

RSSAC Statement on the Draft Final Report of the Second Organizational Review of the Nominating Committee

7 May 2018

The RSSAC welcomes the opportunity to participate in the public comment proceeding on the draft final report¹ of the second organizational review of the ICANN Nominating Committee (NomCom).

The RSSAC agrees with the finding that, “[t]here is concern over the role and participation of non-voting members.”² As such, the RSSAC is carefully considering Recommendation 9, which states that, “[a]ll NomCom members should be fully participating and voting members, except for NomCom leadership.”³ The recommendation continues:

The SSAC, RSSAC, and GAC NomCom members should be converted into voting members with the ability to fully participate in all NomCom activities. The newly-voting members would be subject to the same requirements as current NomCom voting members: in particular, they would be subject to the same term limits.⁴

The RSSAC concurs with the independent examiner that the current voting arrangement of the NomCom,

Creates a system in which individuals who (1) ICANN believes add a valuable perspective to the NomCom and (2) participate in all other NomCom activities, including conducting deep-dives and interviews of candidates, are nevertheless viewed as being unable to cast a final vote in a manner consistent with the standards required of NomCom members.⁵

This recommendation is especially timely now that the NomCom also appoints two members of the Board of Directors of Public Technical Identifiers (PTI), an affiliate of ICANN, and the current IANA functions operator. Given its mandate⁶, the RSSAC believes its liaison can provide valuable insight to inform discussions and deliberations about the operational and technical expertise necessary to serve in these leadership positions.

¹ See “Independent Review of the ICANN Nominating Committee: Draft Final Report”

<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/independent-review-nomcom-report-draft-final-26mar18-en.pdf>

² Ibid., 23

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., 24.

⁶ See “ICANN Bylaws, Section C”, <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article12>

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However, the RSSAC will make a determination on the voting status of its liaison after the recommendations are more fully vetted by the NomCom, the ICANN Board and its Organizational Effectiveness Committee, the broader ICANN community, and after its own thorough review of the options for this change and the subsequent implications.

The RSSAC looks forward to sustaining its positive relationship with the NomCom and contributing to its important work via its liaison.