

# ccNSO Council Elections 2026

Election Report

Name

16 December 2025

**ICANN** | ccNSO

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# 1 Executive Summary

The 3-year term for five members of the ccNSO Council will end in March 2026, at the end of the ICANN85 Community Forum. The ccNSO opened a call for nominations to fill those seats, and elections were held in the AP region to select the Councilor elect from two candidates. The elected candidates are:

- Australia/Asia/Pacific: Sami Mohamed Ali
- Europe: Chris Disspain
- Latin America/Caribbean: Alejandra Reynoso
- North America: Charles Noir

The Election Process Manager recommends that the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee review the ccNSO Council Selection Guideline to determine if they can:

1. Provide clearer guidance on the requirement for nominees to submit an Employer Letter of Support.
2. Introduce flexibility regarding the submission deadline for nominees to submit supporting documentation.
3. Clarify when nominees must (re)submit their Statement of Interest (SOI).
4. Specify procedures to follow if the quorum is not met.

The special Council selection process for the African region is addressed in a separate report. The Council Election process 2025 will formally close 7 days after adoption and publication of this report.

## 2 Introduction

The 3-year term for five members of the ccNSO Council will end in March 2026, at the end of the ICANN85 Community Forum:

- Africa: Molehe Wesi
- Asia Pacific: Ai-Chin Lu
- Europe: Chris Disspain
- Latin America/Caribbean: Alejandra Reynoso
- North America: Stephen Deerhake

The ccNSO opened a call for nominations to fill the vacant seats. The nomination period timeline was set in accordance with the applicable ccNSO Guideline and approved by the ccNSO Council in June 2025. This schedule considered the opportunity for ccNSO members to ask candidates questions during a Q&A session at ICANN84. Joke Braeken was appointed as Election Process Manager.

## 3 Nomination Period

### 3.1 Launch Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period started on Tuesday, 9 September 2025 (00:01 UTC). The call for nominations was posted on the ccNSO website on 08 September 2025 and shared with the ccNSO members and ccNSO Council mailing lists. Prior to the start of the nominations, Council leadership held an informational webinar, to inform the ccTLD community about the process and the need to nominate candidates.

### 3.2 Closure Nomination Period

In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period closed on Tuesday, 30 September 2025 (23:59 UTC). Shortly after the closure of the nomination period, the Election 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 secondings were received:

#### Africa

- Andrew Lewela (.ke) nominated **Molehe Wesi** on 10 September 2025.
  - Adesola Akinsanya (.ng) seconded Molehe's nomination on 16 September 2025.

#### Asia/Australia/Pacific

- Mostofa Al Mahmud (.bd) nominated **Sami Mohamed Ali** on 10 September 2025.
  - Samer Tamimi (.jo) seconded Sami's nomination on 20 September 2025
  - Ibrahim Al-Maawali (.om) seconded Sami's nomination on 24 September 2025.
- Bruce Tonkin (.au) nominated **Boyoung Kim** on 22 September 2025
  - Jofan Yu (.tw) seconded Boyoung's nomination on 26 September 2025

#### Europe

- Nick Wenban-Smith (.uk) nominated **Chris Disspain** on 11 September 2025

- Roelof Meijer (.nl) nominated Chris Disspain on 24 September 2025.
  - Peter Koch seconded Chris' nomination on 16 September 2025.

## Latin America/Caribbean

- Jenifer Lopez (.pa) nominated **Alejandra Reynoso** on 17 September 2025.
  - Demi Getschko (.br) seconded Alejandra's nomination on 17 September 2025.
- Clara Angela Collado Vilorio (.do) nominated **Margarita Valdés** on 17 September 2025.
  - Mariela De León Barreto (.uy) seconded Margarita's nomination on 24 September 2025.

## North America

- Sean Copeland (.vi) nominated **Charles Noir** on 24 September 2025.
  - Stephen Deerhake (.as) seconded Charles' nomination on 30 September 2025.

