

Montréal, October 2019

**Your ccNSO-elected ICANN Board Member Nigel Roberts
reports back to our Community**

Dear Colleagues, dear friends,

One year on!

It's almost exactly one year since I joined the Board. This Thursday we welcome two new Members: [Mandla Msimang](#) and [Ihab Osman](#), both of whom are appointed through the Nominating Committee ("*NomCom*"). They have been taking part in our work for several months already so the transition this week should be seamless. Please say hello to them when you see them next. (Maarten Botterman is also re-appointed by *NomCom* for a further term on the Board).

Departing Colleagues

Whilst we are gaining two colleagues, this means we are losing two: [Khaled Koubaa](#) decided not to re-apply to the *NomCom* because of a change in work circumstances, and, of course, our Chair, [Cherine Chalaby](#) will be leaving because he has served the maximum term of 9 years. Please join with me in thanking them for their service to the Community and wishing them both well.

Board Leadership 2019-2020

Due to Cherine's departure, a new Board Chair needed to be elected, along with a Vice-Chair, and a Chair of the Board Governance Committee. After a selection process which was considered at some length (and seemed to me occasionally to be a little akin to a Papal Conclave), Maarten Botterman was elected as Chair, to be supported by [León Sánchez](#) as Vice-Chair and [Tripti Sinha](#) as BGC Chair.

Board Seat 11

As I mentioned last time, our other ccNSO-elected Board Member Chris Disspain, has served the ccNSO community ably for a long time and is now 'term-limited'. Our Chris will leave the Board at the 2020 AGM at Hamburg in October of next year. We must make the most of his skills and experience in the remaining time.

The process to select his replacement is well under way, with a field of three candidates: **Calvin Browne**, **Patricio Poblete** and **Nigel Phair**. I am very pleased to see there is a choice of several candidates with between them over forty-something years of service to, and participation in, our ICANN community and am very confident that I and my colleagues on the Board will be able to work extremely well with whomever you elect.

As you will also know, there was the candidate hustings yesterday which took the form of a robust and vigorous question-and-answer session. Two of the candidates were able to be there in person, with the third joining the

debate remotely via *Zoom*. I would urge every ccNSO-member ccTLD to make sure they cast their vote, so that the successful candidate (whoever it will be) will know they have your positive support.

Training

I'm happy to report that ICANN strongly supports individual Board Members in our professional development as Board members, and accordingly, I have in the last few months completed all of the five courses offered by the *Institute of Directors* towards the award of the Diploma in Company Direction. These cover: the *Role of the Board and Directors*, *Finance*, *Leadership*, *Strategy* and *Developing Board Performance*, all of which have already been very helpful in my work on the Board. If you would like to know more about this, just ask.

Committee Work

This year I served on two Committees: the *Board Audit Committee (BAC)*, and the *Board Accountability Mechanisms Committee (BAMC)*.

The Audit Committee is of course, very important in that it oversees the work of our auditors, BDO. The most recent Financial Statements are as ever, [downloadable](#) from the ICANN website. The BAMC can, perhaps, be regarded as the judicial branch of ICANN, and it deals with the work, formerly done in the Board Governance Committee of Reconsideration Requests and Independent Review Process.

My time on the Audit Committee this year has been extremely worthwhile, interesting and has expanded my skills in this area. However, at my request, to broaden my experience. in the forthcoming year I shan't be staying on that committee, and instead I expect to serve on the *Board Technical Committee* a.k.a. BTC (which I already have a strong background in) and *Board Risk Committee (BRC)*. I also expect to continue my work on BAMC in more depth. (Board Committees will be confirmed at a Board Meeting tomorrow, Thursday 7th November 2019).

Office Hours

As you know, I am always available to you at any time if you have any questions about our work on the Board, or just want general background. And, as I think it is very important for the ccNSO-elected members to maintain their connection with the Community, for Cancun and onwards, there will be a new possibility to get information about the Board and its work, and what I'm doing. This is sometimes known as 'Office Hours or (in the UK) as "surgery"', where you will be able to come and talk about anything at all relating to the Board, or just drop in to make contact. There will be cookies. (More information just before the meeting).

With best wishes

Nigel