

ccNSO Council Elections 2024

Election Report

18 December 2023

ICANN | ccNSO

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1 Introduction

The 3-year term for five members of the ccNSO Council will end in March 2024, at the end of the ICANN76 Community Forum:

- Africa: Ali Hadji Mmadi
- Asia/Australia/Pacific: Jiankang Yao
- Europe: Irina Danelia
- Latin America/Caribbean: Jenifer Lopez
- North America: Sean Copeland

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 15 June 2023, taking into consideration the fact that ccNSO members had a possibility to ask direct question to the candidates at the ccNSO members at ICANN78, during a Question & Answer session. Joke Braeken was appointed Election Process Manager on 15 June 2023.

2 Nomination Period

2.1 Launch Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period started on Tuesday, 12 September 2023 (00:01 UTC). The call for nominations was posted on the ccNSO website on 8 September 2023, and shared with the ccNSO members and ccNSO Council mailing lists. Prior to the start of the nominations, Council leadership held an informational webinar, to inform the ccTLD community about the process and the need to nominate candidates.

2.2 Closure Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period closed on Tuesday, 3 October 2023 (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 Q&A with the candidates. The announcement was also shared with the the ccNSO Members and ccNSO Council mailing lists.

2.3 Nomination Results

At the close of the call, the following nominations and secondments were received:

Africa

Molehe Wesi (.za) nominated Ali Hadji Mmadi on Mon Sep 18 08:15:24 UTC 2023. Adesola Akinsanya (.ng) also nominated Ali Hadji Mmadi on Wed Sep 20 14:35:39 UTC 2023, as well as seconded Ali Hadji Mmadi on Thu Sep 21 16:31:05 UTC 2023. Serge Roland Sanou (.bf) seconded Ali Hadji Mmadi on Tue Oct 3 23:22:29 UTC 2023.

There have been no further nominations or secondments.

Asia/Australia/Pacific

- Ser Pheng Queh (.sg) nominated Jiankang Yao on Thu Sep 14 08:35:56 UTC 2023. Wilson Wong (.hk) seconded the nomination of Jiankang Yao on Wed Sep 20 05:54:52 UTC 2023. Pensri Arunwatanamongkol (.th) seconded the nomination of Jiankang Yao on Fri Sep 22 13:49:10 UTC 2023.
- Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) self-nominated on Tue Sep 26 06:57:48 UTC 2023. Md Fariz Ahmad Sanusi (.my) seconded the self-nomination by Sami Mohamed Ali on *Tue Sep 26 07:48:55 UTC 2023*. Tenanoia Simona (.tv) seconded the self-nomination by Sami Mohamed Ali on Tue Sep 26 21:26:17 UTC 2023. Hasnul Fadhly bin Hasan (.my) seconded the self-nomination of by Sami Mohamed Ali on Sun Oct 1 11:16:18 UTC 2023.
- Hasnul Fadhly bin Hasan (.my) self-nominated on Sun Oct 1 11:18:35 UTC 2023. Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) seconded the self-nomination by Hasnul Fadhly bin Hasan on Sun Oct 1 13:15:17 UTC 2023. Ser Pheng Queh (.sg) seconded the self-nomination of Hasnul Fadhly bin Hasan on Mon Oct 2 01:17:48 UTC 2023. Nguyen Hong Thang (.vn) seconded the self-nomination of Hasnul Fadhly bin Hasan on Wed Oct 4 11:29:23 UTC 2023

There have been no further nominations or secondments. Kindly note Nomination Observation 2 and 3 below.