No further nominations or secondings were received.  
Please note the nomination observations below.

## 3.4 Nomination observations

### Nomination Observation 1: eligibility to nominate or second

The latest ccNSO Council Selection and Removal Procedures Guideline was adopted in June 2025 and was used for the first time in the 2026 Council Elections.

The guideline, section 4.2 states:

*"Only Representatives of ccTLD managers whose ccNSO membership has been approved by the ccNSO Council no later than one day before the start of the Call for Nominations are eligible to nominate or second a candidate. If the individual submitting a nomination or seconding is not the Representative, the Selection Process Manager will notify the Representative and request confirmation of the nomination or seconding."*

The ICANN Bylaws, section 10.4.e.i mentions the following:

*"(e) Designation of Representative*

*(i) Each ccTLD manager may designate in writing a person, organization, or entity to represent the ccTLD manager in matters relating to the ccNSO ("Representative"). In the absence of such a designation, the person, organization, or entity listed as the administrative contact in the IANA database shall be deemed to be the designate of the ccTLD manager by whom the ccNSO member shall be represented."*

The nomination listed below was submitted by a non-Representative:

- Nick Wenban-Smith (.uk) nominated Chris Disspain

The Election Process Manager sent a copy of the nomination to the respective ccTLD Representative and received confirmation about the validity of the seconding.

The seconding of the nominations listed below was submitted by non-Representatives:

- Mariela De León Barreto (.uy) seconded Margarita's nomination.

The Election Process Manager sent a copy of the seconding to the respective ccTLD Representative and received confirmation about the validity of the seconding.

- Jofan Yu (.tw) seconded Boyoung's nomination.

The Election Process Manager sent a copy of the seconding to the respective ccTLD Representative and received confirmation about the validity of the seconding. Furthermore, the Representative and Emissary were updated.

- Samer Tamimi (.jo) seconded Sami's nomination.

The Election Process Manager sent a copy of the seconding to the respective ccTLD Representative and exchanged emails with the person who submitted the secondment, clarifying the distinction between the data in the ccNSO members database (not accessible to the public) and public information, including the Root Zone Delegation Record and the ccNSO website. The Representative did not confirm the validity of the seconding. Since Sami was validly seconded by another Representative, this did not affect Sami's candidacy.

## Nomination Observation 2: Identification of the Representative

The ICANN Bylaws, section 10.4.e.(i) mention the following:

*"(e) Designation of Representative*

*(i) Each ccTLD manager may designate in writing a person, organization, or entity to represent the ccTLD manager in matters relating to the ccNSO ("Representative"). In the absence of such a designation, the person, organization, or entity listed as the administrative contact in the IANA database shall be deemed to be the designate of the ccTLD manager by whom the ccNSO member shall be represented."*

The ccNSO Member database contains the following fields, to identify the Representative: Name, Surname and Email address. The Election Process Manager considered the email address to be the determining factor.

Examples:

- Demi Getschko (.br) seconded Alejandra's nomination. He submitted the template twice: once with his Representative e-mail address, once with a different address.
- Stephen Deerhake (.as) seconded Charles' nomination. He used a different address than the one he listed as his Representative address. The Election Process Manager confirmed receipt of the seconding, as the address Stephen used to second Charles' nomination is frequently used by Stephen in ccNSO interactions.

## Nomination Observation 3: Supporting Documentation, Employer Letter of Support

As per the Selection Guideline, The Election Process Manager reached out to all nominees, inviting them to consider accepting their candidacy, with the instructions to complete forms or submit supporting documentation, prior to the deadline.

Chapter 6.2 of the Council Selection guideline covers the nomination acceptance process, including the required materials and the submission deadline.

