

# Avri Doria - Candidate Statement Of Interest

## SECTION A. Identification and Contact Information

**Poll Heading:** 1a. e-mail address

Avri[at]acm.org

**Poll Heading:** 2a. Alternative e-mail address

Avri[at]ltu.se

**Poll Heading:** 3a. Contact telephone number(s) (Must include your country and area code)

**Poll Heading:** 3b. Contact telephone number(s) (Must include your country and area code)

**Poll Heading:** 3c. Any other numbers/methods you wish to list

none

**Poll Heading:** 4a. Country/countries of citizenship

- United States

- Also hold Israeli citizenship but have not held an Israeli passport in over 20 years.

**Poll Heading:** 4b. Country/countries of residence

Comment:

- United States

- Sweden

## SECTION B. Professional and Educational Background

**Poll Heading:** 1. Provide details of your current job, role, title, employer and affiliations

I am what is sometimes called a portfolio worker in that I have several part time positions. The current mix includes:

- Adjunct Professor at Luleå University of Technology
- Member of the core faculty of the International Summer Schools for Internet Governance (ISSIG)
- Contract (until November 2010) as consultant to Internet Governance Forum Secretariat (UN-DESA)
- Contract with SPI Marketing LLC - Advising, not representing, on process of application(s) for Community based TLD(s)
- Affiliation with, but no current contract with, Interisle. In the past my contracts with Interisle have been on tasks unrelated to their ICANN contracts. While I was chair of the GNSO Council, we maintained a strict wall of separation from their ICANN activities.

**Poll Heading: 2.** Describe your educational and professional history. Provide all information that you believe may be relevant to being an effective member of the ICANN Board

While I have been employed as a technical person for almost 30 years, my formal education is in Philosophy and in Counselling Psychology, with a Masters degree in each discipline. I tend to bring that background to most of my dealings with Technology and Policy. I am very slowly (close to a geological time frame) working on a Ph.D. dissertation in the Humanities, Social Science and Technology department at Blekinge University of Technology (BTH) in Sweden on "Technopolitics and the Internet." I also participate in some research on governance of the Internet of Things in the Computer Science division of BTH.

I started out working as a technologist in academia in the late 1970's and then switched to working on networking, primarily in industry starting in 1981. My last full time industry position was as Director of IP Routing in the Advanced Network Technology Lab at Nortel in 2001. Before that I was Chief Architect for Routing and Policy in one of the business units at Nokia.

Since 2002 I have moved back into academia and work with NGOs as well as the UN. In 2003-2004 I was employed as a researcher at ETRI, the joint government-private Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute in South Korea, advising on technical projects and on standardization issues. I continued with them part time as a research fellow for 3 years until 2007. My main area in Internet technology is routing and addressing architecture, including protocols and policy constraints. I have also done research on routing, naming and network management in a Delay Tolerant Network (DTN). As part of my involvement with ICANN I have educated myself in the details of DNS and IDN technology as well as policy.

Some specifics on degrees:

- BA - 1978 University of Rhode Island - Philosophy
- MA - 1979 University of Chicago - Philosophy
- MA - 2001 Rhode Island College - Counseling Psychology
- Currently listed as external PHD student at Blekinge University of Technology

**Poll Heading: 3.** Describe any current and past volunteer community positions, roles and accomplishments. We are particularly interested in similar Board directorship and committee experience

- APC Women's Network Support Program member since 2005
- ICANN (Internet Corporation for Names and Numbers) Participation since 2005
  - o Co-Chair, Joint ALAC-GNSO New gTLD Applicant Support WG 2010
  - o Nominating Committee Appointee to GNSO Council (2005-2009)
  - o Chair, PDP Contractual Conditions for Existing gTLDs Task Force (2006 - 2007)
  - o Chair, GNSO Council (2007, 2008, 2009)
  - o Chair, Non Commercial Stakeholder Group Executive Committee (2010)
  - o Member of many WGs including: New gTLD Committee, Reserved Names WG, Whois Task Force and Working Group, GNSO IDN WG, Joint GNSO-CCNSO IDN WG, Joint SSAC-GNSO Internationalized Registration Data WG
  - o Member of several organizational groups including: Council Operational Procedures, Working Group Methods, and Policy Development Process methods

- IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) Participation since 1990
  - o WG chair (all closed at this point): Operation of the IESG/IAB Nominating and Recall Committees, IETF Problem Working Group, GSMP Working group
  - o Nominating Committee (1998-2001); Chair – (2000)
  - o Sub IP Directorate (2001 - 2004)
  - o Education Team (2003-2009) ; Co-Leader (2005-2007)
  - o General Area Review Team; Secretary (2004-2005), Reviewer (2005-2007)
- IGC - Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus - Participation since 2004
  - o Interim Coordinator (2006), Member Appeals Team (2007 - 2008)
- IRTF (Internet Research Task Force) Participation since 2001
  - o Chair Routing Research Group (2003-2007)
  - o Member Internet Research Steering Group (IRSG) (2003-2007)
- Multi Service Forum - Participation 1999 - 2008
  - o Board of Directors (2000 - 2002)
  - o Elected Secretary of MSF Corporation (2001-2004)
  - o Editorial Board Member (2001-2007), Chair (2001, 2003)
  - o Technical Committee: Vice Chair (2002 – 2003); Chair (2004-2007)
  - o Life time Appointment as Senior Fellow (2006)
  - o Coordinator – NNI Certification Task Group (2008)
- Networking for Communication Challenged Communities (N4c) EU Framework Programme 7 Grant no. 223994
  - o Chair, Technical Advisory Board (2008 - Present)
- UN Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) – Appointed member 2004-2005

**Poll Heading:** 4. List any relevant personal or professional web pages

Full resume can be found at: <http://psg.com/~avri/resume.html>  
 Annotated publication list can be found at: <http://psg.com/~avri/papers/>

## **SECTION C. Internet Involvement and Interest in ICANN**

**Poll Heading:** 1. Describe how you meet the criteria for the At-Large selected ICANN Board Director position

I have long felt that those of us who chose to participate in organizations like ICANN should see ourselves as stewards of the Internet for the community at large. The Internet is still relatively new in the history of the world and is still a rather fragile entity, both technically and politically. It is also still available to only about a quarter to the world's people. I think awareness and dedication to the role of stewardship is an essential ingredient for someone who puts himself or herself forward for a leadership role in an Internet governance organization. I also believe that I have always fulfilled my roles within the community with a view to doing what I thought best for the Internet and the community of users. This is not to claim that I have always made the right decisions, but I do believe in over 25 years of participation in organizations like the IETF, WSIS, WGIG or ICANN that I have served with the sincere goal of doing the best I could for the organization and the Internet at large.

In terms of ICANN's mission, naming and addressing within a growing Internet are responsible for enabling many of the Internet's present and future capabilities. As the governance entity responsible for operations and evolution of these critical resources, ICANN decisions have an effect, for better or worse, on the functioning and reach of the Internet. The technical policy required for stability and security balanced with the evolving needs of society is complex and multi-faceted. I have been involved in Internet technology and standards for over 20 years as a participant in the IETF, as a protocol designer and a developer. I have been involved with the nascent field of Internet governance activities for over 8 years as a member of the UN Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), as a member of the civil society Internet governance caucus and serving as its coordinator for a year and on its appeals board for 2 years, and working as a part-time consultant to the Executive Secretariat of the IGF since its inception. I believe that my combined technical and policy background gives me the ability to understand the issues facing ICANN and to carefully think through the impact of ICANN's decisions on the global Internet and the community of users and of future users. I served in the GNSO council for nearly 5 years and as its chair for over 2 years until reaching my term limit. I have always felt that my role as chair involved coordinating that dynamic and diverse group of highly committed, and often partisan, people toward decisions that made sense to the group and community at large.

While I always had my own views, sometimes even strong views, and was not loathe as a Nomcom appointee to express them, I felt that as chair those views had to be put aside once expressed. As chair I had to accept that the best path for the community was not the one based on my views, but was one that came out of the expression of concern from all of the stakeholders. I believe that I have been true to the requirements of thoughtful group decision-making. After leaving the GNSO Council I became active both in the NCSG as a member of the NCUC and in the ALS structure as member of both ISOC New York and ISOC-Finland (I am also a member of ISOC Sweden based on my employment in Sweden, but they are not members of the At-Large structure and thus I also joined ISOC Finland). I became involved in these organizations because they represent, though in very different ways and with different scope as part of the ICANN matrix, the interests of the Internet community of users.

Since joining the At-Large organizations, I have made it my business to understand the structure and its methods. When the documentation was not sufficient for me, I would ask questions. I believe that from my previous service in the GNSO and dialogue with the 2 liaisons from ALAC who served during my time on the council, as well as frequent interaction with the 3 chairs who served during my time in the GNSO council, I came to understand a lot about ALAC. But until I joined the ALS structure, I was not clear on how the bottom-up mechanisms were supposed to work. I think I understand the structure fairly well at this point. In so far as I understand it, I support the structure that has been created, but from my vantage point believe that it is still growing in its ability to represent the global interests of the at-large community of users and to give them a voice. I think At-Large is on its way, and though it has a ways to go I believe it deserves a greater voice in ICANN than it currently has.

One of the things I valued as a GNSO Council member and value as an observer of ALAC is the openness with which both operate with meetings open to the public, with all teleconferences recorded and made available, and with all mailing lists having open archives. I think this sort of transparency is critical to good governance. With the exception of conversations that concern private details pertaining to a private person, I believe good governance requires such

transparency. I also believe that good governance requires that an organization be accountable to the community for its decisions and that all ICANN organizations, including the Board, must provide a serious mechanism whereby its decisions can be appealed and revised based on appropriate binding arbitration when warranted. I am very happy that the two organizations of which I am a member have led the fight for more openness in the communications between the ICANN staff and the ICANN Board.

I think my years in ICANN have shown that I am willing to put in the work required of an unpaid volunteer. I think taking on responsibility for something like ICANN is like taking on a second job and carries the same responsibility as we have in any of our jobs. I have also sometimes likened it to the level of responsibility one takes on as a volunteer fire-fighter. While the work is not as dangerous and the situation is rarely one of life and death, the seriousness with which we need to do our job and to take our role as stewards of the Internet on behalf of the world's peoples is the same.

In terms of languages, I am not as skilled as I would like to be. English is my native language and I think I have learned it well. I spent a major amount of my time as a child, periodically until the 6th grade, growing up in Italy and have good understanding of Italian, though my vocabulary is limited when I speak. Based on my understanding of Italian and too many years of high school Latin, I can understand some Spanish and some Portuguese (the Brazilian variant) but do not speak either, though I am currently committed to learning how to speak at least a bit of Spanish before the next session of the Southern International Summer Schools in Internet Governance. I lived in Israel for many years and speak passable Hebrew, though my reading is weak and writing is weaker. I can read and understand some French but barely speak it beyond basic store or restaurant usage in Geneva. I have some very basic street Swedish but rarely try to speak and often can only understand it if it is spoken very slowly (caretaker speech) or by another newcomer to Sweden - then again in Sweden most people speak English better than I could ever speak Swedish. I wish I had better language skills and am constantly trying to improve mine, but I learn languages slowly and find that it is only programs of language immersion that really work for me. I am somewhat accustomed to being in lands where English is a second and sometime third language, e.g. I spent a year living in S. Korea in an area where English was rare and while I learned to parse the alphabet to do dictionary work and to read street signs and use maps, I never learned to speak or understand Korean beyond a few phrases, which I have since lost.

From a lifetime of being introduced into places where I did not have the language capability I have learned the importance of translation and interpretation. I am also a very frequent user of automatic translation tools and am very glad that these tools are improving, though I do hope they are soon integrated into more applications, similar to the way dictionary lookup is being integrated on some systems.

**Poll Heading:** 2. Describe current and past involvement in, contributions to, and leadership roles in activities and organizations involved in the development and operation of the Internet, its naming and addressing infrastructure and/or its security and stability

As listed in B3 above:

- In ICANN I served on the GNSO Council and was its chair for 2+ years (elected 3 times, once to a partial term). I currently serve as the chair of the NCSG Executive Committee.
- I have been active for many years in the IETF and the IRTF. While my involvement mostly

involved routing protocols, I was often active in discussions of addressing architectures. In the IRTF I have made contributions relating to the advancement of use of URN/URI (Universal Record Names/Identifiers) in the Delay/Disruption Tolerant Network Research group. It is only since I got involved in ICANN that I have been following the DNS and IDN working groups where I have mostly lurked, soaking up the knowledge of those directly involved in working on the protocols. I chaired several working groups in the IETF and a research group in the IRTF. I served four years in the IETF Nomcom and was its chair for a year. I served 4 years on the Internet Research Steering Group (IRSG) and was co-leader of the IETF Educational Committee for several years. I have 7 RFCs where I am a co-author and/or a co-editor and have two more internet-drafts currently in progress toward RFC.