Europe

- Katrina Sataki (.lv) nominated Irina Danelia on Mon Sep 18 14:34:45 UTC 2023. Dejan Đukić (.rs and .cpб) seconded the nomination of Irina Danelia on Wed Sep 27 19:00:24 UTC 2023.
- Laila Sylvesta Jensen (.dk) nominated Nicklas Pousette on Fri Sep 22 08:47:51 UTC 2023. Juhani Juselius seconded Nicklas Pousette on Mon Sep 25 07:31:26 UTC 2023.
- Ondřej Filip (.cz) nominated Peter Koch on Fri Sep 29 08:56:40 UTC 2023. Pierre Bonis (.fr) seconded the nomination of Peter Koch on Fri Sep 29 15:20:12 UTC 2023.

There have been no further nominations or secondments.

Latin America/Caribbean

Rosalía Morales Acosta (.cr) nominated Jenifer Lopez (.pa) on Fri Sep 15 21:33:57 UTC 2023. Thiago Grijo Dal-Toe (.co) seconded the nomination of Jenifer Lopez on Thu Sep 21 21:05:57 UTC 2023. Demi Getschko (.br) seconded the nomination of Jenifer Lopez on Fri Sep 15 22:55:58 UTC 2023.

There have been no further nominations or secondments.

North America

Pablo Rodriguez (.pr) nominated Sean Copeland on Tue Sep 12 18:53:01 UTC 2023. The .pr Registry Administrative Contact nominated Sean Copeland on Fri Sep 15 14:26:10 UTC 2023. Stephen Deerhake seconded the nomination of Sean Copeland on Thu Sep 21 03:55:41 UTC 2023.

There have been no further nominations or secondments. Kindly note Nomination Observation 3 below.

2.4 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.

Nomination Observation 1: replacing Councillors at regular intervals

The incumbent candidates from all ICANN geographical regions, plus additional candidates for the Asia/Australia/Pacific and European regions, were nominated for another 3-year term. There is no term limit for ccNSO Councillors.

Nomination Observation 2: self-nominations

The Election Process Manager received two self-nominations by candidates from .bh and .my respectively. Section 5.1. of the ccNSO Council election guideline mentions the following: *“For self-nominations a minimum of two secondments from Representatives from two ccNSO Members from different Territories in the Region are necessary for a self-nominated candidate to continue in the election process.”*

Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) self-nominated for the position of Council member from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region. Two Representatives from region seconded his self-nomination: the Representative from the .my ccTLD, and the Representative from the .tv ccTLD.

Also Hasnul Fahdly bin Hasan (.my) self-nominated for the position of Council member from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region. Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) seconded Hasnul's self-nomination. However, Sami is not the Representative for .bh (see observation 3), and the .bh Representative did not confirm the secondment by Sami Mohamed Ali for Hasnul Fahdly bin Hasan. Ser Pheng Queh (.sg) seconded Sami's self-nomination. The secondment template was submitted via the e-mail address of the .sg Representative. Nguyen Hong Thang (.vn) seconded the self-nomination of Hasnul Fahdly bin Hasan (.my) on 4 October. The nomination period closed on Tuesday, 3 October 2023 (23:59 UTC). Since Hasnul Fahdly bin Hasan was validly seconded by only one Representative from a different Territory, his candidacy could not be withheld.

Nomination Observation 3: eligibility to nominate or second

The latest ccNSO Council Election Guideline was adopted in December 2022, and was used for the first time in the 2024 Council Elections. The ccNSO Council election guideline, section 3.2 states: *"Only the Representative from a ccNSO member will be able to nominate and second candidates to serve as a ccNSO Councillor."*

The ICANN Bylaws, section 10.4.e.i mentions the following:

"(e) Designation of Representative

(i) Each ccTLD manager may designate in writing a person, organization, or entity to represent the ccTLD manager in matters relating to the ccNSO ("Representative"). In the absence of such a designation, the person, organization, or entity listed as the administrative contact in the IANA database shall be deemed to be the designate of the ccTLD manager by whom the ccNSO member shall be represented."

