

2017 Board Seat 14 Election Suggested Timeline and Guidance

Background:

The following guidance is provided by staff to assist in the timely election of the Director from the GNSO for Board Seat 14 in 2017 by the Non-Contracted Parties House (NCPH--Commercial and Non-Commercial Stakeholder Groups). As noted in the excerpt below, the new ICANN Bylaws mandate that the Empowered Community (EC) Administration must be notified of the GNSO's election of the Director for Board Seat 14 *at least six months prior to the commencement of the Director's term, which is set to begin at the end of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)*. The 2017 AGM ends on 03 November 2017. Thus, the deadline for notification is *no later than 03 May 2017*.

The GNSO Operating Procedures Section 2.2 Board Seat Elections, excerpted below, contains a table indicating the timeline for the process to elect Directors for Board Seats 13 and 14. However, the table does not include the mandated deadline from the new Bylaws and, if followed, would extend past the deadline. Staff has suggested an adjustment of the timeline in redline below that also takes into consideration the timing of the NCPH Intersessional Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland from 14-15 February 2017. See:

<https://community.icann.org/display/neph/Intersessional++February+2016>.

Adjusted Timeline to Adhere to the 6-Month Notification Requirement:

Note: Given the 6-month requirement, the following table contains an abbreviated timeline with suggested time periods and dates, as well as changes reflecting the new Bylaws, in redline.

Not Later Than:	Activity Commences:	Maximum Duration:	Suggested Dates
T – 5-9 Months Weeks	Call for Nominations	1 Month 10 days	16-26 February 2017
T – 4 Months (or 16 Weeks) 8 Weeks	Candidate Interviews: Suggest compressing to allow more time for a first round of voting.	2 Days Weeks	27-28 February to 2017
T – 4 6 Weeks	First Round of Voting: Suggest longer time for the first round as it carries over ICANN58	≥ 3 Weeks	01-21 March 2017

T – 12 4 Weeks	Second Round of Voting (if needed)	2 Weeks	22 March to 05 April 2017
T – 10 3 Weeks	Third Round of Voting (if needed)	2 1 Weeks	06-13 April 2017
T – 8 2 Weeks	GNSO Secretariat Reports Election Results	3 5 Days	14-19 April 2017
Next Council Meeting T – 13 Days	Confirmation of Election: Suggested to Occur at 20 April 2017 GNSO Council Meeting	3 1 Days	20 April 2017
T – 1 Month 10 Days	GNSO Chair Notifies ICANN Secretary of Election Empowered Community as prescribed by Article VI, Sections 8(4) and 12(1) Section 7.8(d) of the ICANN Bylaws.	3 Days	23 April 2017 (not later than 03 May 2017)
T – 0	The EC Administration shall promptly provide the Secretary (with a copy to the Decisional Participants) with written notice of the designation of those Directors. All such notices shall be posted promptly to the Website.		03 May 2017

Relevant Deadline per the ICANN Bylaws:

The new ICANN Bylaws (see excerpt below) state that written notice must be provided to the Empowered Community (EC) Administration of the nomination of Directors for seats with terms beginning at the conclusion of the annual meeting “At least six months before the date specified for the commencement of the term”. The commencement of the term is stated as “the conclusion of each ICANN Annual meeting.”

Excerpt from Article 7 of the ICANN Bylaws at:

<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article7>

Section 7.8 TERMS OF DIRECTORS

Notification of the Board seat nominations shall be given by the GNSO Chair in writing to the EC Administration, with a copy to the Secretary, and the EC shall promptly act on it as provided in Section 7.25.

- (vi) The terms of Seats 11, 14 and 15 shall begin at the conclusion of each ICANN annual meeting every third year after 2014.
- (d) At least six months before the date specified for the commencement of the term as specified in [Section 7.8\(a\)\(iv\)](#) through [Section 7.8\(a\)\(vi\)](#) above, any Supporting Organization or the At-Large Community entitled to nominate a Director for a Seat with a term beginning that year shall give the EC Administration (with a copy to the Secretary and the Decisional Participants) written notice of its nomination of Directors for seats with terms beginning at the conclusion of the annual meeting, and the EC Administration shall promptly provide the Secretary (with a copy to the Decisional Participants) with written notice of the designation of those Directors. All such notices shall be posted promptly to the Website.
- (e) No Director may serve more than three consecutive terms. For these purposes, a person designated to fill a vacancy in a term shall not be deemed to have served that term.
- (f) The term as Director of the person holding the office of President shall be for as long as, and only for as long as, such person holds the office of President.

Relevant Procedures and Timeline for the GNSO Operating Procedures:

2.2 Board Seat Elections

2.4.1 The ICANN Bylaws, [Article X, Section 3\(6\)](#) specify that the Contracted Parties House shall select a representative to fill Board Seat 13 and that the Non-Contracted Parties House shall select a representative to fill Board Seat 14 according to procedures contained herein.

2.4.2 Timing

For the purposes of this section and Table 1 below, the date that either Board Seat 13 or 14 will become vacated shall be considered time period “T.” The following activities shall take place according to the generalized schedule in the table below in order to meet the notification requirements provided in the Bylaws, [Article VI, Section 8\(4\)](#):

Table 1: Activities Timeline

Not Later Than:	Activity Commences:	Maximum Duration:
T – 5 Months	Call for Nominations	1 Month
T – 4 Months (or 16 Weeks)	Candidate Interviews	2 Weeks
T – 14 Weeks	First Round of Voting	2 Weeks
T – 12 Weeks	Second Round of Voting (if needed)	2 Weeks
T – 10 Weeks	Third Round of Voting (if needed)	2 Weeks

T – 8 Weeks	GNSO Secretariat Reports Election Results	3 Days
Next Council Meeting	Confirmation of Election	3 Days
T – 1 Month	GNSO Chair Notifies ICANN Secretary of Election as prescribed by Article VI, Sections 8(4) and 12(1) of the ICANN Bylaws.	3 Days

At the request of the House, the GNSO Secretariat will develop a specific schedule with actual dates in accordance with the above timeline.

2.4.3 Detailed Election Procedures

Each House is responsible for establishing its own internal procedures for nominations, interviews, voting, and candidate selection; however, those processes must be documented and forwarded to the GNSO Council for inclusion as ANNEXES to the GNSO Operating Procedures. If a House subsequently elects to alter its procedures, such amendments must be submitted to the GNSO Council before becoming effective so that the procedures accurately reflect the actual processes and activities performed by each House in selecting its candidate.