- In the Multi Service Forum, an industry group dedicated to the integration of IP telephony into the global carrier networks, I was elected to its Board of Directors for 2 years and was appointed by the Board as the Secretary of the corporation for 3 years. I was also its Technical Committee Chair for 3 years.

**Poll Heading:** 3. Provide a statement about what you would contribute in the At-Large selected ICANN Board Director position to ICANN and its mission

In addition to doing my best to take positions on the specific issues that are in support of the global interest of the world's communities of users and future users, I have several basic issues that I intend to pursue.

#### 1. Adopting a culture of transparency within ICANN

I fought for the transparency at the Board level in terms of staff reports to the Board. We have now seen a tiny sample of the information available. The experimental steps in transparency ICANN is taking have been minimal to date. These efforts must be continued until such time as a culture of transparency becomes the norm in ICANN; a culture where the first assumption is that all information is available to the user community, were only a few things are kept confidential and these are carefully and transparently noted.

#### 2. Increasing the Internationalization of ICANN

It is time that ICANN pay greater attention to global users and respect the need of the world's users to see ever increasing internationalization of the organization. While I can understand how the history of ICANN led to it becoming a California USA based non profit corporation, I have long argued that this is not the best organizational modality for ICANN in the future. I believe that ICANN should evolve toward becoming a fully international multistakeholder organization.

While the evolutionary path is not clear at this point, I believe that it entails developing proper binding oversight mechanisms as well as negotiating a host country agreement with an appropriate nation as a replacement for the current California, USA incorporation. I do not expect that such an agreement would be easy to create. The contractual agreements by which ICANN 'regulates' registries and registrars and gains its authority for enforcing compliance, when indeed it does so, need to be maintained across any such transformation. It is likely that any such transformation would need to occur in stages. And most importantly the full community needs to be involved in discussing and approving such a change. This would take many years to study, to discuss, to stage and to complete but is a process that I believe should be initiated in

the near future.

In terms of what can be done now to increase internationalization, while steps have been taken to get some materials published in multiple languages, it is still just a start. The effort needs strong Board support, including resource allocation, and needs to go further with the goal of releasing papers for review in multiple languages at the same time as the English version, and not seemingly as an afterthought near the end of the English language review period. One step the Board itself should take is to make sure that all of the Board's decisions and papers are simultaneously released in an appropriate set of languages, whether that is the UN six languages or another set deemed to be more in keeping with ICANN's community and outreach needs.

This needs to be done in a timely manner that does not slow down the improving rate in the reporting of Board decisions we have seen recently.

### 3. Rationalizing the expenses of ICANN and creation of an ICANN Foundation

ICANN has an overblown budget, especially in the area of salaries that need to be brought into line with other non-profit service corporations and international non-governmental organizations. ICANN has a budget that is largely geared toward supporting the Registrars and Registries, some of whom make huge profits off of the registrations and other services they provide to users. The budget does much less to support those users or to support outreach toward new users. This balance must be reversed and I will work toward fixing it.

It is also time for ICANN to establish a foundation where the windfall profits from new gTLD fees and auctions, as well as other monies, can be channeled into the support of people in emerging markets and less developed regions who wish to become registries, registrars, registrants and users. It is the Board's responsibility to make sure this happens and to make sure that it is fully separate from ICANN staff control and has proper oversight and controls. The plans for this must either be completed before any new gTLD auctions are held, or any monies must be put into trust until the foundation is properly established.

### 4. Insuring the bottom-up volunteer driven nature of the organization

While ICANN declares its nature to be that of a bottom-up volunteer driven organization, I believe it sometimes loses its way. My issue is not with the Board needing to sometimes make decisions between options that have equally strong arguments on several sides; sometimes a Board needs to end an endless debate with a decision, that is their job. I do think that sometimes, however, the Board and the Supporting Organizations forget to go back to the users and other stakeholders to get a view of what should be done, i.e. to make sure they have heard all of the equally strong arguments. And while I think the volunteer part of ICANN has been doing better over the years at checking the pulse of the user and other stakeholder communities, I think that the ICANN senior staff has not improved in this respect and still believes that they have the authority to make decisions that have a policy implication without prior, full and proper consultation with the community. I believe the ICANN senior staff needs more Board guidance in the proper way to operate in a multistakeholder governed organization.