For the current round of Council nominations, the Council leadership has recommended the following: *In the case of an incoming nomination or secondment from a non-representative, the Election Manager will send a copy of the nomination or secondment to the attention of the ccTLD representative, requesting explicit confirmation of the validity of the nomination or secondment.*

The nominations listed below were submitted by non-Representatives:

- Queh Ser Pheng (.sg) nominated Jiankang Yao
- Pablo Rodriguez (.pr) nominated Sean Copeland
- Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) self-nominated

The Election Process Manager sent a copy of the nomination to the ccTLD Representative and received confirmation about the validity of the nominations.

The secondments listed below were submitted by non-Representatives:

- Pensri Arunwatanamongkol (.th) seconded Jiankang Yao (.cn)
- Md Fariz Ahmad Sanusi (.my) seconded Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh)
- Tenanoia Veronica Simona (.tv) seconded Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh)
- Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh) seconded Hasnul Fahdly bin Hasan (.my)

The Election Process Manager sent a copy of the secondment to the ccTLD Representative and received confirmations from the .th and .tv Representatives. The Representative for .my sent a new secondment. Moreover, Md Fariz Ahmad Sanusi (.my) revoked his secondment. The .bh Representative did not confirm the secondment by Sami Mohamed Ali for Hasnul Fahdly bin Hasan.

Nomination Observation 4: Identification of the Representative

The ICANN Bylaws, section 10.4.e.i mentions the following:

“(e) Designation of Representative

(i) Each ccTLD manager may designate in writing a person, organization, or entity to represent the ccTLD manager in matters relating to the ccNSO (“Representative”). In the absence of such a designation, the person, organization, or entity listed as the administrative contact in the IANA database shall be deemed to be the designate of the ccTLD manager by whom the ccNSO member shall be represented.”

The ccNSO Member database contains the following fields, to identify the Representative: Name, Surname and Email address.

The Election Process Manager considered the email address to be the determining factor.

Example: Ser Pheng Queh (.sg) seconded Sami Mohamed Ali’s self-nomination. The secondment template was submitted via the e-mail address of the .sg Representative, which in this case is an entity and not a person.

2.5 Acceptance Nominations

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

- Africa: Ali Hadji Mmadi (.km)
- Asia/Australia/Pacific: Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh), Jiankang Yao (.cn)
- Europe: Irina Danelia (.ru), Peter Koch (.de), Nicklas Pousette (.se)
- Latin America/Caribbean: Jenifer López (.pa)
- North America: Sean Copeland (.vi)

All candidates participated in a Question & Answer session. Seven out of eight candidates submitted written candidate statements ahead of the Q&A. ccNSO Council Vice Chair Biyi Oladipo (.ng) moderated the session, which provided the ccNSO members and broader ccTLD community an opportunity to interact with the candidates from their respective regions.

3 Elected Councillors: Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, North America

As only one candidate was nominated and seconded within the nomination period for the African, Latin American/Caribbean and North American ICANN geographical regions, no elections needed to be held in those regions. The nominated candidates 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 ICANN79 ccNSO Council meeting, in March 2024.

4 Elected Councillors: Europe and Asia/Australia/Pacific

In accordance with the applicable rules, three candidates from the European region and three candidates from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region were nominated, seconded and have accepted their nomination. Consequently, an election needed to be held among the ccNSO members of the European and Asia/Australia/Pacific Regions respectively, according to the timeline previously agreed upon by the ccNSO Council. Only ccNSO members from a Geographic Region are allowed to vote for candidates to the ccNSO Council from that Geographic Region. All candidates interacted with the ccNSO members and broader ccTLD community at a Question and Answer session, held during the ccNSO Members Meeting at ICANN78.

4.1 Launch of the elections

The voting started on Thursday, 9 November 2023 (00:01 UTC). A formal election notice was published on the ccNSO website and shared with the ccnso-members@icann.org and ccnsocouncil@icann.org mailing lists. The election notice contained, among others, the following information:

- The names of the candidates and their candidate statements
- Information on how the election would be conducted
- Election opening and closing dates

The ballots were sent by tally@icann.org, to the e-mail address of the Emissaries of the Asia/Australia/Pacific and European region ccNSO Members respectively, as listed in the ccNSO Members database.

