SSAC
ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee

13 November 2018

Subject: SSAC2018-26: SSAC Participation in the ICANN Nominating Committee

To: Damon Ashcraft, 2019 ICANN Nominating Committee Chair

Cc: Becky Burr, ICANN Board Governance Committee Chair
             Cherine Chalaby, ICANN Board Chair
             Christine Willett, Vice President of gTLD operation and Interim Nomcom
             Support Staff

It is with significant regret that I write to inform you that the SSAC Liaison to the Nominating Committee, Joe Abley, has advised me that he is no longer able to participate in the 2019 Nominating Committee. Having diligently attended the week of meetings at ICANN63, Joe has concluded that his understanding of the policies, processes and practices relating to Nominating Committee engagement has resulted in an assessment that the Nominating Committee is not the right place to direct his effort.

The SSAC does not have knowledge of the details of the proposed Operating Procedures for the 2019 Nominating Committee. However, our understanding is that confidentiality may be extended to cover matters of process (which should be open, transparent and consistent from year to year) rather than restricted to matters associated with candidate information and deliberations thereon (which should most definitely be confidential).

Additionally, we do not have a clear understanding of the manner in which SSAC input is to be received. We are unaware of the 2019 Nominating Committee's intentions to implement recommendations from the Nominating Committee Review in the term of this Nominating Committee.

The SSAC considers the role of the Nominating Committee very important and it is of great concern that one of our members feels obliged to withdraw as a result of his experience this year. Our intention is to replace Joe with another SSAC Member.

However, the SSAC will not begin its participation on the 2019 Nominating Committee until such time as deliberations on matters of process are finalized and understood, and the core work of the Nominating Committee to identify and evaluate candidates begins.

The SSAC remains open to further conversation and dialog on these important matters regarding governance.

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Best Regards,

Rod Rasmussen
Chair, ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee