
YESIM NAZLAR: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the ALAC Appointee Selection Committee call taking place on Tuesday, 19 July 2016, at 17:00 UTC.

On the call today, we have Alan Greenberg, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Barrack Otieno, Ali AlMeshal, Nenad Marinkovic, Maritza Aguero Minano, Tim Denton. We have apologies from Holly Raiche, Sandra Hoferichter, and Leon Sanchez. From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich and myself, Yesim Nazlar.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone to state their name before speaking for the transcript purposes, and over to you, Alan. Thank you very much.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you very much. First of all, welcome to the first meeting of the new Selection Committee that will be responsible for making recommendations to the ALAC for a variety of selections. This is the first meeting of this group and first of all I'd like to quickly review what it is we're going to be doing.

The ALAC on a regular basis has to select people for various positions. The process in the past has varied depending on the positions. In some cases, the ALAC simply voted for who to select based on whoever was nominated or named or in some cases expressed interest themselves. In other cases, we have had a Review Committee look at the applications and make a recommendation to the ALAC.

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To a large extent, all selections will be going through this group one way or another, and we'll be talking more about that as we go forward. We do have to put together a mission and some operating procedures, so we're running a little bit blind on this first meeting because of the time constraints that we have for making this particular selection.

But in general, the previous Selection Committee worked on the principle of accepting the Expressions of Interest or the nominations, making a recommendation for ratification to the ALAC. We would also have the ability should we choose to give the ALAC a larger list of names and let the ALAC choose from among them if we decide to do that. But in general that's not been the practice in the past.

Any questions on the overall mandate we have? We will be looking at some specific rules and there are a number of them that we're going to have to set up, but are there any overall questions that anyone has at this point?

I know some of you participated in the discussion in Helsinki that decided to form this group. Others are new to the process. First of all, is there anyone who has any comments or questions?

Seeing none, then we'll go on.

As I said, we will have to put together a mission and some working methods. We are going to ad lib it a little bit on this particular meeting. The timeline is tight enough that we're not going to try to put anything in writing today but there will be a mailing list set up in the near future and we will be using that to start the work of formalizing our processes.

One of the things we will be looking at in the future is ALAC Liaison selections. The ALAC Liaisons are unique selections in that we have on a regular basis used a rule within the ALAC Rules of Procedure saying that if the ALAC is satisfied with a person in a position, they could be re-ratified for another year without opening a formal nomination process. It could be used for any position, but in general we have used it only for Liaisons.

The reason we have used that for Liaisons is a Liaison position to another group within ICANN is a very critical relationship, and very much trust is a major factor. So although it is important to try to get, for instance, new people involved in the process, it's also important to make sure that when we appoint a Liaison that they do a good job. If a Liaison is doing a good job already, the inclination has often been to say we will reappoint.

This year we will bring that decision to this committee. So it's a discussion we will be having as we go forward whether to open Liaison positions to nomination or not for any given Liaison. And we'll talk more about it. I'll send out some e-mails and we can talk more about it as we go forward.

Tijani, you had your hand up.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Yes, [inaudible], so I will not [inaudible]. Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Okay. So that again is one of the things going forward. We will have a number of other selections that we'll be looking at in addition to Liaisons for the ALAC.

There is an Affirmation of Commitment Review Committee on DNS Stability and Security that currently is requesting Expressions of Interest. Each of those Expressions of Interest identify which ICANN Advisory Committee or supporting organization they would like to be endorsed by. So a number of people will no doubt put their names in and say that they would like to be endorsed by the ALAC. It'll be our decision to decide which ones to endorse and, as mentioned before, either to pass on to the ALAC the candidates to endorse or perhaps pass on a superset and ask the ALAC to select from among them, although that hasn't been the practice in the past.

There is likely to be an Accountability and Transparency Review Team formed at some point. It's not clear at this point if it will be formed this year or not. It was scheduled to be formed this year, but it might be deferred.

So we're going to have an interesting time. We will have some organizational work to do, and then there will be a fair number of selections that will be done in the next couple of months in preparation either for other cross community efforts going. There'll be, for instance, one on auction funds that we will likely have to identify some people for and certainly the Affirmation of Commitments reviews and possibly others.

