

The Operational Design Phase (ODP) [process paper](#) recommends that the GNSO Council identify a liaison to the ODP. The role is to function primarily as a messenger (communication channel between ICANN org and the GNSO Council) and escalation point to the GNSO Council, but there is not an expectation that the liaison will be considered the GNSO Council's representative and able to speak for the Council unless otherwise instructed to do so. Notable elements from the paper include the excerpts below, with emphasis added where it was deemed helpful:

“Any questions that arise during the ODP that pertain to policy, substance, intent of recommendations will be addressed to the GNSO Council as the manager of the PDP. To **facilitate communication on these issues**, the GNSO Council is encouraged to select and appoint an ODP liaison who, **preferably, has had previous involvement with the relevant PDP.**

The ODP does not require the liaison to be a member of the GNSO Council. The liaison will serve as the **primary contact between ICANN org's ODP team and the GNSO Council** on questions pertaining to the substance or intent of the GNSO Council recommendations. The liaison is expected to keep the GNSO Council informed about their engagement with ICANN org on these questions and should be empowered to **convey relevant information from the GNSO Council to the ODP team.**”

This establishes the expectation that the role of liaison will be limited in scope, primarily serving as a messenger and escalation point between the GNSO Council and the ODP, but will nevertheless benefit from having experience in the relevant effort (e.g., providing relevant background information, more clearly articulating messages, etc.) *even if the liaison is not empowered to act or make decisions on behalf of the GNSO Council.*

As this is the first ODP to be initiated and as the ODP concept and scope will be reviewed after two ODPs have been completed, it may be preferable to adopt a relatively straightforward and simple approach to this appointment. **Therefore, the former Chair or GNSO Council liaison to the PDP/EPDP may be an ideal GNSO Council liaison to the ODP. If they are unavailable, a former or sitting Councilor that took part in the PDP/EPDP may also make sense, given familiarity with both the substance and the operations of the GNSO Council.**