

To: GNSO Council and Nominating Committee Appointee

From: Sam Lanfranco, Candidate for Board Seat 14 Lanfran@yorku.ca –or- sam@lanfranco.net

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RE: Personal Statement of Interest and Capabilities as a Candidate for Board Seat 14

I consider it an honor to be nominated for ICANN seat 14 and an excellent opportunity to bring my skills and experience more deeply to the service of ICANN. For those who do not know me, I am providing this statement of interest and capabilities. I have earlier submitted a CV (copy attached) that highlights my career history relevant to being on the Board of ICANN. This statement and that CV can serve as a basis for follow up questions.

I look forward to working on the ICANN Board. I see the next stage in the business of ICANN as both exciting and demanding, and closely aligned with my skills, knowledge and expertise. Over the past three decades I have spent a career in academia, business and civil society working on Internet related issues in research and education, in ICT for Development, in business, and with civil society groups. I bring considerable Internet ecosystem experience to the table.

My wide Board experience makes me a welcomed addition to the ICANN board, as one who understands Board processes, can carry Board work obligations, and will make useful contributions to dialogue and decision making. Lastly, formally trained as an economist and a social scientist, I have a deep understanding of the interests, concerns and perspectives, and commercial and governance issues important to each of the stakeholder groups involved in ICANN. I also understand the challenges faced by multistakeholder governance.

My experience working in the Internet ecosystem started in the 1970's with UNCTAD (Geneva) where we were early to understand how the digital revolution would drive ICT for Development. I started working with UUCP email and low earth orbit satellites (LEOS). In the 1980's I built micro computer labs at universities in Canada and with FLACSO in Ecuador. I helped with the establishment of APC, FreeNet, and email links in Canada, Latin America, China and Russia. I continue to work with civil society groups in Africa and India. In pre-Web days I built (still flourishing) listserv communities of practice in the areas of travel health, third sector research, and global health, among others. I developed the proposal for the IDRC based Bellanet Secretariat, funded by Canada's CIDA and IDRC, The MacArthur Foundation, Netherlands DGIS, The Rockefeller Foundation, Swedish Sida and the UNDP. For its first five years I was seconded to Bellanet to foster inter-agency collaboration through more effective uses of ICT for development. After a decade of operation it became the currently existing Bellanet Alliance.

In the early 2000's, working with a New York law firm, I was involved in Internet bootcamps and start-ups. I am a founder and remain a shareholder in studentuniverse.com. This breadth and depth of experience has equipped me well as a participant across a wide range of core Internet policy areas such as the domain name system (DNS), Whois [RDS] privacy and security, intellectual property protection, Net Neutrality policy, and Internet governance issues and challenges within the Internet ecosystem.

I have served as a member, and Chair, and some cases help found, the Boards of large institutions with large budgets and broad mandates (e.g., Doctors Hospital Board, Habitat for Humanity Canada, Canadian Society for International Health). I have served and Chaired small Boards with few resources and local mandates (e.g., Milford Fair Board), serving during major expansions and major downsizing. I have served on Boards with formal Board training and Boards where there was only learning-while-doing. I have worked with Boards with formal separation between policy setting and management, and with local Boards members where members assumed both Board and management responsibilities.

In policy dialogue I am quick to understand how structures and processes relate to context. My contributions tend to be: (1) clarity of context; (2) due diligence; (3) precautionary principle implications; and (4) matching information and expertise to context. Starting from this base, it is easier to resolve differences in understanding and make progress in the face of conflicting positions.

I have adequate time to carry out the duties of an ICANN board member. I am Professor Emeritus and Senior Scholar at York University. I have no work duties other than my intent to continue working in the areas of ICT for development, Internet governance, and issues arising from the Internet ecosystem. I have returned to the farm life of my California youth, but now on a Canadian island county in Lake Ontario where Canadian winters put the farm to sleep for six months of the year. The growing season is managed in collaboration with neighboring farmers. As a result, in addition to the dedication and abilities, I will have as much time as necessary to attend to duties as a member of the ICANN Board of Directors.

I trust that this personal statement and the accompanying short CV demonstrate my depth of interest and my abilities as a candidate for the ICANN Board of Directors. I look forward to any questions you may have.