*[...] "The Selection Process Manager will ask Nominees to confirm their nomination acceptance by completing the Nomination Acceptance Form. This must be submitted along with the following documentation:*

- *Employer's Letter of Support (from the ccTLD or another relevant organization), which must include an acknowledgment of the time commitment required.*
- *Nominees must also submit their Statement of Interest" [...]*

The Election Process Manager conveyed the following requirements to the nominees:

- Submit a completed Nomination Acceptance Form
- Provide an Employer Letter of Support from the ccTLD or another relevant organization confirming awareness of the role and the required time commitment

- Submit a written Candidate Statement
- Complete the ccNSO SOI Form
- Complete the ICANN Data Consent Form
- Ensure the nominee has an ICANN Account

Three nominees contacted the Election Process Manager seeking additional guidance on the Employer’s Letter of Support. Specifically, they asked whether a template was available, whether the letter required a signature, which level of the employer should issue the letter, what format should be used, and to whom the letter should be addressed.

When responding to the nominees, the Election Process Manager stated that, as the Council selection process was already underway, it would not be appropriate to introduce new rules or additional specifications at this stage. Consequently, nominees and their employers were advised to use their best judgment when preparing and submitting the requested materials.

In addition to the question by the nominees, the Election Process Manager noted that the guideline does not provide guidance on whether self-employed nominees are required to submit an Employer’s Letter of Support.

### **Recommendation**

The Election Process Manager recommends the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee to verify if and how the ccNSO Council Selection Guideline can provide further guidance regarding the requirement to submit an Employer Letter of Support.

## **Nomination Observation 4: Supporting Documentation, deadline**

Chapter 6.2 of the Council Selection guideline covers the nomination acceptance process, including the required materials and the submission deadline. Regarding the deadline, the guideline is explicit:

*“The nomination will be considered invalid if the Nomination Acceptance Form or any required documentation is not submitted by the end of the Nomination Acceptance Period.”*

One nominee expressed challenges to submit all materials in a timeline manner, especially the Employer Letter of Support, due to an important national holiday, creating a long break for the country.

The Election Process Manager confirmed that if the nominee has submitted the Nomination Acceptance Form on time and clearly indicated their intention to provide the letter of support at a later stage, this commitment will be considered sufficient to proceed, even if the letter of support follows shortly after the deadline.

## Recommendation

The Election Process Manager recommends the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee to verify if and how the ccNSO Council Selection Guideline can build in flexibility regarding the submission deadline.

## Nomination Observation 5: Supporting Documentation, SOI

Chapter 6.2 of the Council Selection guideline covers the nomination acceptance process, including the required materials and the submission deadline.

*[...]“The Selection Process Manager will ask Nominees to confirm their nomination acceptance by completing the Nomination Acceptance Form. This must be submitted along with the following documentation:*

- *Employer’s Letter of Support (from the ccTLD or another relevant organization), which must include an acknowledgment of the time commitment required.*
- *Nominees must also submit their Statement of Interest“[...]*

The Election Process Manager raises the question of whether nominees are required to re-submit their Statement of Interest (SOI) when accepting a nomination, particularly in cases where an SOI had already been submitted previously and there are no changes to the nominee’s affiliation.

## Recommendation

The Election Process Manager recommends the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee to verify if and how the ccNSO Council Selection Guideline can provide further guidance regarding when nominees are required to (re)submit the SOI.

## 3.5 Acceptance Nominations

The nomination period for the 2025 ccNSO Council elections closed on 30 September 2025 at 23:59 UTC. The following candidates have been nominated, seconded, and accepted their nominations in line with the established rules and timeline:

- Asia Pacific: Boyoung Kim, Sami Mohamed Ali
- Europe: Chris Disspain
- Latin America/Caribbean: Alejandra Reynoso
- North America: Charles Noir

All candidates participated in a Question & Answer session, held at ICANN84 in Dublin and submitted written candidate statements ahead of the Q&A. Andrew Lewela (.ke)

moderated the session, which provided the ccNSO members and broader ccTLD community an opportunity to interact with the candidates from their respective regions.

