

Guideline: ccNSO Nominations Process ICANN Board Seats 11 and 12

Version 4.0 [Redline](#)

Date of review: May 2022

Date of adoption by the ccNSO Council: xxx 2020

[Proposed changes:](#)

[Deal with timing of Q&A session: change to preferably linked to a members meeting during an ICANN meeting \(not limited to the AGM, as it also applies to reaplcing a cNSO appointed director who has been removed\)](#)

[Nomination and secondment by members \(including IDNccTLD\)](#)

[Voting/election through emissaries.](#)

1 Introduction and Background

According to the ICANN Bylaw Article 10, Section 10.3(i) the ccNSO Council shall nominate individuals to fill Seats 11 and 12 on the Board by written ballot or by action at a meeting; any such nomination must have affirmative votes of a majority of all the members of the ccNSO Council then in office.

Notification of the ccNSO Council's nomination(s) shall be given by the Chair of the ccNSO Council in writing to the EC Administration, with a copy to the Secretary, and the EC shall promptly act on it as provided in Article 7, Section 7.25 of the ICANN Bylaws¹.

The ccNSO Council and ccNSO members have agreed that the ccNSO members shall propose and elect candidates for the two ICANN Board seats allocated to the ccNSO, and that the winner(s) of said election(s) shall in turn be nominated by a majority vote of the ccNSO Council to the ICANN Board seat(s).

2 Purpose of the Guideline

The purpose of this Guideline is to describe the procedures and timeline for the ccNSO Nominations Process.

¹ Text of Section 7.25

Upon its receipt of nominations as provided in Articles 7 through 12, the EC Administration, on behalf of the EC, shall promptly notify the Secretary of the EC's designation of individuals to fill seats on the Board. ICANN shall post all such designations promptly to the Website.

3 Timeline and Process

3.1 Initiation of Board members Nomination Process

3.1.1 Initiation of Regular Board Seat Nomination Process (Article 7, Section 7.8(a)(iv) and (vi))

At least one (1) year before the individual nominated will fill Seat 11 or 12 on the ICANN Board of Directors, the ccNSO Council shall appoint a Nomination Process Manager and determine the timeline for the Nomination Process of candidate(s), including the due diligence verifications, and, to the extent necessary, election periods to fill the ccNSO seats on the ICANN Board.

3.1.2 Initiation of Board Seat Nomination Process in case of vacancies (Article 7, Section 7.12(a))

[PLACEHOLDER: To be revisited once the Guideline: ccNSO Procedures Board (Members) Removal Process(es) has become effective).

3.1.3 Initiation of Board Seat Nomination Process when all Directors are recalled (Article 7, Section 7.12(b))

[PLACEHOLDER: To be revisited once the Guideline: ccNSO Procedures Board (Members) Removal Process(es) has become effective).

3.2 Timeline

The timeline should allow enough time for [the nomination by members of a candidate](#), due diligence verifications, election of the nominee(s) by the ccNSO membership, [including](#) if necessary, a second round and/or run-off election, [and formal nomination by the ccNSO Council](#). A regular replacement Nomination Process for Seat 11 or 12 should - in accordance with Section 7.8 of the ICANN Bylaws - be completed at least six (6) months before the conclusion of the ICANN annual meeting at which the regular term for Seat 11 or 12 ends². The timeline should include at least dates for the following milestones:

- Appointment of the Nomination Process Manager
- Call for Candidates
- Acceptance of candidacy
- Expected duration of the Due Diligence verifications
- Presentation of Candidate Statements
- Start and end of the election rounds and run-off election
- Closure of Election process
- Nomination by the ccNSO Council.

² In the event the Nomination Process is terminated as a result of the circumstances foreseen in section 3.5 or section 3.7

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The Secretariat will publish the timeline adopted by the ccNSO Council on the ccNSO website.

3.3 Appointment of the Nomination Process Manager

The Nomination Process Manager is responsible for managing the timeline and procedures, including the election.

