January 26, 2015

GNSO Council
Attn: Jonathan Robinson, Chair
Via e-mail to jonathan.robinson@ipracon.com

Dear Jonathan,

SCI is pleased to report the election of officers for 2015 as follows: Chair – Anne Aikman-Scalese (IPC), Vice Chair – Lori Schulman (NPOC).

SCI is currently planning its work for 2015 and is seeking further direction from Council in this regard. As you know, the SCI's Charter is to review and assess the effective functioning of the GNSO Procedures and WG guidelines. This work falls into two general categories: (1) requests for review from Council relating to immediate problems and (2) periodic review of all procedures and guidelines in order to identify possible issues and/or improvements.

We understand that two matters raised previously by SCI were temporarily put on hold, but believe that the SCI's focus on improvements is a positive aspect of ICANN's overall accountability and should be ongoing in accordance with its Charter. Further possibilities for 2015 SCI work include:

1. **Review of Operating Procedures Relating to "Friendly Amendments" to Motions.** The SCI notes that the Council's approach to "friendly amendments" is not defined and that this can lead to inconsistent handling of proposed amendments. SCI recommends clarification of procedures for identifying and acting on friendly amendments.

2. **Application of "10 Day Waiver Rule" to Resubmitted Motions.** Last year, acting on an SCI recommendation, the Council amended the Operating Procedures to allow for waivers of the 10-day motion submission deadline under certain circumstances. The question whether the new 10-day waiver rule applies to resubmitted motions was not directly considered by SCI and we recommend that this be reviewed and clarified.

3. **Full Review of Working Group Consensus Levels**. An amendment was approved by Council in 2014 to add a footnote to clarify the fact that there can be a "Consensus Against" a particular recommendation. At that time, it was suggested that a full review of WG Consensus levels should be undertaken in accordance with SCI's periodic review responsibilities.

4. **Full Review of GNSO Operating Procedures (including PDP Manual and WG Guidelines).** It has been noted that SCI's periodic review responsibilities will require a full review of the GNSO Operating Procedures at the appropriate time.

We are also aware that the results of the GNSO Review are likely to impact SCI's work in 2015. We look forward to receiving your response to the questions above and the Council's view on how we prioritize our work for 2015. Pending Council's response, SCI will begin work on its periodic review function, factoring into this consideration the results of the Westlake Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne

Anne Aikman-Scalese
SCI 2015 Chair