

REQUEST FOR CANDIDATES – GNSO LIAISON TO THE GAC

Candidates are invited for Generic Names Supporting Organisation (GNSO) Liaison to the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Background

The GNSO Liaison to the GAC role was first piloted in FY15-16 (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2016) as part of a broader initiative of the GAC-GNSO Consultation Group to facilitate early engagement of the GAC in GNSO policy development activities. Due to the success of the pilot, the GNSO Liaison to the GAC is now a permanent role and an integral part of communications between the GAC and GNSO.

Objective

The GNSO Council is seeking a GNSO Liaison to the GAC (hereafter “the Liaison”) to begin serving in the role following the [year] Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled to take place from [date] to [date].

The Liaison will be primarily responsible for providing timely updates to the GAC on GNSO policy development activities in order to complement the existing notification processes as well as answering questions in relation to these (GNSO) activities that GAC members may have. Furthermore, the Liaison will be responsible for providing the GNSO Council with regular updates on progress, including on GAC activities, specifically in so far as these relate to issues of interest to the GNSO. The objective of the liaison mechanism, in combination with other mechanisms and early engagement tools, is to facilitate effective early engagement of the GAC as well as generally assist with flow of information between the GAC and the GNSO. In addition to these engagement tools, regular co-ordination calls are to be scheduled between the GNSO Liaison to the GAC and the GAC Leadership/GAC Support Staff to ascertain that all the relevant information has been received by the GAC and progress is being made, following which a regular status update is provided by the Liaison to the GNSO Council.

Skills and Experience

- Significant experience in and knowledge of the GNSO policy development process as well as of recent and current policy work under discussion and / or review in the GNSO
- Availability to attend and participate in GAC meetings during the course of ICANN meetings and also, where applicable, intersessional meetings (via teleconference)
- A former or recently departed GNSO Councilor is likely to be well-qualified for the position but this is not a necessary criterion for the Liaison.

Responsibilities Towards the GAC:

- Attend and participate as required in GAC meetings during ICANN meetings and possible intersessional meetings (Note: to the extent that ICANN meetings are held face-to-face, travel funding is available for the ICANN meetings should the Liaison otherwise not be able to attend an ICANN meeting)
- Represent and communicate the policy work of the GNSO in a neutral and objective manner
- Guide the GAC in opportunities for early engagement

- Keep the GAC updated on how its early input was considered by the GNSO

Towards the GNSO:

- Attend and participate as an observer in GNSO Council meetings. The Liaison is expected to only intervene in their Liaison capacity with interventions focused on any GAC activities as these relate to issues of interest and/or under discussion by the GNSO.
- Provide regular updates to the GNSO Council by email or during Council meetings at the request of any Council member.
- The GNSO Council may also request the Liaison to observe certain other GNSO activities if it deems this will benefit the Liaison in fulfilling its responsibilities. Unless otherwise directed, the Liaison will observe these activities and report back to Council and/or GAC with its observations, as deemed appropriate.
- Liaise with GNSO policy staff who may assist, as needed, in the preparation of briefing materials and/or responses to questions.
- Liaise with relevant working groups, utilizing GNSO Council liaisons where required, in order to be continuously current and knowledgeable on work in progress.
- Assist in the facilitation of GAC-GNSO discussions in cases where GAC early input is in conflict with GNSO views.
- Produce an annual report to the GAC and GNSO that highlights early engagement efforts to date as well as possible improvements to be considered.

Practical Working

- Attend all GAC open meetings and be allowed to request the floor.
- Attend GAC closed meetings discussing GNSO related topics and be allowed to request the floor.
- Attend GAC conference calls by invitation and accordingly be allowed to request the floor.
- Join GAC working groups by invitation and accordingly be allowed to request the floor.
- Will not be on the GAC mailing list but may send to it through the mailing list admin and receives replies by being cc'd.
- Attend all GNSO Council meetings as an observer and be allowed to request the floor if it pertains to the responsibilities of the Liaison.

Application Process

1. The leadership of each Stakeholder Group / Constituency may submit the application of its candidate(s), which should include at a minimum a link to a completed and current statement of interest as well as a brief note explaining why the candidate has applied for this role and how the candidate meets the specific requirements [by date] to the GNSO Secretariat (gns.secretariat@gns.icann.org). Candidates are requested to complete the attached application template.
2. The GNSO Secretariat will relay the applications received by the deadline to the SSC [date].
3. The SSC will review the applications received and rank these taking into account the skills and experience required as outlined in this call for volunteers by [date].

4. Based on the outcome of the ranking process, the SSC will contact the nr 1 candidate to confirm the selection by [date].
5. The SSC will submit its recommendation to the GNSO Council in the form of a motion for confirmation of GNSO Liaison to the GAC to the GNSO Council by [date] at the latest
6. Consideration of motion and approval of candidate by GNSO Council during GNSO Council meeting on [date].
7. Confirmation of candidate to GAC leadership (by [date]).
8. GNSO Liaison to the GAC officially takes up its role (by [date]).

Removal

In the case of significant issues identified with the performance of the liaison, the GNSO Council Leadership, in consultation with the GAC Leadership, may decide to remove (and possibly replace) the Liaison at any point during the Liaison's term.

Review and Renewal

The role is reviewed by the GNSO Council every year. As part of this review, the GNSO Council is expected to request the GAC and/or GAC Secretariat for input on the role and functioning of the GNSO Liaison to the GAC and also consider the Liaison's performance with respect to the criteria in this document.

An existing Liaison may be reconfirmed upon agreement by the Liaison and the GNSO Council. If the Liaison has indicated that he/she is no longer available to continue in this role or the GNSO Council decides that a new liaison should be appointed, the process as outlined above will take place.