Again, before we go into the details of the selection we have to do for today, are there any other questions or comments?

Seeing none, can we have staff confirmation that we only have formal members of this committee and staff on this phone call? It was publicly announced initially, so I want to make sure we don't have anyone else on the phone bridge. If I could have confirmation from staff, please. Yes, go ahead.

YESIM NAZLAR:

Hi, Alan. Yes, I do confirm that we only have the members and the staff members on the call.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Okay. Thank you very much.

The selection that we're convened for today is for membership in the CSC. The CSC is a group that's associated with the IANA Transition. It presumes the IANA Transition will happen, which we are presuming at this point. If there is still a decision of the U.S. government that has to be made – and we don't know how that's going to unfold – but we are preparing for the transition as if it will happen.

One of the groups the new transitioned IANA will have is a group made up of largely the customers of IANA – that is the names customers, the registries both generic and cc registries, who are effectively the customers of IANA. They are the ones that submit changes to IANA, and IANA is supposed to implement them.

There is a relatively comprehensive set of standards to which IANA will have to work towards and it's the responsibility of this group in the ongoing case to review the work that IANA has done and, in fact, decide that yes they're doing a good job, provide feedback to IANA, or ultimately should there be major problems there are escalation processes that the CSC can take.

The CSC in addition has a number of Liaisons from groups that are not direct customers but have an interest in ensuring that the IANA work is done and done properly. And the ALAC is one of the groups that has such a Liaison.

I hope you have all read the documents associated with the CSC, the ones that specifically were referred to in the call for nominations and the call for Expressions of Interest and understand that the prime responsibility of the ALAC Liaison is, number one, to be a member of the CSC. They don't have voting rights should a vote ever be taken, but other than that they are a full member of the CSC and are expected to participate in all discussions and activities of the CSC. They also have the ancillary role of interfacing with the ALAC to keep the ALAC informed of what is going on in the CSC, to provide any input into the CSC the ALAC may have, and to act essentially as the go-between between the organizations.

Any questions on that before we go ahead and look at the two candidates? I'll give you fair warning, once I review the candidates in a very general sense, I will turn the floor open to other people for their input and comments and thoughts on the candidates. I certainly have some of my own and I have the views of the three ALAC members who

couldn't be on the call today, but I guess I'd like to have input from other people first.

We have two candidates. One is Mohamed El Bashir who identified his qualifications, and specifically he has been the person in charge of a ccTLD for the Sudan. He was also a member of the ICG that looked at the transition and has answered the Expression of Interest in terms of what he believes his responsibility is.

The other candidate is William Cunningham. He is not a person that I'm personally familiar with. He is a member of an ALS in Washington. I don't know a lot about him other than explicitly what his CV and his Expression of Interest indicate.

We have been asked by the CSC to identify two people. There is only one seat. They had originally asked for two people on the belief that they wanted to be able to select from among them to ensure that there was some level of diversity. Like in most groups in ICANN, we strive for a level of diversity – diversity in gender, diversity in geographic region, and a variety of things like that. We do have the option, however, of only submitting one name should we choose, and that's one of the decisions we will have to make.

I would like to open the floor to anyone who has looked at – I presume everyone has reviewed the Expressions of Interest and the CVs – and I'd like to have some thoughts on how we proceed from here.

Just for the record, this call is confidential. Nothing you say is going to be revealed outside of this group and in being appointed to this group you are expected to honestly and fairly evaluate the candidates. To be

blunt, it's your responsibility to make sure that anything you believe about the candidates, anything you feel, is discussed here to make sure the whole group has the benefit of your opinions as we go forward and make a decision.

Is there anyone who would like to speak? I've done a lot of speaking [inaudible]. Tijani, go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. I'm sorry my Adobe Connect is not [inaudible], so I cannot raise my hand. I have question. Did the second candidate [inaudible]? Because [inaudible], but in general I don't think it was done for this very purpose, so I'd like to know more about him. I don't know [inaudible], but he doesn't have any with the [DNS] [inaudible] didn't show that he knows ICANN more or less. I am a little bit confused by [inaudible]. I need something.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Yes, he did submit an EoI. It was embedded in his e-mail. I did extract it and put it into a PDF, which I sent out in my last mailing. So it's in the e-mail to which his CV was attached, and also it's a document that's right now on Adobe Connect if you can see it. It's a document I extracted. The e-mail was somewhat hard to differentiate his answers from the questions, and I ended up putting them in a different color to make it obvious what they were. So certainly he did submit that. It's not a large document, but he did submit it.

