Report ccNSO Council Elections

4 November 2022

1. Background

The 3-year term for five members of the ccNSO Council will end in March 2023, at the end of the ICANN76 Community Forum:

Africa: Souleymane Oumtanaga
Asia Pacific: Ai-Chin Lu
Europe: Chris Disspain
Latin America/Caribbean: Alejandra Reynoso
North America: Stephen Deerhake

The ccNSO opened a call for nominations to fill those seats. The timeline of the launch of the nomination period was defined following the applicable ccNSO Guideline and was approved by the ccNSO Council on 16 June 2022, taking into consideration the fact that ccNSO members had a possibility to ask direct question to the candidates at the ccNSO members in October, during a virtual Question & Answer session. Joke Braeken was appointed Election Process Manager on 16 June 2022.

2. Launch of Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period started on Wednesday, 14 September 2022 (00:01 UTC).   The call for nominations was posted on the ccNSO website on 8 September 2022, and shared on the same day with the ccnso-members@icann.org and ccnsocouncil@icann.org mailing lists.

3. Close of Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period closed on Wednesday, 5 October 2022 (23:59 UTC). Shortly after the closure of the nomination period, the Election Manager posted an announcement on the ccNSO website, giving a heads up about the upcoming Q&A with the candidates. The announcement was also shared with the the ccnso-members@icann.org and ccnsocouncil@icann.org mailing lists.

4. Nomination Results

The nomination archives can be found at: https://forum.icann.org/lists/ccnso-nominations/
At the close of the call, the following nominations and secondings were received:

- **Africa:**

Molehe Wesi was nominated twice: Ali Hadji Mmadi (.km) nominated Molehe on Mon, 19 September 2022 (10:41 UTC), and Biyi Oladipo (.ng) nominated him on Thursday, 22 September 2022 (06:08 UTC). Molehe also self-nominated on Monday, 19 September 2022 (10:14 UTC). Angela Matlapeng (.bw) seconded Molehe's nomination on Sunday, 18 September 2022 (08:13 UTC) and Ingabire Grace Mwikarago (.rw) seconded the nomination on Thursday, 29 September 2022 (07:45 UTC).
No other nominations or secondings were received.

- **Asia-Pacific:**

Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) self-nominated on Sunday, 18 September 2022 (03:36 UTC). Another representative from the .bh ccTLD, Aysha Ahmed Alkoheji, seconded Sami's self-nomination on Monday, 26 September 2022 (13:09 UTC) (see observation under 5.1). Fariz Ahmad (.my) seconded Sami's self-nomination on Friday, 30 September 2022 (02:12 UTC).
Bruce Tonkin (.au) nominated Ai-chin Lu (.tw) on Monday, 19 September 2022 (01:58 UTC). Atsushi Endo (.jp) seconded Ai-chin's nomination on Monday, 19 September 2022 (06:12 UTC).
No other nominations or secondings were received.

- **Europe:**

Roelof Meijer (.nl) nominated Chris Disspain on Sunday, 18 September 2022 (08:12 UTC). Katrina Sataki (.lv) seconded this nomination on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 (08:38 UTC).
No other nominations or secondings were received.

- **Latin America/Caribbean:**

Jenifer Lopez (.pa) nominated Alejandra Reynoso on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 (02:33 UTC). Demi Getschko (.br) seconded this nomination on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 (07:18 UTC).
No other nominations or secondings were received.

- **North America:**

Sean Copeland (.vi) nominated Stephen Deerhake (.as) on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 (08:50 UTC). Pablo Rodriguez (.pr) seconded Stephen's nomination on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 (09:12 UTC).
No other nominations or secondings were received.

5.1. Nomination observations

These observations were added for transparency purposes. The election process manager did not receive any questions or comments from the ccTLD community regarding any of the observations.

- **Observation 1: replacing Councillors at regular intervals**

With the exception of the African region, the incumbent candidates from all other ICANN geographical regions are nominated for another 3-year term. There is no term limit for ccNSO Councillors.