Since the election was for one seat per region, each eligible Emissary was entitled to vote for up to one candidate. For each ballot, a maximum of 1 candidate could be selected. There was a possibility to submit ballots without selecting any of the candidates. Each Emissary received 1 ballot only. Emissaries could vote an unlimited number of times, but only the last vote submitted was counted. When the results were displayed, the votes are only identified by the ballot ID, and not by the voter's email address.

As per the relevant guideline, a majority of all the Emissaries in the Geographic Region entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum, and the selected candidate must receive the votes of a majority of those cast by the Emissaries from the Geographic Region. The winner is the candidate who receives the plurality of the votes.

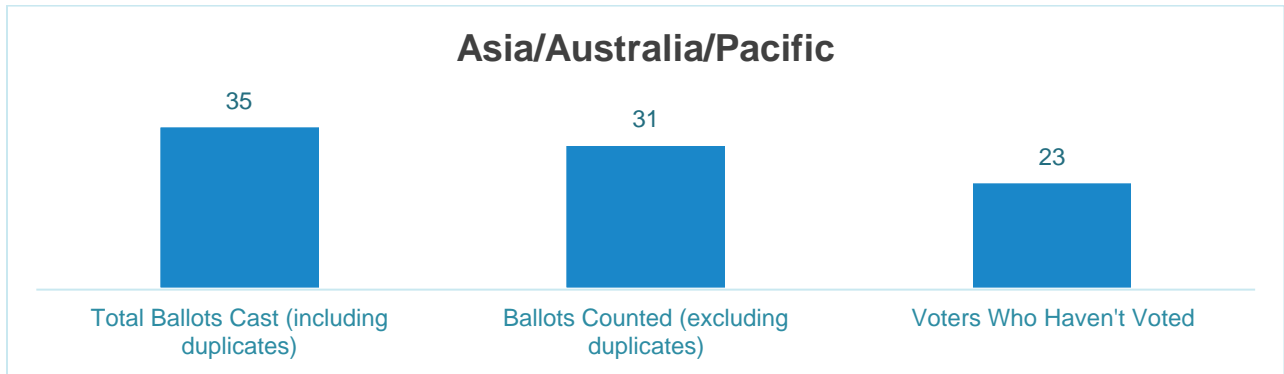
4.2 Closure of the elections

The election closed on Thursday, 30 November 2023 (23:59 UTC), according to the timeline previously agreed upon by the ccNSO Council.

