

GNSO Liaison to the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Draft Requirements & Proposed Selection Process

Background

As part of the discussions between the GNSO and GAC, on how to facilitate early engagement of the GAC in GNSO policy development activities, the option of appointing a GNSO liaison to the GAC has been proposed as one of the mechanisms to explore. As such, the GAC-GNSO Consultation Group (CG) on GAC Early Engagement in GNSO policy development activities proposes to implement this option as a one year pilot program in FY15 (starting 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015). This mechanism will be evaluated by both the GNSO Council as well as the GAC to determine whether or not to continue with in either in the same form or with possible adjustments based on the feedback received.

Objective

The GNSO liaison to the GAC (hereafter “the Liaison”) will be primarily responsible for providing timely updates to the GAC on GNSO policy development activities in order to complement the existing notification processes as well answering questions in relation to GNSO these activities that GAC members may have. Furthermore, the Liaison will be responsible for providing the GNSO Council with regular updates on progress including on GAC activities, specifically in so far as these relate to issues of interest to the GNSO. The objective of the liaison mechanism, in combination with some of the other mechanisms that the CG is exploring, as well as existing early engagement tools, will be to facilitate effective early engagement of the GAC as well as assist with flow of information between the GAC and the GNSO.

Skills and Experience

- Significant experience in and knowledge of the GNSO policy development process as well as of recent and current policy work under discussion and / or review in the GNSO
- Availability to travel to and participate in GAC meetings during the course of ICANN meetings and also, where applicable, intercessional meetings (via teleconference)
- An outgoing or recently departed GNSO Councilor is likely to be well-qualified for the position but this is not a necessary criterion for the Liaison.

Responsibilities

- Attend and participate as required in GAC meetings during ICANN meetings and possible intercessional meetings (Note: travel funding is available for the ICANN meetings in FY15 should the Liaison otherwise not be able to attend an ICANN meeting)
- Represent and communicate the policy work of the GNSO in a neutral and objective manner
- Liaise with ICANN policy staff who may assist, as needed, in the preparation of briefing materials and/or responses to questions
- Liaise with relevant working groups, utilizing GNSO Council liaisons where required, in order to be continuously current and knowledgeable on work in progress
- Provide regular updates to the GNSO Council
- Guide the GAC in opportunities for early engagement
- Keep the GAC updated on how its early input was considered by the GNSO
- Assist in the facilitation of GAC-GNSO discussions in cases where GAC early input is in conflict with GNSO views

Practical Working

- Attend all GAC open meetings and be allowed to request the floor
- Attend GAC closed meetings discussing GNSO related topics and be allowed to request the floor
- Attend GAC conference calls by invitation and accordingly be allowed to request the floor
- Join GAC working groups by invitation and accordingly be allowed to request the floor
- Will not be on the GAC mailing list but may send to it through the mailing list admin and receives replies by being cc'd

Selection Process

1. A call for volunteers will be sent to all GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies with the request to consider nominating appropriately qualified candidates for this position
2. The leadership of each SG/C to submit candidate/s (if appropriate) by [X] date, including a completed and current Statement of Interest of the candidate and a brief note (limited to [300] words) on why the candidate has applied for this role and how the candidate meets the specific requirements
3. A selection process under the direction of the Council Chairs and based on the agreed criteria will be undertaken to select the Liaison (and possibly a back-up).
4. Selected candidate is presented to the GAC Leadership for confirmation
5. The Liaison takes up role

Removal

In the case of significant issues identified with the performance of the liaison, the GNSO Council Leadership, in consultation with the GAC Leadership, may decide to remove (and possibly replace) the Liaison at any point during the Liaison's term.

Review and Renewal

Towards the end of FY15, a review will be conducted by the GAC and GNSO on the role and functioning of the Liaison. Depending on the outcome of that review, the GAC and GNSO Council will jointly decide whether modifications need to be made to the Liaison role, whether the Liaison mechanism is no longer necessary or whether the liaison mechanism should continue in the same fashion.