The Nomination Process Manager must be a person who cannot propose a candidate, second or vote, and who has no direct connection with a ccTLD manager or other potential conflict of interest.

3.4 Call for Candidates

The Nomination Process Manager will announce the call for candidates at the time set forth in the nomination timeline established by the ccNSO Council. The call for candidates must include a closing date, which will be at a minimum ~~three~~ ~~two~~ ~~(3)~~ ~~(2)~~ weeks after the call. The call will further include a description on how to nominate and second a candidate and will refer to the templates for nominating candidates and seconding the nomination(s). These templates shall contain at least the following:

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Nominating Template

- 1a. Full name of the candidate:
- 1b. E-mail address of the candidate:
- 1c. Country of Citizenship or Domicile of the candidate³.
- 2a. Full name of the nominator:
- 2b. E-mail address of the nominator:
- 2c. ccTLD manager represented by the nominator:

Seconding Template

- 1 Full name of nominator whose candidate is being seconded:
- 2a. Full name of the Nominee being seconded:
- 2b. E-mail address of the Nominee being seconded:
- 3a. Full name of the seconder:
- 3b. E-mail address of the seconder:
- 3c. ccTLD manager represented by the seconder:

When calling for candidate(s), the Nomination Process Manager will remind all concerned of the following requirements:

- To nominate suitably qualified candidates, in particular reference the relevant sections in Article 7 of the ICANN Bylaws.

³ As defined in Section 7. 2

- In accordance with Article 7, Section 7.2(c) of the ICANN Bylaws, candidate(s) to be nominated and the remaining ccNSO nominated Board member or the two elected to be nominated candidates shall NOT be citizens from the same country or of countries located in the same ICANN Geographic Region.

Each ccNSO member through its Representative may nominate and/or second one(1) or more candidates. ~~The nomination and/or secondment~~ shall be published.

If a ccNSO member nominates a second candidate, only the first nomination will be valid and published as such. ~~Following nomination(s) by that ccNSO Member~~ will be made public, but with a clear note “not valid”. For avoidance of doubt:

- Nominating and seconding of candidate(s), is limited to ccTLD Managers who are members of the ccNSO on the date the call for candidates is published.
- If the organization or entity listed in the DNS Rootzone Database whois as ccTLD Manager, nominates and seconds one and the same candidate, only the nomination is considered valid and the secondment for the same candidate shall be deemed invalid.

Candidates are not required to be employed by a ccTLD Manager ~~to be eligible for nomination~~, but if there is an employment or other relationship, that should be disclosed by the candidate as part of their Candidate Statement.

~~All nominations must be seconded by another ccNSO member.~~

The templates to be used for nominations and secondments shall be posted on the ccNSO website. The archive of the nominations and secondments will be publicly available.

On the relevant date, as set forth in the nomination timeline established by the ccNSO Council, the Nomination Process Manager will announce the closure of the nomination period.

3.5 Acceptance of Candidacy

After closure of the call for candidates, the Nomination Process Manager shall ensure that nominees formally accept their nominations. By accepting the nomination, a nominee warrants and is aware of, and consents to:

- The Country of Citizenship or Domicile included in the nomination form;
- Not to hold a position as an official of a national government or a multinational entity (section 7.4 (a) of the ICANN Bylaws)
- Section 7.4 (b) of the ICANN Bylaws

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~~Commented [MOU1]: This situation is captured above with the reference to the entity or organisation in DNA Rootzone. It also avoids the situation that for example the manager for .ex and .ex in Greek (which are by definition different ccTLD Managers) can nominate and second one and the same candidate.~~

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- Section 7.4 (d) of the ICANN Bylaws
- Fully cooperate to undergo a due diligence screening by an external provider, which includes providing necessary consent to the ICANN to transmit personal data to the due diligence provider. Candidates need to be aware that they will be approached by the external due diligence provider to sign a consent form before the actual due diligence will begin.