One nominee from the Latin America/Caribbean region, Margarita Valdés, declined the nomination.

On 14 October, in accordance with the Council-approved timeline, the Election Process Manager was required to announce the list of candidates. At that time, acceptance of the nomination by the African region nominee, Molehe Wesi, was still pending. Following further correspondence with Molehe Wesi, the Election Process Manager informed the community on 27 October that the sole nominee from the African region had not accepted the nomination. Consequently, at its 222nd meeting held during ICANN84, the Council decided to launch a new call for nominations for the African region seat, in line with the ICANN Bylaws, the ccNSO Council Selection Guidelines, and the timeline adopted by the Council. The special Council selection process for the African region is addressed in a separate report.

## **4 Regions without elections: Europe, Latin America/Caribbean North America**

As only one candidate was nominated and seconded within the nomination period for the, European, Latin America/Caribbean and North American ICANN geographical regions, no elections needed to be held in those regions. The nominated candidates agreed to participate in a Q&A session with the community. Since at the close of nominations there are no more valid candidates in the aforementioned geographic regions than there are seats on the ccNSO Council available for those regions, the nominated candidates shall be selected to serve on the ccNSO Council. The elected Councillors will take their seats at the end of the ICANN85 ccNSO Council meeting, in March 2026.

## **5 Region with election: Asia Australia Pacific**

In accordance with the applicable rules, two candidates from the Asia/Australia/Pacific were nominated, seconded and have accepted their nomination. Consequently, an election needed to be held among the ccNSO members of the Asia/Australia/Pacific Region, according to the timeline previously agreed upon by the ccNSO Council. Only ccNSO members from a Geographic Region are allowed to vote for candidates to the ccNSO Council from that Geographic Region. All candidates interacted with the ccNSO members and broader ccTLD community at a Question and Answer session, held during the ccNSO Members Meeting at ICANN84.

## 5.1 Launch of the election

Two candidates were nominated, seconded, and accepted their nominations in accordance with the established rules and timeline. An election was therefore conducted among ccNSO members from the region. The voting started on Tuesday, 18 November 2025, by 23:59 UTC.

A formal election notice was published on the ccNSO website and shared with the ccnsomembers@icann.org and ccnsocouncil@icann.org mailing lists. The election notice contained, among others, the following information:

- The names of the candidates and their candidate statements
- Information on how the election would be conducted
- Election opening and closing dates

The ballots were sent via eBallot, the voting tool used for this election, to the e-mail addresses of the Asia/Australia/Pacific ccNSO Members Emissaries.

Since the election was for one seat, each eligible Emissary was entitled to vote for up to one candidate. For each ballot, a maximum of 1 candidate could be selected. There was a possibility to submit ballots without selecting any of the candidates. Each Emissary received 1 ballot only. Emissaries could vote only once.

## 5.2 Closure of the election

The election closed on Tuesday, 9 December 2025, 23:59 UTC, according to the timeline previously agreed upon by the ccNSO Council.

