

Draft SSR2 letter from GNSO Council to AC/SO leaders, with cc to ICANN Board

30 January 2018

From: GNSO Council

To: AC/SO Leaders

Alan Greenberg (Chair ALAC)

Rod Rasmussen (Chair SSAC)

Katrina Sasaki (Chair ccNSO)

Manal Ismail (Chair GAC)

Tripti Sinha (Co-Chair RSSAC)

Brad Verd (Co-Chair RSSAC)

cc: ICANN Board

SSR2 co-chairs and RT members

RE: Input of GNSO Council on current status and next steps of Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review (SSR2)

In coordination with the other ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs), the GNSO Council is eager to re-start the second community-driven review of ICANN's Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR2-RT), which was paused by the ICANN Board in October ([LINK: Board communication pausing SSR2](#)). Completion of this review is required by ICANN's Bylaws and is essential to fulfilling ICANN's core values and commitments to a secure and stable system of unique internet identifiers. The GNSO reaffirms its responsibility as one of the SO/ACs with shared responsibility for this action.

The GNSO Council considers the Board's intervention to pause a community review an unprecedented and surprising step. Further, the GNSO Council recognizes that SO/AC leaders have no established process by which to coordinate the re-start of the Review Team's work. Accordingly, the GNSO Council Chair has been coordinating and collaborating with the other community leaders determine an appropriate process to re-start the SSR review as soon as possible.

The purpose of this letter is to share with the SO/AC leaders and broader ICANN community the GNSO Council's considerations to date on this matter, and its plans for in-depth discussion of issues arising from the Board's pause of SSR2-RT in a pilot strategic face-to-face session being held on 29-31 January 2018. It is our hope that other SO/AC leaders will likewise inform the community of the expertise and perspectives of their respective groups.

The GNSO Council has devoted time in the month of January to reviewing the issues of concern identified by the Board in its 28-Oct-2017 letter to the review team, ie, "the scope, terms of reference, work plan, skill set and/or resources allocated to SSR2." Work is underway to review all existing documentation, including the Bylaws and Terms of Reference, as well as the Work Plan and Skills Matrix prepared by SSR2-RT members post-ICANN60. We will also invite

feedback from current and past GNSO-appointed SSR2-RT members on recommendations, if any, about possible adjustments that are responsive to the issues raised by the Board. Once the desired Terms of Reference and Work Plan are fully understood, the GNSO Council intends to create its own matrix of skills and experience that may be helpful to supplement RT members and outside experts currently in-place. Since there are several available slots in the RT's full complement of 21 members, SO/AC leaders should anticipate a request to nominate additional SSR2-RT candidates and outside experts to augment the current group and/or replace any review team members who have resigned, or may resign in the future. The GNSO Standing Selection Committee will review candidates who previously applied for the SSR2-RT, and based on the skills matrix select a replacement candidate for a recently resigned GNSO member. We look forward to coordinating with the other SOs and ACs to round out this important group with new members who possess an appropriate skill set and level of engagement.

Following the face-to-face Strategic Planning Session at the end of January, we plan to share with SO/AC leaders the Council's view on next steps for re-starting SSR2. However, if the other SO/AC leaders would prefer to move more expeditiously to reactivate the SSR2-RT and address any existing challenges following the re-start, we would be open to that possibility and look forward to further discussion among the leaders. To that end, the GNSO Council supports exploring the involvement of an external facilitator to assist the RT members in identifying and resolving issues that may impede their work and clarifying the scope of the RT's work.

We will be deliberate in our assessment to ensure appropriate adjustments, but we do not intend to unnecessarily delay any decision-making in relation to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

[On behalf of the GNSO Council]

Heather Forrest, GNSO Council Chair

Donna Austin, GNSO Council Vice Chair

Rafik Dammak, GNSO Council Vice Chair