After acceptance of the nomination by the candidate(s), the Chair of the ccNSO Council or other person designated by the ccNSO Council in the event the Chair is candidate, shall inform ICANN's General Counsel's office and provide it with all relevant candidate information. The General Counsel's Office will then notify the independent Due Diligence Provider, provide it with all relevant candidate information, and ask the provider to work directly with the candidates to begin and complete the due diligence process.

The candidate(s) will be approached by the independent provider and will be asked to sign a consent form. In the event a candidate does not provide consent or rescinds the consent to undergo the due diligence process, the Council will be informed, and the candidacy of that person will be terminated.

After the due diligence review has been concluded by the Due Diligence Provider, the results of due diligence are provided to designated members of ICANN's General Counsel's Office to evaluate. If there are no issues the General Counsel's Office will notify the Chair of the ccNSO Council [and vice chair(s)] or other designated person in case the Chair has accepted nomination, and the candidate(s) will be informed accordingly. If the General Counsel's Office identifies an issue or potential issue, it will also notify the Chair of the ccNSO Council [and vice chair(s)] or other designated person in case the Chair has accepted nomination, along with a description of the issue or potential issue. The Chair of the ccNSO Council, or other designated person will update the full Council (with exception of a potential candidate who is still a Councillor) on the results of the due diligence, i.e., whether no concerns have surfaced, or concerns were raised which warrant further consideration and decisions.

After a satisfactory conclusion of the due diligence process, i.e. there are no concerns resulting from the due diligence review regarding the candidate(s), the process continues with the Q&A session by the ccNSO Members at the first ccNSO Members meeting following the conclusion of the due diligence process.

In the event one or more issues result in concerns about the candidate's ability to serve on the ICANN Board of Directors, the Chair of the ccNSO Council or other designated person in case the Chair has accepted nomination, may request the candidate to step-down or to propose to Council to terminate the candidacy of that person or to terminate the Nomination Process. If a candidate decides to step-down, or the nomination of that person is terminated and the candidate was the only nominee, the Nomination Process is deemed to be terminated on the day the candidacy is terminated. The Council decision to terminate the Nomination Process or end the candidacy of a person needs to be taken by a simple majority vote.

If the Nomination Process is terminated in accordance with this section, section 3.9 applies.

3.6 Presentation of Candidate Statements

The Nomination Process Manager will ask candidate(s) to provide and present a written Candidate Statement prior to the start of the due diligence verifications. Candidate Statement(s) shall be published on the ccNSO website (in alphabetical order). The Nomination Process Manager will not publish Candidate Statement(s) that do not meet the current ICANN Standards of Behavior or that contain defamatory or derogatory statements.

At the ~~time designated in the Timeline and after the first ICANN meeting following the closure of the Due Diligence verifications, during the ccNSO Members Meeting,~~ ccNSO members and others will be provided the opportunity to meet and question the Candidate(s). This session ~~will preferably take place during a Members meeting during an ICANN meeting.~~ The meeting will be chaired by an independent person who has no affiliation or connection with any of the Candidate(s).

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3.7 Election and run-off election

Even if there is only one Candidate or only two Candidates in the event of two seats becoming vacant, the Nomination Process Manager will inform the ccNSO Council and members, about the date of the election.

The election should not ~~close~~ ~~start~~ earlier than two weeks after the closure of the Q&A session. The election will be conducted in the following manner:

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- The Nomination Process Manager will issue a formal Election Notice to all ccNSO members and publish it on the ccNSO website. All ccTLD Managers who are Member of the ccNSO one day prior to the day the ~~formal Election Notice is published, Nomination Process Manager starts the voting process are able~~ ~~may vote through their Emissaries.~~
- ~~The issuing of the Election Notice marks the start of the voting process.~~
- The Election Notice will include at a minimum:
 - The names of the Candidates
 - Information on how the election will be conducted
 - Election opening and closing dates.
- The Nomination Process Manager will issue an email to the ~~Emissaries, designated contact of each ccNSO member,~~ which will indicate how to vote and the date and time by which votes must be received.
- The vote will be confidential, that is, the vote is identified only by a code and not by a name.
- The ballot will include the name(s) of the candidate(s) and “None of the above”. “None of the above” will mean that the ccTLD Manager believes the candidate(s) is / are not qualified to serve on the ICANN Board of Directors.

