

ccNSO Council Special African Region Elections 2026

Election Report

Name

16 January 2026

ICANN | ccNSO

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1 Executive Summary

Five ccNSO Council seats with terms ending in March 2026 were opened for nominations from 9–30 September 2025, with nominees required to accept their nominations by 10 October 2025. While nominations were received, the sole nominee from the African region did not accept the nomination, resulting in no eligible candidate for that regional seat.

In accordance with the ICANN Bylaws, the ccNSO Council Selection Guideline, and the Council-adopted timeline, the Council initiated a special call for nominations limited to the African region. This elected candidate for the African region Council seat is Grace Ingabire Mwikarago.

The special African region Council Election process for 2026 will formally close seven days after the adoption and publication of this report.

2 Nomination Period

2.1 Launch and Closure

Joke Braeken was appointed Election Process Manager. In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period started on 13 November 2026. The call for nominations was posted on the ccNSO website and shared with the ccNSO members and ccNSO Council mailing lists. In accordance with the approved timeline, the nomination period closed on 4 December 2025 (23:59 UTC).

2.2 Nomination Results

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

- Kouadio Assi Donald Landry (.ci) nominated Grace Ingabire on 13 November 2025
- Felix Ndayirukiye (.bi) seconded Grace’s nomination on 19 November 2025.
- Adesola Akinsanya (.ng) seconded Grace’s nomination on 26 November 2025.

Please note the Nomination Observations below. There have been no further nominations or secondings.

2.3 Nomination Observations

These observations are added for transparency purposes. The election process manager did not receive any questions or comments from the ccTLD community regarding any of the topics referred to in the observations. Drawing on lessons learned from the most recent regular Council selection process, the Election Process Manager recommends that the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee undertake a review of the ccNSO Council Selection Guideline.

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 seconding of the nomination by Felix Ndayirukiye (.bi) was submitted by a non-Representative. The Election Process Manager sent a copy of the nomination to the respective ccTLD Representative but did not received confirmation about the validity of the seconding. Since Grace was validly seconded by another Representative, this did not affect her 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.

2.4 Acceptance Nominations

In accordance to the applicable rules, one candidate was nominated, seconded and has accepted her nomination for the Council election: Grace Ingabire Mwikarago.

Grace submitted a written candidate statement. In her nomination acceptance form, she mentioned she was aware of and consents to the criteria set forth in Section 7.4 (b), Section 8.8 and Article 10 of the ICANN Bylaws as well as the applicable ccNSO Council Election Guideline. She also consented to the processing of her personal data in accordance with the ICANN Privacy Policy. During its 224th meeting in December 2025, Council determined there would be no Question & Answer session, as there is only one candidate.

3 Election

As only one candidate was nominated and seconded within the nomination period for the European ICANN geographical region, no election needed to be held in the region. Since at the close of nominations there are no more valid candidates in the aforementioned geographic region than there are seats on the ccNSO Council available for the region, the nominated candidate shall be selected to serve on the ccNSO Council. The elected Councillors will take their seats after Council's adoption of the Election Report.

4 Conclusion

The elected candidate is Grace Ingabire Mwikarago. The special African region Council Election process 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: Links

- Election Report Regular Council Selection Process 2026
https://icann-community.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ccNSOCWS/pages/103124011/18+December+2025+-+18+00+UTC+224#:~:text=Councilelectionreport2026_16Dec25
- Announcements regarding Council Selection
<https://www.icann.org/en/ccnso/members/decisions/council-elections>
- Candidate Statement Grace Ingabire
<https://itp.cdn.icann.org/en/files/council/council-2026-candidate-statement-ingabire-mwikarago-18-12-2025-en.pdf>
- Statement of Interest Grace Ingabire
<https://icann-community.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ccnsowkspc/pages/108414594/ccNSO+Statement+of+Interests>
- 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/>