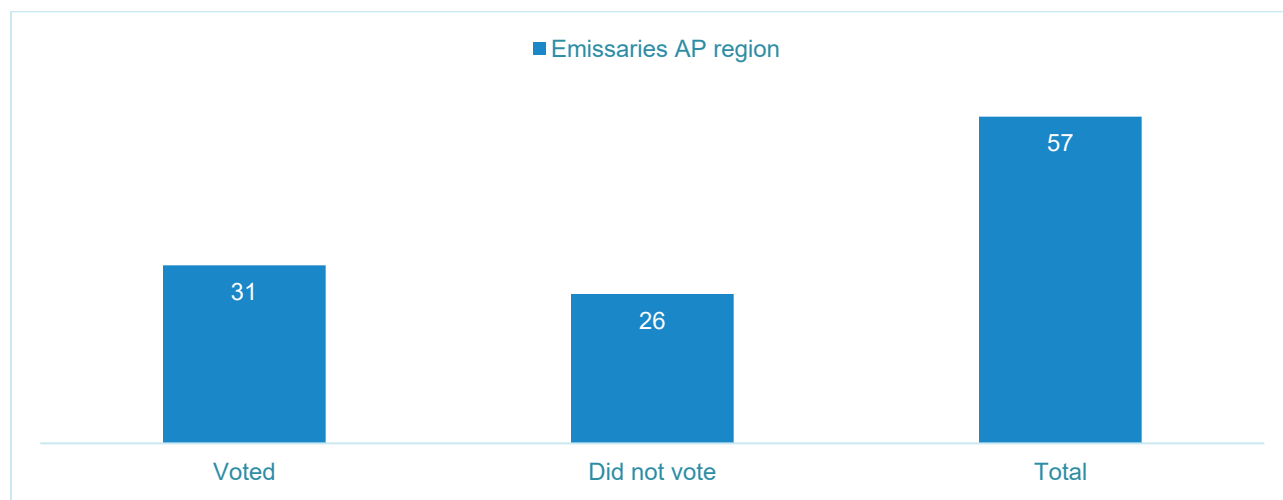
## 5.3 Election results

As per the relevant guideline, a majority of all the Emissaries in the Geographic Region entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum, and the selected candidate must receive the votes of a majority of those cast by the Emissaries from the Geographic Region. The winner is the candidate who receives the plurality of the votes. At the time of ballot distribution, there were 58 members from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region, corresponding to 57 Territories and 57 Emissaries. Each Emissary received one (1) unique ballot.

Voting Outcome:

- Total votes cast: 31 Emissaries (54% turnout)
- Boyoung Kim (.kr): 11 votes
- Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh): 20 votes

The quorum was successfully met, and the candidate with the majority of votes cast, Sami Mohamed Ali, has been elected.



## 5.4 Election observations

### Election Observation 1: quorum specification

According to the ccNSO Council Election Guideline and Article 10.4.i of the ICANN Bylaws, a majority of all eligible Emissaries in the Geographical Region constitutes a quorum, and the elected candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the Emissaries from the geographical region. The winner shall be the candidate who receives the plurality of the votes.

Regarding the decision-making by the ccNSO Membership, the ccNSO Internal Rules specify that the quorum for electronic votes by the ccNSO members shall be at least thirty-three percent (33%) of the total number of possible Emissary votes and at least the vote of three (3) Emissaries per ICANN Region. The Internal Rules also specify that provisions in section 2 of the ccNSO internal rules shall apply to all voting by the ccNSO Membership, unless otherwise provided in the ICANN Bylaws or the Rules.

Furthermore, as per the ccNSO Internal rules, the governance of the ccNSO is based on three different sources. In the event of conflict, they are ranked in order of precedence:

