

**Transcription ICANN Dublin  
Tuesday 20 October 2015  
gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group  
Morning Session 1**

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Keith Drazek: Good morning everyone. This is Keith Drazek. Let's go ahead and get started, if everybody could take their seats. So Cherie , let's go ahead and get the recording started, please.

Cherie Stubbs: Good morning. Would you please start the recording? And while that is being done, I just wanted to remind everyone -- for purposes of those who are scheduled to join us remotely, as well as purposes of the recording and the transcript -- to please announce your name and affiliation if you are speaking in the microphone. Thank you. Are we ready?

Donna Austin: Okay. It rock and roll time. This is our day of navigation.

Keith Drazek: Thanks very much Cherie and thank you Donna for the words of encouragement. So good morning everyone. This is Keith Drazek, Chair of the Registry Stakeholder Group until this afternoon. Welcome to the Registry Stakeholder Group Meeting, ICANN 54, Dublin, Ireland. This is the 20th of October, 2015. So I'm going to take an opportunity now to just introduce -- since we have some turnover in our Executive Team or -- our Leadership Team, the Executive Committee. I'm going to just quickly introduce -- and they may not all be in the room, but just to note who the incoming officers are on the Executive Committee -- and update the GNSO Council representation.

So -- at the end of this meeting -- Paul Diaz will become the Chair of the Registry Stakeholder Group. And I should just take a moment to say that with all of the activity around IANA transition and accountability and obligations that have had me quite distracted -- to be frank -- Paul has done an amazing job stepping in and helping in the background. And I know you see it, but you don't see it all. Helping the Executive Committee and me, frankly, keep the trains running on time here. And you've seen the work of the Evolution Working Group and the work of the Charter and everything. Paul has just done a phenomenal job. And we are in good hands. So, thanks Paul.

And we have Samantha Samantha Demetriou, the new Vice Chair of Administration. And -- of course -- that's pending Board Approval of our Charter, which is supposed to take place this week. It's on the Consent Agenda. So that should be no problem, provided the Board actually meets.

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We have Stephane Van Gelder as the new incoming Vice Chair of Policy, who will be taking the remainder of Paul's term. And (Reg Levy), the new incoming Treasurer. So those are our new Stakeholder Group Officers.

And we also have transition at the Council level with Jonathan Robinson who has done a fantastic -- really fantastic -- job as the GNSO Council Chair. Jonathan has termed out and will be leaving the Council. That's -- I think -- a great loss for us as a Stakeholder Group and for the GNSO Council and community in general. Because Jonathan has really help to -- I think -- navigate some tricky waters over the last several years. So, Jonathan, thank you. Is Jonathan here?

Cherie Stubbs: No.

Keith Drazek: Not yet. Okay. So the incoming - so Donna will be the sole carryover. So we have some stability. Brett Fausett has -- for business reasons has -- decided he did not want to -- as we know -- continue on the Council. Totally understandable, under the circumstances. So I will be taking the remainder of Brett's term, one more year. And then (Reuben) is also joining the Council. So our Council Representatives for the upcoming term will be Donna, myself and Ruben Kuhl. So I think we're set.

And -- it's interesting to note that -- this is one of the - this is the Annual Global Meeting. So this is the time -- in our community -- where there's quite a bit of turnover and transition and change, sort of at the so called leadership level. Somebody mentioned to me that this is actually on the Council, the biggest turnover that's ever taken place. I think eight seats are turning over on the GNSO Council. So, I take this as a really encouraging sign that things are evolving.

And it's a great opportunity -- you know -- for new energy, new views, new voices to be heard. Not just at the Council level. But also in our Stakeholder Group. I'll just take just a moment to say -- you know -- over the last three years, we have seen an incredible amount of change at ICANN. In our industry. In the GNSO, certainly. And in our Stakeholder Group. We've gone from 17 members to over a hundred, which is really remarkable. And if you think about the change that we've seen.

Three years ago was -- at this meeting was -- when Fadi became CEO. And the change that we've seen over the last three in our community and -- as I said -- in the industry has been remarkable. And I'm very excited about the infusion of talent and energy and sort of new blood into our Stakeholder Group. And -- I think -- the Registry Stakeholder Group is an exciting place to be right now. You know, if you consider policy exciting. But it's a - and I think we're very fortunate relative to some of the other groups that have sort of stagnated, in a sense. So I think we've got a lot going for us here.

So I look forward continuing in my capacity as one of your counselors. Okay, let's get down to business.

