

ccNSO Board Seat 12 Nominations 2025

Nomination Report

20 February 2025

ICANN | ccNSO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 3 |
| 2 INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 3 NOMINATION PERIOD | 3 |
| 3.1 Launch Nomination Period | 3 |
| 3.2 Closure Nomination Period | 4 |
| 3.3 Nomination Results | 4 |
| 3.4 Nomination Observations | 4 |
| Nomination Observation 1: Eligibility to Nominate or Second | 4 |
| 3.5 Acceptance Nominations | 5 |
| 4 DUE DILIGENCE VERIFICATIONS | 5 |
| 4.1 Start Due Diligence Verifications | 5 |
| 4.2 Completion Due Diligence Verifications | 5 |
| 5 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS | 5 |
| 6 ELECTION | 6 |
| 6.1 Launch of the election | 6 |
| 6.2 Closure of the elections | 6 |
| 6.3 Election Results | 6 |
| 6.4 Nomination Process Observations | 6 |
| Observation 1: Outreach | 7 |
| Observation 2: Voting Territories | 7 |
| Observation 3: Emissaries | 7 |
| Observation 4: Guideline Placeholders | 8 |
| 7 CONCLUSION | 8 |
| ANNEX A: LINKS | 9 |

1 Executive Summary

- The Nomination Report, prepared by the Nomination Process Manager, is to be reviewed and adopted by the ccNSO Council.
- Upon adoption of the report, the nomination process will formally conclude, and Byron Holland will be nominated for ICANN Board Seat 12. Once the ccNSO Council's decision takes effect, the Council Chair will notify the Empowered Community Administration (ECA) and ICANN's Secretary.
- The designation of the nominee by the Empowered Community, in accordance with ICANN Bylaws Section 7.2, will become effective once the ccNSO Council's decision is in effect, as per the Rules of the ccNSO.

2 Introduction

Following Katrina Sasaki's resignation from the ICANN Board, effective 23 August 2024, the Empowered Community and the ccNSO Council were formally invited to fill the resulting vacancy:

- For the remainder of Katrina's term until the 2024 ICANN Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November.
- For a full three-year term beginning at the 2024 ICANN AGM and ending at the 2027 AGM.

The ccNSO Council is required to select a candidate in accordance with the relevant ICANN Bylaws and internal rules of the ccNSO applicable at the time of the call for nominations.

- The nomination timeline was designed to account for:
 - The time required to organize the nomination process.
 - The necessary period for due diligence verifications.
 - The opportunity for ccNSO members to directly question the candidate(s).
 - The election process by ccNSO members.
 - The potential need for a run-off election.

3 Nomination Period

3.1 Launch Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period started on Tuesday, 10 September 2024 (00:01 UTC). The Nomination Process Manager published the call for nominations on the ccNSO website and shared it with the ccNSO members and ccNSO Council mailing lists.

Instructions included, among others:

- Start and end time, as per the timeline established by Council
- Templates, as per the guideline
- Where to send nominations/secondments and how to consult the nomination archive

3.2 Closure Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period closed on Friday, 27 September 2024 (23:59 UTC). Shortly after the closure of the nomination period, the Nomination Process Manager posted an announcement on the ccNSO website, giving a heads up about the Q&A with the candidates. The announcement was also shared with the ccNSO Members and ccNSO Council mailing lists.

3.3 Nomination Results

At the close of the call, the following nominations and secondments were received:

- Antonio Godinho (.mz) nominated Calvin Scott on 10 September 2024.
Yann Kwok (.mu) seconded the nomination of Calvin Scott Browne on 10 September 2024.
- Hilde Thunem (.no) nominated Nick Wenban-Smith on 13 September 2024.
Eberhard Lisse (.na) initially nominated Nick Wenban-Smith on 13 September 2024 but asked the Nomination Process Manager to ignore the nomination and submitted a secondment template on 13 September instead.
- Rosalía Morales Acosta (.cr) nominated Byron Holland on 10 September 2024.
Sean Copeland (.vi) seconded Byron Holland's nomination on 13 September 2024.
Pierre Bonis (.fr) seconded Byron Holland's nomination on 13 September 2024.

There have been no further nominations or secondments. Kindly note the Nomination Observations below.

3.4 Nomination Observations

These observations were added for transparency purposes. The election process manager did not receive any questions or comments from the ccTLD community regarding any of the observations.

Observation 3.4 | A: Eligibility to Nominate or Second

As per the ccNSO ICANN Board Seat 11 and 12 Nomination Process Guideline, Section 3.4:

“Nominating and seconding of candidate(s) is limited to ccTLD Managers who are members of the ccNSO on the date the call for candidates is published.”