Tijani, if you're on Adobe Connect, you should be able to see it, but it was attached to my last e-mail for this meeting.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. Thank you, Alan, but my issue is that the document you sent didn't show me a lot about the relationship between his competencies, his knowledge, his experience with the DNS [inaudible] and with ICANN. This is my issue. I didn't [inaudible]. Normally, [inaudible] an Eol a region. I saw only one document. I think it is the one you sent.

ALAN GREENBERG: You should have two for him. You should have a relatively long CV – a resume – and you should have either embedded in his e-mail or the one that's showing up on the screen, the one I put into a PDF. It's not very long and doesn't provide a lot of details. The only relationship he shows with the DNS is he said he has been following IANA since 1995, and he had a website starting in 1995. That is all he identified as his relationship with IANA and the naming function.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. Ali?

ALI ALMESHAL: Thanks, Alan. Is there any [criteria] or way that we can [post on] each of the Expression of Interest points that the candidate has [provided]. Is there any way that we can say this one [will take] that way in our evaluation, or just in general we evaluate and [this or this] and we would recommend [inaudible]?

ALAN GREENBERG: It could be going forward that we decide on some formal weighting structure, but I'll be candid – from my perspective, evaluating people for these kind of things is a very subjective thing. So although we could assign a weighting structure to particular points, ultimately it comes down to a value judgement. I'm not sure if that answers your question or not.

ALI ALMESHAL: Yes, as you said it will be open for a subjective judgement. It will not be [directly to a weight] the person you can [inaudible].

ALAN GREENBERG: That's correct. As I said, we may choose going forward to have work methods that are somewhat more objective. We can certainly discuss that going forward.

Tijani, is that a new hand or an old?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: It's an old hand, but I'd like to say [inaudible] what I [read] from your two applications, I'm [feel] that Mohamed El Bashir has much more requirements [inaudible] than the other candidate.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you, Tijani. Maritsa? I can't hear you if you're speaking. You're very faint.

MARITSA AGUERO: I'm here. Oh, well, I will write my question on the chat.

ALAN GREENBERG: Is Maritsa on the bridge or just on Adobe Connect?

YESIM NAZLAR: She's just on the Adobe Connect. I'll just check if she has joined the bridge.

ALAN GREENBERG: Yes, she says she's just on Adobe Connect. If we can get a dial out to her that might be good.

YESIM NAZLAR: Sure. I'll [privately chat] with her.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Anyone else like an opinion? I'll be glad to volunteer mine, but I would prefer to have other members of the committee speak.

“Does the candidate need to have some experience with end users?”
Good question. I don't really think experience with end users – all of us are end users in their own right. There is an issue of how well the person will interact with the ALAC, and lack of experience, lack of our knowledge of the person, makes it harder to judge that. And again, if we look at the specific people here, with Mohamed we have experience with him acting as a representative on another group and interfacing with us. With Mr. Cunningham, we really don't have that prior knowledge.

Nenad?

NENAD MARINKOVIC:

Yes, I maybe just more have a comment than a question or opinion [inaudible]. I think that this function this committee for the IANA Transition look for more experienced guy [inaudible] top-level domain names and [this experience so] and things like that. This is not typical maybe for end user [questions]. It is more for technical in the [organization] experience for the registry guys. So I think this Mr. Bashir looks perfect on my opinion with his experience. [Inaudible] very nice things [inaudible] [biography], but for this specific role I think that the experience for Mr. Bashir is more – I don't know, I cannot find the word – but it is [inaudible].

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. One of the decisions we will have to make today is whether we submit one name or two. We were originally asked for two to allow some diversity. At the same time, if we don't feel we have two candidates that can ably represent the ALAC, then we don't have a lot of choice. I would strongly advise this group not to recommend someone for ratification if we don't believe they can really do the job well. So the requirement for two people is a secondary one to being able to do the job well in my mind.