Cherie Stubbs: Keith.

Keith Drazek: Yes. Thank you Cherie. So we have two of our fellows with us. And, let's see, we have Wen Zhai.

((Crosstalk)):

Wen Zhai: My name is Wen Zhai. I'm from China Organizational Name Administration Center. That's a registry for two (IDN), Chinese (IDN TLD's). One is for Government and the Government Affairs. The other is for Public Interest. I'm very lucky to be chosen to be the (OSG) Fellow. And nice to meet everybody. I hope to learn a lot from you today. Thank you.

Keith Drazek: Thank you Wen. And we also have Abdalmonem Galila.

Abdalmonem Galila: Yes. Abdalmonem Galila from the National Telecommunication Authority, .Masr Registry Deputy, of Egypt. I am glad to be here today. I want to talk with the community and I have a little information. Thank you.

Keith Drazek: Thank you. Welcome to you both. And -- as I mentioned to you before -- you know, please feel free to ask questions or contribute to our discussion today. You're very welcome. Thank you.

Okay. Let's go ahead and get down to business. We actually -- have in about 13 minutes by my clock -- we will be joined by our Registrar Partners and also the (GDD) staff. So we will -- in 13 minutes -- be having a joint session with (GDD) staff, registries and registrars. And we'll need to make some room at the table for - to make sure that we can accommodate everybody that's coming in.

So, the agenda we will have from 9:00 until 10:30, we will have that session. The agenda is on the screen. You can take a look and see the items that we will be discussing. If anybody would like to volunteer to take the lead on discussing any of these topics, feel free to put up your hand at the right time. I would very much appreciate that. At 10:30 we'll take a 15 minute break. And then we will have contracted party house session. We'll talk about (GNSO) Council issues and motions. The Chair election, et cetera, et cetera. You'll see the agenda.

We'll take a break at 11:45. We'll have a working lunch, beginning at noon. So there will be lunch in the room here. And at 2:00, we'll break to meet with the ICANN Board. And then, we will come back here. The agenda says "adjourn." But we're going to have to come back after the Board session and continue with business. So let me pause there and see if there're any comments or questions. Okay. Welcome Michele and Graeme (Unintelligible) is wearing a tie, for the record.

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Okay. One of the important topics that we need to discuss today is the -- and we've had quite a bit of discussion about this and -- planning for the GNSO Council Chair Election. And this is something that will have to be decided by the GNSO Council tomorrow. The incoming representatives will be the ones to actually vote. And -- I think -- as most of you know from the lists and from the discussions and from the interview session that we had, I think it was a week ago Friday, if I'm not mistaken. That it's James Bladel and (Heather Forrest), are the two candidates at the moment. Obviously, James, from our contract party house and (Heather Forrest), of course, from the IPC and the non-contracted party house.

We've had quite a bit of discussion on the list. And I thought it would be - this is an important opportunity for us to have sort of an open discussion about our thoughts, our thinking, our planning, about how we approach this. To set this up, I think we all know as the Contract Party's Registries and Registrars, our nominee is James. James is obviously an incredibly well qualified candidate.

And -- I think -- in the views of most the best qualified candidate. There has been some discussion -- on the list and in our conference calls -- about whether it would make sense -- for political reasons -- to at some point, agree to support a candidate for Chair from the non-contracted party house. I think there are reasonable arguments on both sides. We've had quite a bit of discussion and there's been some question about -- you know -- how we approach this from -- you know -- our counselor's position.

At this time, Paul suggested it would make sense to have a bit of an overview -- a brief overview -- of the process. In other words, what the election procedures are, so we're all on the same page as to how this is going to play out in terms of -- you know -- first ballot, second ballot. What the percentages are that would be required to actually finalize an election? I saw Kristina put her hand up. Go ahead Kristina.

Kristina Rosette: Thank you. Kristina Rosette, Amazon. Well, I certainly had no objection to discussing the procedural aspect. I -- for one, I think -- feel that we might be able to have a more open and candid discussion if we were to have it substantively at a time when neither ICANN staff, nor our other Stakeholder in the house were here.

Keith Drazek: Fair enough. And I think you're right. So we can defer that to our afternoon discussion. But let's go ahead, since we have eight minutes to go over the procedures. We actually do have time on our schedule later this afternoon to actually talk about the substance and to actually talk about the decision making. But we were teeing up the procedural. But Kristina, you're absolutely right. So I'm going to hand it over to Paul to go through the process.

Paul Diaz: Go ahead Stephane.

