

GNSO Standing Committee for Continuous Improvement – Ideas and Possible Approach

Initial Idea

It was noted during the Council's 2021 Strategic Planning Session that there are a number of ongoing initiatives that the GNSO is expected to address that may have an impact on GNSO processes and procedures. In order to tackle these in a consistent and efficient manner, it has been suggested that the Council should consider creating a Standing Committee that would tackle these initiatives and focus on continuous improvements of GNSO processes and procedures. Although the Council would be responsible for its creation and oversight, the Standing Committee would be representative of the GNSO community as the issues to be tackled may not only affect the Council. Of course, any initiatives that would be SG/C specific, would NOT be handled by the Standing Committee.

Proposed Remit

The following projects could fall under the remit of this standing committee:

- Implementation of WS2 recommendations that are not SG/C specific;
- Assignments related to the Evolution of the Multistakeholder Model;
- Possible ATRT3 related assignments, including a possible future Continuous Improvement Program;
- GNSO Review, if commenced;
- Review of Policy & Implementation WG recommendations;
- Further input on the Operational Design Phase, if applicable;
- Review of PDP 3.0 improvements and additional improvements identified;
- Empowered Community related assignments (to be assigned on a case by case basis by Council).

All these projects are of a substantial nature and careful consideration would need to go into prioritizing and scoping these. Similar to previous efforts, an inventory would need to be created that would outline the scope of each initiative as well as preparatory steps that could be taken by the Staff Support Team or others to prepare the Standing Committee for taking on these initiatives.

Possible Approach

Noting the scope of the projects above, it is unlikely that these can be done in parallel, unless there are some discreet items for which a separate sub-team or committee could be created. As a first step, the staff support team would be requested to further detail the expected work items and preparatory steps for each of the projects identified so that the Council can make a better assessment of the direction to be provided to the Standing Committee for how to tackle these items.

Proposed Composition of the Standing Committee

- 2 representatives from each Constituency or Stakeholder Group¹ and up to 2 alternates
- 1 Nominating Committee appointee

Anyone interested would be invited to join as an observer with read-only access to the mailing list.

Standing Committee Leadership

Through an expression of interest process, chair candidates would be invited to apply. The Standing Selection Committee would be responsible for reviewing the candidates and making a recommendation to the GNSO Council for a chair and vice-chair.

Proposed Decision-Making Methodologies

The Standing Committee should aim to make recommendations by full consensus. However, in those cases where this is not possible, consensus designations must factor in the Council's make up and voting thresholds. For example, when assessing the level of support, the chair should factor in the support across stakeholder groups instead of counting individuals in support or against. Where full consensus is not achieved, the report/recommendations to the GNSO Council should clearly outline the efforts that were undertaken to try and achieve full consensus and the reasons for why this was not achieved.

Proposed Next Steps

Following Council's and SG/C Chairs feedback on these ideas and suggestions, the staff support team would:

1. Take the feedback to develop a first draft of a possible charter for the Standing Committee;
2. Develop further details for each work item identified, including urgency as well as possible preparatory steps that could be undertaken;
3. Following the delivery of 1) and 2), the Council would review these work items in view of forming the Standing Committee for Continuous Improvement.

¹ For clarity, a Stakeholder Group may decide to assign representatives at the Stakeholder Group level OR the constituency level, if applicable, but not both.