The ccNSO Board Seat Nomination guideline – in contrast to the ccNSO Council Election guideline - does not include explicit reference regarding “Eligibility to Nominate and Second”, and “Eligibility to Vote”. Furthermore, the ccNSO Council Election Guideline specifies that only the Representative from a ccNSO member will be able to nominate and second candidates to serve as a ccNSO Councillor.

Recommendation

The Council is advised to request the Guideline Review Committee to verify if and how the ccNSO Guidelines should be adjusted, to ensure alignment across all nomination procedures.

3.5 Acceptance Nominations

Two candidates, Byron Holland and Nick Wenban-Smith, were nominated, seconded, and accepted their nominations before the deadline, as per the applicable rules. One additional nominee, Calvin Scott Browne declined to accept his nomination.

4 Due Diligence Verifications

4.1 Start Due Diligence Verifications

The ccNSO Council calculated sufficient time for the due diligence verifications to be completed, prior to the start of the voting rounds by the ccNSO membership.

The candidates warranted, confirmed they are aware of, and consented to:

- The Country of Citizenship or Domicile included in the nomination form.
- Not to hold a position as an official of a national government or a multinational entity (section 7.4 (a) of the ICANN Bylaws;
- Section 7.4 (b) of the ICANN Bylaws;
- Section 7.4 (d) of the ICANN Bylaws;
- Fully cooperate to undergo a due diligence screening by an external provider, which includes providing necessary consent to ICANN to transmit personal data to the due diligence provider.

The candidates explicitly confirmed they consented to the processing of their personal data in accordance with the ICANN Privacy Policy for the purposes of providing it to the independent provider to conduct due diligence.

4.2 Completion Due Diligence Verifications

On Wednesday, 29 January 2025, the ccNSO Council Chair informed Council and the Nomination Process Manager that the Due Diligence Process has concluded and no concerns were raised that warrant further consideration and decision by Council.

5 Question and Answer Sessions

Following a Question & Answer session at ICANN81, the ccNSO members and the broader ccTLD community participated in a virtual Q&A session on Tuesday, 4 February 2025. Both sessions, moderated by Barrack Otieno (AfTLD), were an opportunity for the ccNSO membership to engage directly with the candidates, ask questions, and gain insights ahead of the election.

6 Election

6.1 Launch of the election

There were two candidates: Byron Holland and Nick Wenban-Smith. A formal Election Notice was published on the ccNSO website and shared with the ccNSO members and ccNSO Council mailing lists. The Election Notice contained, among others, the following information:

- The names of the candidates
- Information on how the election would be conducted
- Election opening and closing dates.
- Candidate statement as submitted by the candidates
- A recording to the Q&A sessions with the ICANN Board Seat 12 candidates
- The timeline approved by the ccNSO Council
- The relevant guideline

The election started on Tuesday, 4 February 2025, at 00:01 UTC, according to the timeline previously adopted by the ccNSO Council. The ballots were sent in a timely manner to the Emissaries of the ccNSO Membership.

6.2 Closure of the elections

The election closed on Tuesday, 18 February 2025, at 23:59 UTC, according to the timeline previously agreed upon by the ccNSO Council.

6.3 Election Results

Out of 177 Emissaries, 107 (60%) cast their votes:

- Byron Holland received 73 votes
- Nick Wenban-Smith received 30 votes
- 4 Emissaries voted for "None of the above"

At the time of voting, the ccNSO had 179 members, representing 177 Territories, and therefore 177 Emissaries. According to Section 10.4(e) of the ICANN Bylaws, an Emissary is the Representative chosen by a ccTLD Manager to vote on specific matters outlined in Article 10 & Annex B of the ICANN Bylaws and certain votes under ccNSO's Internal Rules. There was no quorum requirement for this election.

The results were shared with the ccNSO Council and ccNSO members mailing lists and were published on the ccNSO website.

6.4 Election Observations

The Nomination Process Manager did not notice any irregularities.

Observation 6.4 | A: Outreach

The Nomination Process Manager e-mailed all Emissaries individually:

- On 28 January 2024, as a heads up regarding the upcoming vote
- On 3 February, informing them about the election notice

Repeated reminders to vote were sent to the ccNSO members and ccNSO Council mailing lists, as well as via the voting tool. Members of Council, the Guidelines Review Committee, and the Nomination Process Manager used various channels to inform and remind the ccNSO members about the nomination process, to ensure all members were aware of the process, inviting them to participate in the voting.