I believe that the real problem lies in the self-identity of ICANN, as understood by the multistakeholder volunteers and the professional staff. To some of us, both among the

volunteers and among the professional staff, ICANN is a multistakeholder driven organization that has hired a professional staff that implements the decisions of the volunteers and assists those volunteers with their work. Others, I believe especially some on the Board and among the senior staff, seem to view ICANN as a relatively standard corporate structure that has as one of its unusual functions dealing with and managing the sometimes difficult groups of volunteers who make their job more complex. I believe it is up to the ICANN Board to make sure that the distinctive character of ICANN as a multistakeholder driven organization is preserved and furthered.

I also believe that my years in the GNSO Council, working with stakeholder groups and with the professional staff have taught me a lot about ICANN with both its mechanisms, internal as well as external, and its capture points. I will do all that I can to work with others on minimizing the capture and the gaming of ICANN's bylaws and principles.

If selected I am committed to working toward these things as well as the emerging issues before the Board and will use my persistence, my energy, and my abilities in my attempt to achieve them.

**Poll Heading:** 4. Provide a statement about what you would contribute in the At-Large selected ICANN Board Director position to the At-Large Community

I will use every capacity I have to raise the level of the user's voice so that it is heard and it is considered in the same respect as the voice of the governments and other stakeholders. I want to see an amendment of the ICANN Bylaws to give the ALAC parity with the GAC. In my opinion, there is no reason why, especially as a multistakeholder organization, that the advice from governments should be more respected than the advice of the user communities. The following should be added to the ICANN Bylaws and I will work toward that end:

The At-Large Advisory Committee may put issues to the Board directly, either by way of comment or prior advice, or by way of specifically recommending action or new policy development or revision to existing policies.

The advice of the At-Large Advisory Committee on public policy matters shall be duly taken into account, both in the formulation and adoption of policies. In the event that the ICANN Board determines to take an action that is not consistent with the At-Large Advisory Committee advice, it shall so inform the Committee and state the reasons why it decided not to follow that advice. The At-Large Advisory Committee and the ICANN Board will then try, in good faith and in a timely and efficient manner, to find a mutually acceptable solution.

If no such solution can be found, the ICANN Board will state in its final decision the reasons why the At-Large Advisory Committee advice was not followed, and such statement will be without prejudice to the rights or obligations of At-Large Advisory Committee members with regard to public policy issues falling within their responsibilities. (Note: This is based on the current by-laws related to the GAC. It is possible that they be changed in response to recommendation by the Board/GAC Joint Working Group or by the Accountability and Transparency Review Team. In that case, I would advocate that the same measures be implemented in respect to the ALAC. For my own part, if selected I will treat ALAC advice as if it had that status already and will do my best to convince other Board members to behave similarly.



**Poll Heading:** 5. Please describe specifically how and why you will be able to advance, at the ICANN Board, the interests of the At-Large Community and the broader global community of Internet end-users

Recognizing that the Board member selected by the At-Large process serves in her or his own capacity, I still believe that it is the responsibility of that Board member to always take into account the views of the At-Large community. To me, this means both listening to the views of the community in their breadth and complexity and explaining any divergence the At-Large selected board member may make from those views. If I am selected, I will make sure that a means is set up for frequent communication between the community and me.

If selected I will make myself directly accountable to the At-Large community by working hard to understand the views of the user communities before making decisions and by explaining my decisions to that community.

I will make it a point to insist that the user's issues and points of view are discussed and given full consideration in all decisions, even on those occasions where I might take a different approach in terms of my personal view.

I think something that At-Large needs, as much as having its voice heard, is further outreach toward the user community both in terms of new ALS members and in terms of communication between current ALS members and ICANN. If selected as an ICANN Board member I will devote time to working with others on this outreach and will make myself available for outreach and organizational efforts. I will also work to try and insure that future ICANN budgets include the resources necessary for such outreach. I will do all I can to broaden the reach of At-Large. I would also make it a point to remain in contact with the ALAC as the representatives of the At-Large community's interests.

**Poll Heading:** 6. Is there any additional information you would like to submit that would be helpful to the BCEC in making its decision? If so, please summarize it here

I think I have covered what I bring and what I intend to do if selected. I am available to answer any questions anyone might have about the things I have described briefly in this written submission.

I do want to add that I was very touched to have received a nomination and seconds from EURALO members and sincerely hope that this SOI is one that they are comfortable with.