

Candidate Statement GNSO Chair

10 September 2022

Candidate: Sebastien Ducos (Registry Stakeholder Group – RySG, Asia-Pacific)

Citizenship / Country of Residence: France / Australia

Dear GNSO fellow Councillors,

I would like to thank the Contracted Parties House for their nomination for the GNSO Chair election. I gratefully accept this nomination and would be honoured to serve the Community as GNSO chair from the ICANN AGM 2022 to ICANN AGM 2023.

I confirm that my SOI is accurate and up to date, as is published here

<https://community.icann.org/display/gnsosoi/Sebastien+Ducos++SOI>

I have served on the Council for 3 years already (since the 2019 AGM, re-elected in 2021), and I am offering my candidacy for this year as my last to serve on Council.

The following is my statement for this election.

GNSO Council Leadership Team

Serving as GNSO Council Vice-Chair for the CPH, with Tomslin Samme-Nlar, and under Philippe Fouquart's leadership for the last year has been an extremely rewarding experience. Philippe is able to bring a truly collegial style of leadership, in which I was not only able to serve but to learn and grow into my role as a Vice-Chair. I believe, this year, prepared me for this next role. I must thank Philippe for his valuable mentorship.

From this experience I understand that more than a proficiency in the topics at hand – all of which I certainly could not pretend to master – the role must be based on:

- **A respect for the GNSO Council's position in the ICANN Community and its stewardship over the Policy Development Process.**

This starts, but is not limited to, a deep recognisance for the work delivered by past Councils, the Community of volunteers who brought their time and experience, and the Staff who supported them.

- **Collegiality in the decision-making process.**

I have on a number of occasions discussed my attachment to consensus; I see complete and transparent collegiality as key factor to ever achieving it. Within Council Leadership, within the Council itself and beyond, with the community.

- **Probity of the Chair position.**

I will of course endeavour to maintain the neutrality, transparency and openness demanded by the position of Chair, within Council, in our interactions with the rest

of the community, and all importantly in those that Leadership and I may conduct on behalf of the GNSO Council from time to time.

These last 2 years under COVID travel restrictions have demanded adjustments to the way we work and interact within the GNSO Council and between AC/SG/Cs. Losing face-to-face interactions, we have had to move online our more formal interactions, and some of our less formal ones. I believe that this, the need for us to familiarise ourselves with these online interactions in many other aspects of our lives, has brought some positive which we must recognise and maintain as we are returning now to face-to-face meetings for the second time.

While ICANN meetings remain highlights of our work, and milestones by which many of us mark achievements in time, most of our work is of course performed between meetings throughout the year. We were all used to calls in the past, but I believe this newfound agility in conducting work online should be kept and nurtured, within Council and in our interactions with the rest of the community. I am particularly encouraged in that way by the interaction between the GNSO and the Board on the matter of the SSAD ODP, or the upcoming work between the GNSO and the GAC on Closed Generics – though admittedly face-to-face interaction will be encouraged in this process.

I, like many others, yearn to get back to face-to-face meetings – particularly as I missed our last and will be missing our next – but I strongly believe that we have developed tools and skills to conduct our work more inclusively and openly by maintaining our online interaction and ensuring true parity between local and remote interactions in our hybrid meetings.

This period has also raised our scrutiny on some of our processes and in particular our ability to maintain work momentum within the GNSO and beyond, as our work goes through its different steps through to full implementation. I am keenly aware of some of the frustrations in this domain, but am also very cognisant of the fact that our processes as a community require time and effort to reach our all-important consensus.

I am encouraged by the results of the huge effort applied by past GNSO Leaderships to achieve the level of visibility we now have on our work through our project management tools, and by the fact that the same methods and tools may continue being used to follow the work during the rest of its course to implementation. This has allowed us to recognise and endeavour to resorb bottlenecks and should help everyone else at their level.

I don't see the GNSO needing to expend its remit in any way to help fluidify the work downstream, but thanks to the tools we now have and the enhanced levels of communications we are achieving with the rest of the community, I am looking forward to working with others to understand and resolve these issues. I know everyone will welcome the conversation, particularly if it is kept in the full respect of everyone's remit and purview.

Outstanding work items for 2022-2023

At the time of writing this statement, we have 2 active working groups, 2 issues in scoping, 2 reviews and 3 topics of interests:

- EPDP: Internationalized Domain Names
- PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1

- Registration Data Accuracy – Scoping Team
- DNS Abuse – Small Team

- UDRP Review
- EDDP/ERRP Review

- Whois Disclosure System – SSAD ODP Small Team
- Closed Generics – GNSO-GAC bilateral discussions
- New gTLD Subsequent Procedures – ODP Results

The previous GNSO term saw the launch of 2 PDPs (EPDP: Internationalized Domain Names, PDP: Transfer Policy Review) which are both currently scheduled to end by the end of this coming term. We will continue supporting both efforts as required but do not anticipate major issues at this stage.

The Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team has just delivered its write-up for the first 2 assignments which we will review and vote on. As their Chair is stepping down during ICANN 75, we will be actively seeking a replacement able to complete the planned work. We will take the opportunity of a new leadership to review timeline expectations as the initial plan proved optimistic.

The DNS Abuse small team will have submitted its recommendations to Council by the start of the new term. Beyond and more importantly, before policy development work, the team is expected to recommend contractual and communication efforts which do not fall under the Council's purview. We should nevertheless liaise with the different concerned parties within the GNSO, and with Org to ensure these recommendations are received. Possible PDP work will be reviewed in light of these other recommendations.

The Council will review the Policy Status Report on UDRP and decide on the chartering an RPM Phase 2 UDRP PDP.

Similarly after having received comments from interested parties, the Council will consider initiating a PSR on Expiration Policy – EDDP/ERRP.

The Small Team formed to review the SSAD ODP will receive shortly Staff's analysis of its Proof of Concept, now known as the Whois Disclosure System. We will endeavour this work, if accepted by Council, start as soon as possible during the first half of 2023 and are actively liaising with Staff and the Board to ensure that no time is wasted for it.

We must note here, that though trying to stay as close as possible to the recommendations of EPDP Phase 2 voted last year by the GNSO Council, it technically sits out of our standard PDP by only attempting to implement early only a part of them. It is anticipated that once a

Whois Disclosure System is rolled out, tested and accepted, a later GNSO Council will return to a PDP to review the recommendations in light of the Whois Disclosure System findings. Until that review is done, the recommendations will not be ratified by the Board and follow the normal course of Policy implementation. In the absence of Consensus Policy, the Whois Disclosure System will remain a voluntary effort, which the GNSO will need to continue supporting.

The GNSO and the GAC have, at the behest of the Board, agreed to the terms of a renewed dialogue between our 2 groups to find solutions to the Closed Generic impasse. We have decided to invite ALAC to our dialogue, who will be able to send a delegate. This dialogue will be facilitated by a mediator, and we are happy to welcome Melissa Allgood from staff in this role for the first time.

We are keenly awaiting the results of the SubPro ODP, which should be delivered in December. This work is technically addressed to the Board to help their decision process, but as we have seen in the case of the SSAD ODP, may require GNSO clarifications. Until then the GNSO Council will continue supporting Staff as we have in the past, through our ODP Liaison, by regularly addressing questions as they arise. As planned, as this second ODP closes, ICANN Org will conduct a review of this new process. The GNSO Council is looking forward to actively participating in this review.

We will, of course, continue the Council's operational work, and notably, in light of the above, continue to development of our Project Management Tools to better track the efforts required from the Council, Staff and as far as possible from the Community at large. Being able to track these resources will allow Council to better participate in the wider Prioritisation efforts.

2023 GNSO Strategic Planning Session

Since 2018, under the leadership of Heather Forrest the Council has had the opportunity to meet to prepare its work for the year in a more holistic way.

The Council held its last in-person SPS in January 2020, before the pandemic; and had to hold the following two remotely in November 2020 and 2021. We are happy to be able to renew this year with in-person meetings, allowing us once again to retreat, meet our fellow Councillors in person and plan our work.

I will not pre-empt the discussions as we want ideas to come for all councillors, but in my individual capacity would be interested in seeing efforts in capacity building

- for Councillors, particularly newcomers, in terms of their job as councillors,
- and for everyone to better understand each SG/C's aims and motivations and more efficiently reach understanding.

I would also like for the Council to better recognise and ultimately benefit from the tremendous work provided by Staff. Maintaining each's roles and responsibilities, Councillors and Staff are, I believe, bound to benefit from working together as partners, rather than in a more classically hierarchical fashion.

Day job, background and ICANN background

I am a Senior Client Manager at GoDaddy Registry, responsible, with the help of my team, for GoDaddy Registry's portfolio of TLD clients, including generic, dotBrands, GeoTLDs gTLDs and ccTLDs.

Though I no longer hold technical responsibilities and my last engineering job in this industry traces back more than 10 years – then as a Registrar in Australia – I have a technical background going back 30+ years, mainly involved in different Internet-related endeavours.

As a Client Manager, to support a wide range of TLD clients with varying levels of involvement in the community, I have been participating in the ICANN Community since ICANN 45 in Toronto (2012). Initially mainly with the ccTLD community, I was active in what became the GeoTLD.group – an Interest Group within the Registry Stakeholder Group – from inception and was the group's first chair for 4 years between 2015 and 2019. I have been a GNSO Councillor since the 2019 AGM and joined its leadership as a Vice-Chair after the 2021 AGM.

I am not involved in Policy-related matters outside of the ICANN community.

I am normally based in Melbourne, Australia, where I should be returning in the next few months, after having spent the last 2 years in France due to the pandemic.

I respectfully ask for your support for the next AGM GNSO Chair election.

Kindly,

Sebastien Ducos