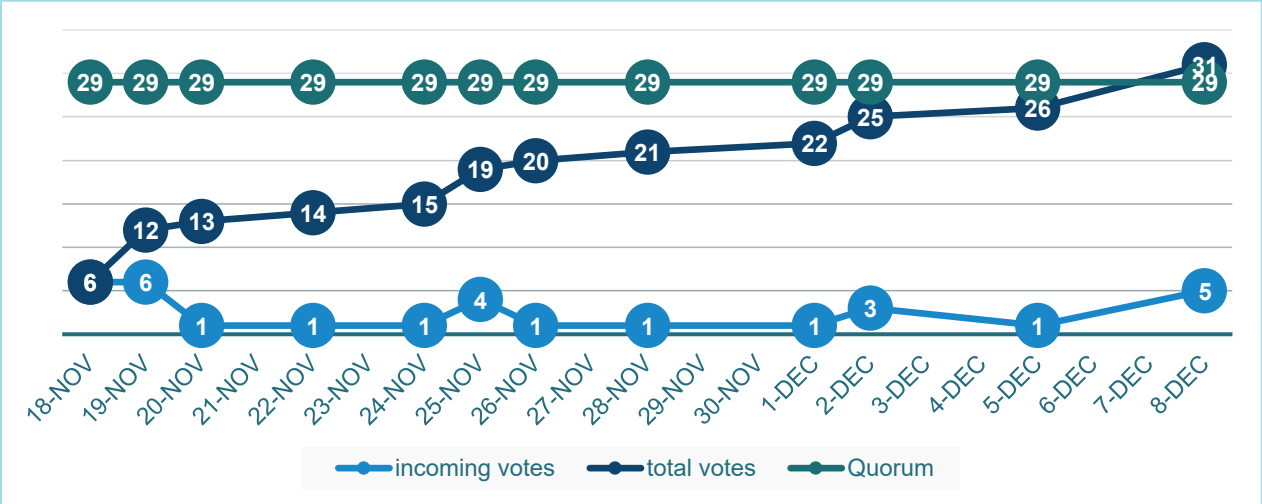
- a. First: The ICANN Bylaws.
- b. Second: The Rules for the ccNSO Membership (hereinafter - Rules).
- c. Third: Operating Procedures (also referred to as “ccNSO Guidelines”).

The purpose of the Operating Procedures is to set forth a detailed course of action for operational or administrative activities. These are developed at the initiative of the ccNSO Council.

# Election Observation 1: meeting the quorum

According to the ccNSO Council Election guideline and Article 10.4.i of the ICANN Bylaws, a majority of all eligible Emissaries in the Geographical Region constitutes a quorum, and the elected candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the Emissaries from the geographical region. The winner shall be the candidate who receives the plurality of the votes.

The election process manager sent individual heads ups to the Emissaries, encouraging the Emissaries to please vote, both prior to election start, and while the vote was ongoing. Several reminders via the ccNSO members mailing list – including general reminders to make sure the members are aware who their Emissary is, and to contact the Secretariat for updates or clarity. Reminders were also sent via the voting tool to eligible voters who have not yet voted (24, 26 November, 1, 3, 8 and 9 December) . Regional Organisation representatives and individual Councilors also reached out to members from their region.



# Election Observation 2 and recommendation: procedure when quorum is not met

Nor the ICANN Bylaws, nor the ccNSO Council election Guideline provide guidance regarding what needs to happen when the quorum cannot be reached.

### Recommendation

The Election Process Manager recommends the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee to verify if and how the ccNSO Council Election Guideline can be adjusted to provide guidance what needs to happen if the quorum is not met.

## Election Observation 3: voting tool

Mid 2025, ICANN retired Tally, the voting tool used for previous ccNSO elections. The ccNSO Secretariat received trainings to use eBallot, the tool chosen to replace Tally. The ccNSO membership was informed about the new tool and how to access ballots going forward. From a staff perspective, setting up and managing the vote has proven somewhat challenging, as the tool is not intuitive and the implications of certain settings are complex. Voters did not report any issues with the new tool.

Highlights of a quick Tally – eBallot comparison:

- **Vote changes:** eBallot does not allow voters to change their vote once it has been cast. Tally allows unlimited voting, with only the last vote being counted.
- **Time zones:** eBallot does not support UTC; it only allows selection of times relative to GMT.
- **Email delivery:** eBallot sends emails via a third-party service, which may cause minor delays. Bounced emails are not immediately visible and must be generated separately by eBallot support staff.

## 6 Conclusion

The elected candidates are:

- Asia Pacific: Sami Mohamed Ali
- Europe: Chris Disspain
- Latin America/Caribbean: Alejandra Reynoso
- North America: Charles Noir

The Council Election process 2025 will formally close 7 days after adoption and publication of this report. The ccNSO Council Chair is requested to provide the ICANN Secretary prompt written notice of the selection of ccNSO Council members under section 10.4 (i) of the ICANN Bylaws. The Secretariat is requested to publish the report on the ccNSO website.