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- Where the election is for one seat, each ccNSO member will be entitled to vote for up to one candidate. Where the election is for two seats, each ccNSO member will be entitled to vote for up to two candidates.
- The election voting period will be at a minimum for two weeks, but no longer than three (3) weeks, after which the Nomination Process Manager will close the voting and will count the votes.
- The Candidate(s) that receive the ~~plurality majority~~ of the votes cast by the ccNSO members, shall be the Candidate(s) who is(are) elected to be nominated by the ccNSO Council.

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In the event the ~~plurality majority~~ of the votes cast is “None of the Above” the Nomination Process shall be terminated and section 3.9 applies.

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In the event of a tied vote, a run-off election vote or votes will be held, no later than one month after conclusion of the first round of voting.

3.8 Closure of Election process

As soon as possible, but no later than two (2) weeks after closure of the election, the Nomination Process Manager shall inform the ccNSO Chair or other designated person in case the Chair has accepted nomination and the Candidates of the results of the election. The Nomination Process Manager will issue the results to all ccNSO members and publish them on the ccNSO website. The ccNSO Chair or other designated person in case the Chair has accepted nomination will then put the election results to a vote of the ccNSO Council.

3.9 Termination of the Nomination Process

If the Nomination Process is terminated, for whatever reason, the Council will initiate a new Nomination Process by appointing the Nomination Process Manager and adopting a new Timeline. If it is expected that the new Nomination Process will not be completed at least six (6) months before the conclusion of the ICANN annual meeting at which the regular term for Seat 11 or 12 ends, the Chair of the ccNSO will inform ICANN’s General Counsel Office and the EC Administration accordingly within 2 business days after the Council decisions to appoint the Nomination Process Manger and adopt the new Timeline have become effective.

4 Nomination by the ccNSO Council

The ccNSO Council shall confirm the election and nomination of the candidate for the seat becoming vacant at its first meeting following the written submission of the name of the successful candidate(s) or the final result of the election(s) to the ccNSO Council.

In the event a ccNSO Council meeting cannot take place in time before the ccNSO Council is required to nominate the candidate⁴, the ccNSO Council will conduct an email decision to confirm the Nomination. To be selected, there needs to be an affirmative vote by the majority of the ccNSO Council members in office at the time of the vote.

Notification of the ccNSO Council’s nomination(s) shall be given by the Chair of the ccNSO Council in writing to the EC Administration, with a copy to the Secretary.

5 Miscellaneous

5.1 ccNSO Internal Guideline

This Guideline is an internal rule of the ccNSO in accordance with Article 10, Section 10.3(k) and Article 10, Section 10.4(b) of the ICANN Bylaws.

5.2 Omission in or unreasonable impact of the Guideline

In the event this guideline does not provide guidance and/or the impact is unreasonable, the Chair of the ccNSO Council will decide upon any questions or issues.

5.3 Review of Guidelines

This guideline will be reviewed every third year starting 2019 or in the event of changing circumstances.

6 Roles and Responsibilities Assignments

Task	Chair	ccNSO Council	Secretariat	ccNSO members	Nominees	Secretary of ICANN, EC Admin	Nomination Process Manager
Adopt the timeline		R	I				
Publish the timeline			R				
Appoint Nomination		R					I

⁴ According to the Bylaws the ccNSO nominated Board member needs to be designated by the ECA 6 months before the end of the AGM at which the Nominee is expected to take the Seat (See Section 7.8 (d) of the ICANN Bylaws).

Process Manager							
Announce the call				I			R
Nominate				R, I			I
Second				R, I			I
Accept nomination				I	R		I
Vote on candidates		R		I			I
Vote on election results		R		I			I
Notify of the nomination(s)	R					I	

R – Responsible, A – Accountable, C – Consulted, I - Informed