4.3 Election results

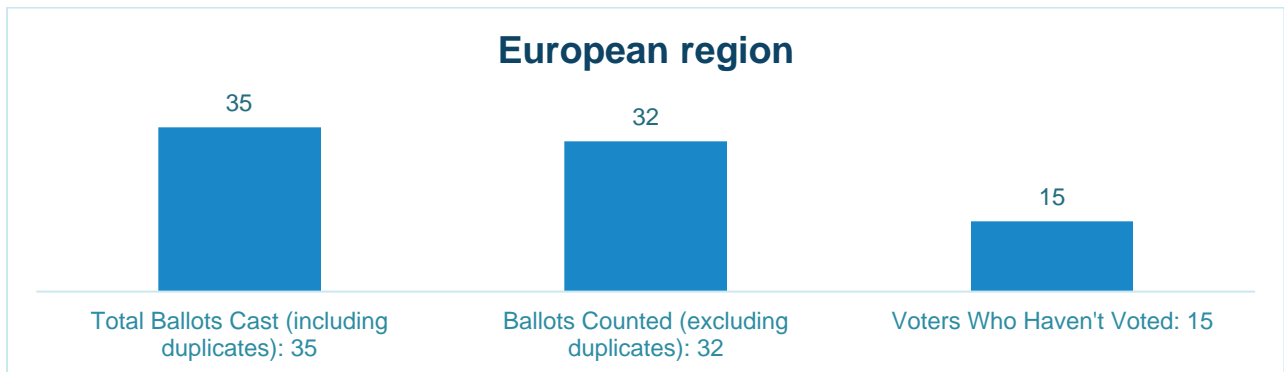
Asia/Australia/Pacific

When the ballots were distributed, the ccNSO counted 55 members from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region, corresponding to 54 Territories, and therefore 54 Emissaries. At the conclusion of the election, 31 Emissaries (57 %) cast their votes: Sami Mohamed Ali received 8 votes, and Jiankang Yao received 22 votes. One Emissary voted without selecting any of the candidates. The quorum was met, and the winner of the election is Jiankang Yao.



European region

When the ballots were distributed, the ccNSO counted 47 members from the European region, corresponding to 47 Territories, and therefore 47 Emissaries. At the conclusion of the Election, 32 Emissaries (68 %) cast their votes: Irina Danelia received 5 votes, Peter Koch received 20 votes and Nicklas Pousette received 7 votes. There were no candidates that voted without selecting any of the candidates.



4.4 Election observations

Election Observation 1: quorum specification

According to the ccNSO Council Election Guideline and Article 10.4.i of the ICANN Bylaws, a majority of all eligible Emissaries in the Geographical Region constitutes a quorum, and the elected candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the Emissaries from the geographical region. The winner shall be the candidate who receives the plurality of the votes.

Regarding the decision-making by the ccNSO Membership, the ccNSO Internal Rules specify that the quorum for electronic votes by the ccNSO members shall be at least thirty-three percent (33%) of the total number of possible Emissary votes and at least the vote of three (3) Emissaries per ICANN Region. The Internal Rules also specify that provisions in section 2 of the ccNSO internal rules shall apply to all voting by the ccNSO Membership, unless otherwise provided in the ICANN Bylaws or the Rules.

Furthermore, as per the ccNSO Internal rules, the governance of the ccNSO is based on three different sources. In the event of conflict, they are ranked in order of precedence:

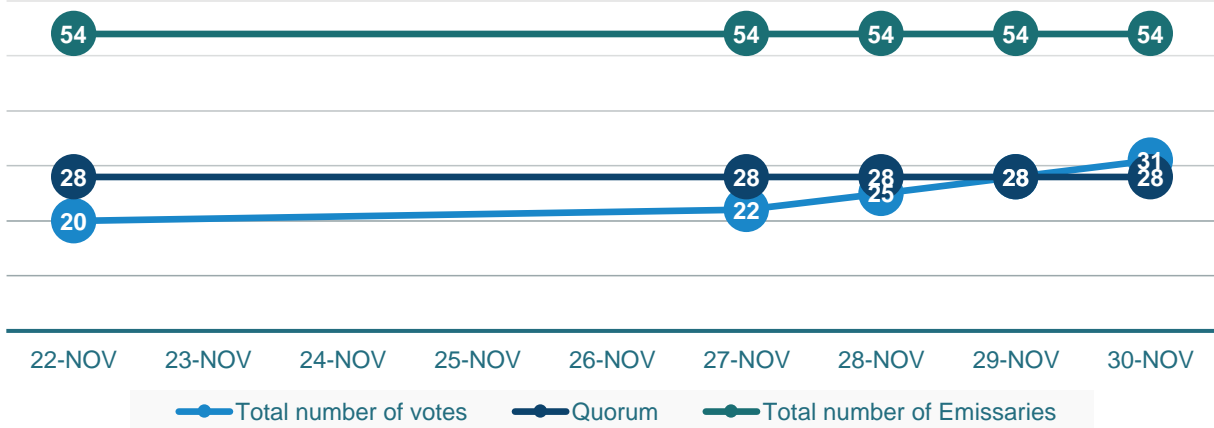
- a. First: The ICANN Bylaws.
- b. Second: The Rules for the ccNSO Membership (hereinafter - Rules).
- c. Third: Operating Procedures (also referred to as “ccNSO Guidelines”).