At the occasion of the Caribbean IGF, ccTLD managers from the region were informed about the ccNSO and encouraged to vote in the Board seat 12 election. During a session held at the occasion of APTLD87, the Council Chair encouraged members from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region to vote. Furthermore, Council members, with the help of the AfTLD Secretariat, reached out to African ccTLD managers.

Observation 6.4 | B: Voting Territories

The ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee undertook two actions to assess the ccNSO Continuous Improvement Framework and its relation to ccNSO membership voting behavior:

- Hosting a webinar for the Caribbean ccTLD community.
- Publishing the list of voting Territories.

In accordance with Council Resolution 211-06, a list of voting Countries/Territories and their corresponding ICANN Regions was made available and regularly updated throughout the voting process.

Resolution 211-06

The ccNSO Council approves the publication of the list of territories as proposed for Board nomination process Seat 12 FY 25, specifically which territory has voted and to which ICANN Region they relate. The ccNSO Council requests the GRC to be informed about the results of this and other interventions to improve the voting process by ICANN81. The secretariat is requested to publish this resolution as soon as possible. This resolution becomes effective seven (7) days after publication. The nomination process manager is requested to implement this intervention once this resolution becomes effective

Observation 6.4 | C: Emissaries

The ballots were sent by the e-mail address tally@icann.org, to the e-mail address of the ccNSO Membership Emissaries, as listed in the ccNSO Members database.

Five ccTLD managers contacted the Nomination Process Manager to either inquire about the ballot delivery or update their Emissary details. One of these managers is not currently a member of the ccNSO.

Where applicable, ballots were re-sent to the newly designated Emissaries. If a ballot could not be delivered, the Nomination Process Manager re-sent it to the administrative contact listed in the IANA Root Zone Database.

Observation 6.4 | D: Guideline Placeholders

The Guideline: ccNSO Nominations Process ICANN Board Seats 11 and 12 currently still contains some placeholders, namely:

- 3.1.2 Initiation of Board Seat Nomination process in case of vacancies (Article 7, Section 7.12(a))
- 3.1.3 Initiation of Board Seat Nomination Process when all Directors are recalled (Article 7, Section 7.12(b))

Recommendation

The Council is advised to request the Guideline Review Committee to complete the various guidelines and suggest procedures for the placeholders in the Guideline: ccNSO Nominations Process ICANN Board Seats 11 and 12.

7 Conclusion

The ccNSO has a voluntary internal arrangement for electing candidates for ICANN Board Seats 11 and 12. The next step is for the ccNSO Council to formally nominate the elected candidate, as outlined in Section 10.3(i) of the ICANN Bylaws. The Nomination Process Manager will submit a Nomination Report to the ccNSO Council for discussion and adoption. The Empowered Community Administration (ECA) and ICANN's Secretary will be informed of the nomination results accordingly.

ANNEX A: Links

- Election Results
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-19feb25-en.htm>
- Election notice
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-03feb25-en.htm>
- Tracker: List of Countries or Territories which voted and their ICANN Region
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15e87XDydXstbUmUuy5d50grH_f5B-v9lDXwJfFgsjJc/edit?usp=sharing
- Announcements on ccNSO website related to the Board Seat 12 Nomination Procedure:
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/about/nominations.htm>
- ccNSO Internal Rules:
<https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/internal-membership-rules-26oct22-en.pdf>
- ccNSO Guideline Board seat 11 and seat 12 nominations:
<https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/ccnso-nominations-icann-board-guideline-15dec22-en.pdf>
- ICANN bylaws
<https://www.icann.org/en/governance>
- Board Seat 12 FY 25 Nomination process timeline as adopted by ccNSO Council:
<https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/timeline-nomination-process-icann-board-seat-12-04sep24-en.pdf>
- Archive for nominations and secondments:
<https://lists.icann.org/hyperkitty/list/ccnso-boardnominations@icann.org/>
- Candidate statements
 - [Candidate statement Byron Holland](#)
 - [Candidate statement Nick Wenban-Smith](#)
- Recording ICANN81 Q&A with Board Seat 12 candidates
<https://sched.co/1p2JJ>
- Recording 4 February Q&A with Board seat 12 candidates
<https://community.icann.org/display/ccnsowkspc/ccNSO+Webinars>
- About the ICANN Board of directors
<https://itp.cdn.icann.org/en/files/about-the-board/getting-to-know-the-icann-board-of-directors-16-08-2022-en.pdf>