# ANNEX A: References

- Council Election-related announcements, including webinar save the dates, call for nominations, election notices and results:  
<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/about/elections/council.htm>
- Candidate statements
  - [ALI Council CandidateStatement 2025.pdf](#)
  - [REYNOSO Council CandidateStatement 2025.pdf](#)
  - [KIM Council CandidateStatement 2025.pdf](#)
  - [DISSPAIN Council CandidateStatement 2025.pdf](#)
  - [NOIR Council CandidateStatement 2025.pdf](#)
- Question and Answer session ICANN84  
<https://sched.co/29QO2>
- ICANN Bylaws, article 10  
<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article10>
- ccNSO Council Election Guideline  
<https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/guideline-ccnso-council-election-procedure-15dec22-en.pdf>
- ccNSO Membership Internal Rules  
<https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/field-attached/internal-membership-rules-26oct22-en.pdf>
- Nominate & second: archives  
<https://lists.icann.org/hyperkitty/list/ccnso-nominations@icann.org/>

Elements highlighted were personalized.

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**From:** Joke Braeken <joke.braeken@icann.org>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 21 October 2025 at 18:21  
**To:** Emissary email address  
**Subject:** Heads-Up: You Are Listed as Voting Emissary for Your ccTLD – Upcoming ccNSO Council Elections (AP Region)

Country or Territory: placeholder  
E-mail address Emissary: placeholder

Dear Emissary,

Following ICANN84, on 18 November, the ccNSO Council elections for the Asia/Australia/Pacific region will begin.

You are listed as the designated voting Emissary for [Country or Territory] in this election. As the Emissary, you will receive the ballot and will be responsible for casting your Country/Territory's vote.

CCNSO.ICANN.ORG

Please take a moment to ensure you can receive emails from [noreply@eballot.com](mailto:noreply@eballot.com), as this is the address from which the voting link will be sent. Ballots will be distributed by email no later than 18 November.

For reference, there are two candidates standing for election: Boyoung Kim (.kr) and Sami Mohamed Ali (.bh). Both candidates will participate in a Q&A session on Wednesday, 29 October 2025 (15:00 - 16:00 UTC) during the ccNSO Members Meeting at ICANN84. You are warmly invited to join the Q&A or watch the recording. Go to <https://sched.co/29QO2>. Additional information, including candidate statements and the election timeline, is available here: <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/about/elections/council.htm>

If you have any questions or if you believe you are listed in error, please contact Joke Braeken ([joke.braeken@icann.org](mailto:joke.braeken@icann.org)) as soon as possible.

Thank you for your participation in this important process.

Best regards,

Joke Braeken, ccNSO Election Process Manager

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**From:** Joke Braeken <[joke.braeken@icann.org](mailto:joke.braeken@icann.org)>  
**Date:** Monday, 1 December 2025 at 16:06  
**To:** Emissary email address  
**Subject:** Reminder to please vote: ccNSO Council Election AP region

Dear ccNSO Emissary,

I am writing to kindly remind you to cast your vote in the ongoing ccNSO/AP-Region election, to select one ccNSO Council member from the region. To date, only 23 members have voted, and we have not yet reached the required quorum for a valid outcome. Quorum is achieved when more than half of the Emissaries in the region vote. The region counts 57 Emissaries in total.

Earlier today, a reminder was sent to all Emissaries who have not yet voted. If you haven't already done so, please review the election notice and submit your vote.

Read more here: <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-17nov25-en.htm>

To locate the ballot, look out for the e-mail from [@votenet.com](mailto:@votenet.com) or [@eballot.com](mailto:@eballot.com)

Your participation is important — every vote counts and helps ensure a representative outcome for the Region.

If you have questions, I am happy to help.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joke Braeken

[joke.braeken@icann.org](mailto:joke.braeken@icann.org)

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