Election Observation 1: reaching quorum

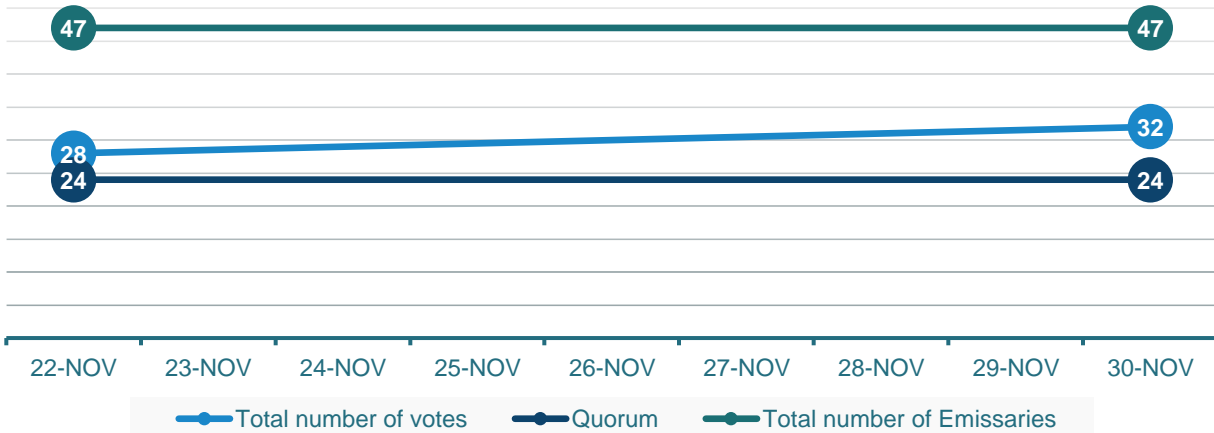
According to the ccNSO Council Election guideline and Article 10.4.i of the ICANN Bylaws, a majority of all eligible Emissaries in the Geographical Region constitutes a quorum, and the elected candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the Emissaries from the geographical region. The winner shall be the candidate who receives the plurality of the votes.

The quorum in the election for the Asia/Australia/Pacific region was reached one day prior to voting closure. The election process manager sent several reminders via the ccNSO members mailing list, the voting tool, as well as personalized reminders to the Emissaries. Tally reminders for the region were sent on 16 November, 22 November, 23 November, 27 November and a final one on 28 November. The Election Process Manager sent personalised emails to the Emissaries on 20 and 28 November (see Annex B). The General Manager of the APTLD Regional Organisation also invited its members to vote. Additionally, Council Vice Chair Jordan Carter encouraged members from the region to vote.

Asia/Australia/Pacific



European region



Election Observation 2 and recommendation: procedure when quorum is not reached

Nor the ICANN Bylaws, nor the ccNSO Council election Guideline provide guidance regarding what needs to happen when the quorum cannot be reached.

Recommendation

The Council is advised to request the Guideline Review Committee to verify if and how the ccNSO Council Election Guideline should be adjusted.

Election Observation 3: ccNSO Member self-identifying with a different ICANN geographical region

The Emissary for the Territory of Israel informed the Election Process Manager that the ccTLD Manager – assigned to the Asia/Australia/Pacific ICANN geographical region – does not self-identify with this region, is not familiar with the candidates from the region, and therefore prefers not to participate in the election. The ccTLD Manager is currently exploring the process to be reassigned to the European region.

5 Conclusion

The elected candidates are:

- Africa: Ali Hadji Mmadi (.km)
- Asia/Australia/Pacific: Jiankang Yao (.cn)
- Europe: Peter Koch (.de)
- Latin America/Caribbean: Jenifer López (.pa)
- North America: Sean Copeland (.vi)

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.