We now have a Tijani 2, so I'm assuming the Tijani 1 hand is not the new one.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: [inaudible]

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay. Let me review my perspective, and it is largely shared by the three other ALAC members who were not able to be on the call. I have talked to them extensively about it.

Mohamed clearly has the experience. We don't know how technically he was as the manager of the ccTLD, but he certainly was vice-Chair of the ICG – the group that oversaw the transition requirements that were sent to the U.S. government – and one has to presume that he certainly went through all the documents and understands what IANA is doing. So the combination together, I think he certainly meets the qualifications of someone who understands the work of IANA and what the CSC will be reviewing.

His answer on his relationship with the ALAC I thought was pretty good in his Expression of Interest, that he's looking for the perspective of end users in what IANA's doing. At the same time, it's clear that he understands that he is expected to be a working member of the CSC, essentially not wearing his ALAC hat but just as a committee member.

So that's a strong one. Mr. Cunningham, I found the Expression of Interest saying that he has a website as the strongest thing he could say about relationship to IANA functions as, sadly, very weak. The other point that I was disturbed about is in his answer to the question of what would he be doing, he seems to view this as just being an auditor of the CSC and making sure they do a good job, but not acknowledging that he's part of that group and should be doing it as well. So those two together, I found somewhat problematic.

Tijani, you have your hand up, please.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Alan. I [inaudible] agree with you. I have exactly the same position. I think that it is better for us to submit only one candidate since we are not sure that the second candidate can do a good job for the end users [inaudible]. Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Yes. Thank you, Tijani. The other thing that we have going for us, I believe, is the rationale for two people was to make sure that diversity can be represented in the CSC. Given that Mohamed is an African by citizenship and currently is working in Asia Pacific, I think we have a lot

of the diversities covered in there. I can't imagine that he would be rejected in favor of, to be blunt, a white North American male if they're looking to ensure diversity within the committee. So I don't think that we are shirking our responsibility if we choose to only name one person in this particular selection.

So at this point we have a recommendation from Tijani. It is supported by the three other ALAC members who did speak, that we basically certainly put Mohamed through as our prime candidate and there was a general consensus that the other candidate was not strong enough to put forward even as a secondary candidate. Certainly that was the perception.

Comments? Has Tim dropped off of this call, by the way?

YESIM NAZLAR:

Tim is on the bridge, Alan.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Okay. I didn't see his name on there. At this point we have a tentative recommendation. I guess I'd like to hear and I'd like to go around the table one by one, is it supported by the group or not? I'm a non-voting Chair should it come to a vote, but hopefully we will not get to that stage.

We have a tick...one tick. I'd like either ticks or people to speak up.

Barrack and Tim are the ones who we have not heard from at this point then.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [Inaudible]

ALAN GREENBERG: I could not hear what was said there.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [Inaudible] maybe we need [direction] how to use this tool for efficient participation in the conference.

ALAN GREENBERG: We will make sure that staff talks to you and makes sure you understand.

Barrack said he posted his comments. I've seen some private comments from him. Barrack, or if someone from staff has read the more recent comments, if anyone could summarize.

Barrack, can you confirm you're in agreement with the recommendation, if that is indeed correct? Confirmed.

Alright, Tim apparently has dropped off and is not on the bridge at this point and is not on Adobe Connect. So we'll note his absence from this decision at this point. We have the support of everyone who is on this call and the three ALAC members who were not on the call but I talked to privately and that, just for the record, is Sandra, Leon, and Holly.

At this point we have made a decision we will recommend to the ALAC that Mohamed El Bashir be ratified as the ALAC Liaison to the CSC, and we will not submit a second name.

Any comments?

Then I will convey the results to the ALAC, and I will be talking to staff about how the individual candidates will be informed.

At this point I will ask is there anything else anyone wants to raise? And if not, then I'll adjourn the meeting. We will be following up on e-mail on establishing our formal processes and things, just so going forward we're all speaking from the same set of rules.

Seeing nothing else, then I thank you all for your attendance on such short notice. I thank you for volunteering for this job. It's going to be, not a lot of work in terms of hours per week, but it's an important job and I thank you all for volunteering and for being willing to do the work.

Thank you all, and we'll be in touch shortly. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]