- **Observation 2: self-nominations**

Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) self-nominated for the position of Council member from the Asia-Pacific region. Two ccNSO members seconded his self-nomination: a representative from the .my ccTLD, and a representative from the .bh ccTLD. Section 3.2. of the applicable ccNSO Guideline clearly states that ccNSO members are not allowed to second their self-nomination. Therefor, the seconding of Sami's nomination by Aysha Ahmed Alkoheji (.bh) could not be withheld, as both Sami and Aysha identified as being affiliated with the .bh ccTLD manager.

> *[…] 3.2 Eligibility to Nominate and Second*
> *Only ccNSO members will be able to nominate and second candidates to serve as a ccNSO Councillor. New ccNSO members are able to participate in the nomination process if the ccNSO membership application has been approved by the ccNSO Council one day prior the nomination process starts. ccNSO members may self-nominate*

themselves but are not allowed to second their nomination. Selfnominations must be seconded by two ccNSO members from the region. […]

Molehe Wesi self-nominated for the position of Council member from the African region. Molehe, was also nominated by two different ccNSO members from the region, namely representatives from .km and .ng respectively. Moreover, two ccNSO members from the region seconded Molehe's nomination: representatives from .bw and .rw. Therefor, Molehe is an eligible candidate, in accordance with the applicable ccNSO Guideline.

- **Observation 3: affiliation with a ccTLD manager**

Two candidates are currently not affiliated with a specific ccTLD manager: Alejandra Reynoso and Chris Disspain.

The ICANN Bylaws mention the following:

[…] Section 10.3. ccNSO COUNCIL
(a) The ccNSO Council shall consist of three ccNSO Council members selected by the ccNSO members within each of ICANN's Geographic Regions in the manner described in Section 10.4(g) through Section 10.4(i); […]

And

[…] Section 10.4. MEMBERSHIP
[…]
(h) Any ccNSO member may nominate an individual to serve as a ccNSO Council member representing the ccNSO member's Geographic Region.[…]

The applicable ccNSO Rules and Guidelines further specify:

[…] 3. General Provisions
3.1. Eligibility to be Elected to the ccNSO Council
A Councillor can be any individual nominated, seconded and elected as described in this Guideline. Individuals are elected in their personal capacity and serve the ccTLD community. Councillors do not represent the views and interests of their employers. […]

5. Acceptance Nominations

In accordance to the applicable rules, the following candidates were nominated, seconded and have accepted their nomination for the Council election:

Africa: Molehe Wesi
Asia-Pacific: Ai-Chin Lu
Europe: Chris Disspain
Latin America – Caribbean: Alejandra Reynoso
North America: Stephen Deerhake

All five candidates participated in virtual Question & Answer sessions. Four out of five candidates submitted written candidate statements ahead of the Q&A. Two sets of Q&A sessions were held on 19 October 2022, at different times of the day, to better serve the ccNSO members from the various regions. ccNSO Council Vice Chair Biyi Oladipo (.ng) moderated both sessions. The Q&A provided the ccNSO members and broader ccTLD community an opportunity to interact with the candidates from their respective regions.

6. Elected Councillors

As only one candidate was nominated and seconded within the nomination period for the five ICANN geographical regions regions, no elections needed to be held in those regions. The nominated

candidates whose nomination was correctly seconded all accepted their nomination, and agreed to participate in a Q&A session with the community.

Since at the close of nominations there are no more valid candidates in the aforementioned geographic regions than there are seats on the ccNSO Council available for those regions, the nominated candidates shall be selected to serve on the ccNSO Council. The elected Councillors will take their seats at the end of the ICANN76 ccNSO Council meeting, in March 2023.

8. Closure of the Election Process

The elected candidates are:

Africa: Molehe Wesi
Asia-Pacific: Ai-Chin Lu
Europe: Chris Disspain
Latin America – Caribbean: Alejandra Reynoso
North America: Stephen Deerhake

The Council Election process 2023 will formally close 7 days after adoption and publication of this report. The ccNSO Council Chair is requested to provide the ICANN Secretary prompt written notice of the selection of ccNSO Council members under section 10.4 (i) of the ICANN Bylaws. The Secretariat is requested to publish the report on the ccNSO website.