which working group would you recommend to some—I believe, to join. Pablo, please.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ:

I suggest to those who are interested in participating in the ccNSO to align their participation with those interests that are relevant to you, where you can contribute. And instead of just ... That way, you will be able to contribute. You will be able to participate, rather than just becoming a spectator. You may join any group that you want. But chances are that you will be able to contribute more in some than in others. So align your decision with your skill set and what you feel most comfortable with. Thank you.

IRINA DANIELIA:

Thank you, Pablo. Biyi?

BIYI OLADIPO:

Okay. I’m aligning completely with what Pablo has said. When I wanted to get involved in the work of the ccNSO, I went straight for the place where I have an expertise, which was the SOPC. And that, for me, was natural. It comes from what I do on a daily basis. So that gave me an entry into the working group.

However, I will say that if you are not very comfortable with which to join first, you can look at two or three and be an observer in them. And then you can now make that into a full member as you go along. But it’s always better to get in through the areas of your interest. Thank you.

Candidates

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Biyi. Anil, I think you were next.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Irina. It's an interesting question. When somebody is joining for the first time, we have to see whether he or she is coming from a technical side, or he or she is coming from a non-technical side, or is new altogether in ccTLD community or ccNSO community. So I think in all the three areas, one has to choose in a different way.

For example, what Biyi said. In case you are new and you want to just go along with what you are doing, I think the SOPC is a good choice for the people Guideline Review Committee would be a good one. But in case you are from a technical side, whether you can join as an observer or you can join as a member in the standing committee, then I think the technical working group can be joined. Or people like us who are managing the ccTLDs, they can join the working group like ccPDP working groups or IDN ccPDP Working Group. Thank you, Irina.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Anil. Jordan?

JORDAN CARTER: Really, briefly, it think there's the expertise thing. So you could do something that relates to your expertise. But there can also be an interest thing. There might be an area that you're curious about and

Candidates

you don't know too much about. You can treat the start of your participation as a chance to learn some new things as well. And if you're not sure, I think the Fellowship program is a good idea. So you can choose any of these options. It depends, partly, what your organization will support you to do.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Jordan. One more question in the chat, from Eduardo. "All the candidates at the current process are older males. Besides the regional diversity, how can the ccNSO grow to get a more diverse Council in the future? Is this a concern for the ccNSO?" Quite provocative questions. Anil, and then Biyi, and then Pablo. And then I believe ... I'm not sure we're going to have more time. Anil, please.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Irina, and thank you for the question. I think the ccNSO Council is now well-structured into different roles, where representatives at the leadership position comes from different roles and they are able to represent. The second, [changes can be in] gender equality. And I personally feel that this particular equality is also there right now. I don't see that there is any need for correction of that disparity at the ccNSO Management Council.

But yes. What we were discussing previously is that we need more young blood, more young ideas, new ideas. So definitely, we have to include more number of young people to give the new ideas, new

Candidates

opportunities, and new through processes in the ccNSO concept. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Anil. And Pablo, please. We are approaching the end of the session so let's say 20 seconds.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: I was hoping 15 minutes but okay. I'll do 20 seconds.

IRINA DANELIA: Sorry for that.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Diversity is very important for the ccNSO. No one is held back from participating in the ccNSO. And while, at this point, we may look—we are all males in this particular session—you will see that we have extremely influencing candidates such as Irina, Katrina, Alejandra, Margarita, in her time, Jenifer Lopez. There are so many others—Laura Margolis—on, and on, and on. And please forgive me, all of you ladies—all of you ladies who have been participating and contributing so much.

So yes. Diversity is very important and I think we are well-balanced and we continue—Marie-Noémie—and we continue to strive to have so many other to continue participating with us.



Candidates

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Pablo. And, Biyi, 30 seconds.

BIYI OLADIPO: I can do it in 20. The only thing I'm going to add to it is the fact that, yes, diversity is extremely important. We need more young people. But we will work with people who are ready to work. There are people who, yes, they are not interested but we can push them to. So what we need are people who are willing to work and are ready to. And I'm sure that when we have people like that, there no one here who will reject the membership of anyone who is ready to work. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you very much, Biyi. And thank you to all candidates for sharing their thoughts. Thank you to all the attendees for being here, listening, and asking questions. I wish Jordan and Anil good luck in your election. And with that, I suggest we finish. Thank you very much, and goodbye, and hopefully see you soon.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Irina, and thank you, everybody. Thank you.

BIYI OLADIPO: Thank you so much, Irina. Goodbye, everyone.

NICK WENBAN-SMITH: Thank you. Bye.

EN

Candidates

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Irina. And thank you all.

BIYI OLADIPO: Thank you all.

IRINA DANELIA: Bye, all.

KIMBERLY CARLSON: Thanks, all, for joining. You can stop the recording now.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]