ANNEX A: Links

- ccNSO Council election timeline
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/timeline-nomination-icann-board-seat-12-2023-06nov23-en.pdf>
- Save the date: ccNSO Council election webinar.
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-28jul23-en.htm>
- Call for nominations to the ccNSO Council
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-08sep23-en.htm>
- List of candidates and next steps ccNSO Council elections
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-13oct23-en.htm>
- Candidate statements
 - Sami Mohamed Ali <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/ali-statement-13oct23-en.pdf>
 - Sean Copeland <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/copeland-statement-13oct23-en.pdf>
 - Irina Danelia <https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/danelia-statement-13oct23-en.pdf>
 - Peter Koch <https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/koch-statement-13oct23-en.pdf>
 - Jenifer López <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/lopez-statement-04oct23-en.pdf>
 - Nicklas Pousette <https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/pousette-statement-13oct23-en.pdf>
 - Jiankang Yao <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/yao-statement-13oct23-en.pdf>
- Question and Answer session ICANN78
<https://sched.co/1T4M3>
- Election notice
 - ccNSO Council European region
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-07nov23-en.htm>
 - ccNSO Council Asia/Australia/Pacific
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-07nov23-en.htm>
- Election results
 - ccNSO Council European region
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-01dec23-en.htm>
 - ccNSO Council Asia/Australia/Pacific
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-01dec23-en.htm>
- ICANN Bylaws, article 10
<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article10>
- ccNSO Council Election Guideline
<https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/guideline-ccnso-council-election-procedure-15dec22-en.pdf>
- ccNSO Membership Internal Rules
<https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/internal-membership-rules-26oct22-en.pdf>
- Nominate & second: archives
<https://forum.icann.org/lists/ccnso-nominations/>

ANNEX B: Reminders to vote.

20 November 2023

Personalised reminder sent to Emissaries from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region

This e-mail was sent to the ccNSO Emissary for the XXXX Territory

Dear XXXX,

This is a reminder to please vote in the ongoing election for one (1) seat on the ccNSO Council from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region. In case you already cast your vote: thank you very much. The ballot for XXXX was sent to XXXX nc.tl. Look out for an email from tally@icann.org, and help to determine who sits on the ccNSO Council from your region.

IMPORTANT: To meet the quorum for the elections in the Asia/Australia/Pacific Region, 10 additional votes are needed. If the quorum will not be met, a second voting round will need to be held, as per the timeline previously adopted by the ccNSO Council.

- *Election notice & candidate statements:*
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-07nov23-en.htm>
- As of Monday, 20 November 2023 at 08:30 UTC, 18 voters already cast their vote, and 36 Emissaries from your region have not yet voted.
- *Start vote:* Thursday 9 November 2023 (00:01 UTC)
End vote: Thursday 30 November 2023 (23:59 UTC)
- *Who can vote:* ccNSO members from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region only, via their Emissaries (54 Emissaries, corresponding to 55 members)
- *Quorum requirement:* a majority of the eligible Emissaries needs to vote to meet the quorum

Do you have questions? Contact Joke Braeken (joke.braeken@icann.org). Thank you.

Best regards,

Joke Braeken
joke.braeken@icann.org

28 November 2023

Personalised reminder sent to Emissaries from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region

This e-mail was sent to the ccNSO Emissary for XXXX

Dear XXXX,

This is a reminder to please vote and help determine who sits on the ccNSO Council from your region. The deadline for voting in this round is fast approaching: voting will close on Thursday, 30 November 2023 (23:59 UTC).

IMPORTANT: 4 (four) additional votes are needed to reach a quorum in this round. The ballot for Australia was sent to XXXX Look for an email from tally@icann.org.

To read more about the voting procedure and the list of candidates, go to <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-07nov23-en.htm>
Have you already voted? No further action is needed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your vote!

Best regards,

Joke Braeken
joke.braeken@icann.org