Stephane Van Gelder: Thanks. This is Stephane Van Gelder, Starting Dot. I completely agree with Kristina, but just a question. Later on this afternoon -- and if we do this in the closed session -- will the registrar's be with us? Because it's good to have the discussion at house level, I think.

Maxim Alzoba: This is Maxim Alzoba, FAITID, for the record. No, we won't be with you. We're with you this morning, now. On the schedule we have two sessions with you where one with just us and the other is with (GDD) staff. Then we are with you for the meeting with the Board. Then, after that, we go off our separate ways again. So if you want to have that discussion...

Keith Drazek: Yes. Thanks, I meant to say later this morning. I said this afternoon and that was misleading. So we have a session - a joint session with Registries and Registrars later this morning, after GDD staff leaves. That's the time that we'll do this. So thanks for the clarification. Paul, go ahead and run through the procedures so everybody can be thinking about this. And then we'll start shortly with the joint session with GDD staff

Paul Diaz: Thank you. Thanks Keith. This is Paul Diaz, [Public Interest Registry](#), for the record. So that we're all on the same page, folks, nobody ever looks at this until they have to which is once every three or four years. The Council's election procedures are posted. And just to save everybody going over it, understand that the Chair needs to poll 60% or more of each house. Now, if that doesn't happen, the rules lay out for us the various scenarios.

Was there a tie between two candidates? Did one poll more than the other? As we've talked to people in the days and weeks leading up to this, that scenario, where one or the other candidates polls more, but not 60% of both houses. That's what I wanted to focus on for everybody. So you understand what's going to happen.

Wednesday, the new Council will be seated at the end of the meeting. And it is those counselors -- our incoming reps -- who are going to cast the votes. A ballot will be held. James, Heather, and none of the above is an option on the ballot. The votes will be tallied and we then proceed with one of these scenarios.

The most likely being that one of them has again polled more than the other, but not the requisite 60%. Immediately, there will be a second ballot. It simply asks whomever that individual is, their name, or none of the above. And the Counselors are asked to vote. If that individual gets this super majority level, the 60%, that individual becomes Chair. If, however, they can't poll that amount, there's going to be a cooling off period. There will have to be a new nomination period, and then an election 30 days later.

So, essentially, it's up to the Council. If they don't select their Chair Wednesday, we're going to have at least a month for the next Council meeting to figure out steps. So I agree that we should have the substantive

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discussion about how to guide our counselors. And registrars, I'm not sure if you direct your counselors, as well.

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**Michele Neylon:** It's **Michele Neylon** for the record. The way we have this is we have the option to direct them. But essentially we do if it's for something which we haven't got a particularly strong view on, they can vote whichever way they want. But for something like this, they are directed. And obviously our direction -- in this instance -- would be that they have to do a vote for James.

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**Paul Diaz:** Understood. So we can go over this in more detail later in the morning. But just wanted everybody to be aware that the Council's own rules, they are posted. So this is not being made up on the fly. Envisions a couple different scenarios. The most likely one means will be the first ballot. Then there'll be the question whoever the top voter getter was can that individual capture the super majority. If not, then it's going to be about a month period before another election is held. And we -- of course -- will all have opportunity to figure out if that eventuality happens, how we want to act. Because it's starting afresh. All right, questions. (Ken).

**Ken Stubbs:** **Yes. Thanks is Paul. Ken Stubbs, Afilias, for the record.** It would seem to me that there's a pretty strong probability that we will not be getting more than 60% of both houses in the first vote. How do you define a tie as opposed to prevailing? By that -- I mean -- if a person wins their house, does that mean it's a definition that in fact, they're the winner for that house. Or do they actually count the percentages within each house?

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Deleted: Yes. This is Paul. Ken Stubbs for the record. .

**Paul Diaz:** Yes. Looking at the rules, Ken. I believe it's the second one. They talk about scores are assigned to each candidate that reflects the percentage of the vote that they've polled from each house. They come up with a macro score. And that's what will be used to determine either a winner or who gets put on a second ballot to make a determination. But, again, it does seem more likely than not that neither candidate will get that magical 60% on the first round in both houses.

So you saw **the** procedures. I can post this to list if people want to read it for themselves. But I just wanted to be clear for everybody that there is a process that likely will be - will work through at the Council level. Unlike the previous election when it was unanimous support for Jonathan. This is a competitive race. We can discuss more later. Because we have staff who should jump in.

**Keith Drazek:** Okay. Thanks very much Paul. So everybody ought to be thinking about that issue.

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