BC OFFICER ELECTIONS 2014 - Candidate Statements

Elisa Cooper, Thomson Reuters – Standing for Chair

My name is Elisa Cooper and I am a Senior Director of Product Marketing for Thomson Reuters. I have 12 years of domain name industry experience with broad domain name expertise spanning from functional knowledge to policy development. I have worked with many Fortune 1000 companies in assisting with domain name and brand protection policy development.

Over the past 12 years, I have followed ICANN closely and have been part of the team that has developed policy. I have personally written and submitted numerous comments to ICANN on behalf of our clients. In the past year, I have served as the Chair for the Business Constituency, and prior to that I served as the CSG Representative for the Business Constituency.

As a candidate for the position of Business Constituency Chair, I understand that I will be responsible for coordinating our participation within ICANN.

If elected to the position of the Business Constituency Chair, I intend to continue to focus my efforts on:

- Identifying issues of importance to Business Constituency members
- Bringing greater value to Business Constituency members through analysis of key issues
- Making it easier for businesses to participate in ICANN through the Business Constituency
- Better utilization of ICANN staff to explain reports, policies and initiatives to group
- Distributing leadership opportunities across the Business Constituency
- Improving transparency and input on Business Constituency budget
- Amending bylaws to include term limits and requiring elections for positions in which there are more interested than slots allowed

I will follow the policy and other positions of the Business Constituency and recuse myself and be clear about my affiliation when I cannot.

Lastly, I will fully participate in the work of the position nominated for, which requires significant time commitment to fulfill the duties of the position on behalf of Business Constituency members.

Best,

Elisa Cooper

Steve DelBianco, NetChoice – Standing for Vice Chair for Policy Coordination

BC members,

After serving 4 years as our first vice chair for policy coordination, I'm seeking reelection for 2014.

In the past 4 years, I believe we have raised members' _awareness_ and _participation_ in policy matters. One tool for raising _awareness_ is our regular policy calendar. Another is ad-hoc emails and calls where I try to succinctly describe a relevant issue with links to external docs and prior BC positions.

Raising _participation_ levels remains a challenge, since members' time is limited because of other obligations. Still, we published a record number (22) of positions/statements on key policy issues during 2013. And we made significant policy impacts outside of the public comment process as well.

In this role I also support our BC representatives on GNSO Council. As they are directly engaged in policy debates and voting, our Councilors deserve timely and specific guidance from the BC membership on relevant issues.

In the year ahead, the BC must press general business interests at ICANN. 2014 is the year where ICANN will delegate over 1000 new gTLDs, including single-registrant 'brand' TLDs for several BC member companies. As new gTLDs are launched we'll quickly assess the effectiveness of rights protection mechanisms and Public Interest Commitments by gTLD operators.

Later in 2014, ICANN will begin the Affirmation review on whether the gTLD expansion has promoted Consumer Trust, Consumer Choice, and Competition. I served on both the first and now the second working group to develop definitions and metrics for that review.

Beyond new gTLDs, ICANN has placed itself in the center of a debate over the roles of governments and intergovernmental organizations.   I believe the BC should defend ICANN's multi-stakeholder model while also pressing ICANN leadership to refrain from top-down strategic initiatives that would take ICANN beyond its narrow technical mandate.

If the membership returns me to this post, I would work to improve the breadth of participation by BC members. We have recently seen some new volunteers step-up to draft BC positions.   I hope my support and coordination has helped these volunteers have a positive experience.

BC members may have additional ideas on how the vice chair for policy coordination could be more effective.   If re-elected, I look forward to hearing those ideas.

Statement of Interest:

For 13 years I have been executive director of NetChoice, a coalition of e-commerce companies and online services, including AoL, eBay, Expedia, Facebook, 21st Century Fox, Liberty Interactive, Overstock, VeriSign, Yahoo, and several thousand small online sellers, primarily in the US. (see http://www.netchoice.org)

I set the policy agenda for NetChoice and frequently testify at international fora, before the US Congress, and in state legislatures, on issues relating to Internet governance, e-commerce taxation, privacy, and consumer protection.   I represent NetChoice at ICANN meetings and at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). I also publish research and policy documents and maintain a blog at http://blog.netchoice.org

I have no financial ownership or management role in any registries, registrars or other firms that are, or aspire to be, contract parties with ICANN. Please note that one of my member companies is a large registry operator, and some of my member companies have applied for new gTLDs.

The basis of my interest in ICANN is to maintain the integrity and availability of e-commerce and internet services.

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Steve DelBianco

Jimson Olufuye, AfICTA – Standing for Vice Chair for Finance & Operations

Dear BC colleagues,

Warm greetings…

It is with pleasure that I accept the nomination to be the Vice-Chair, Finance and Operations of the BC. This is an honor for any member of the BC, and I do appreciate the confidence reposed on me.

As many of you already know, I am the lead representative of AfICTA – Africa ICT Alliance, in BC. On inception in 2012, one of our first initiatives was to apply to join the BC and I have had the privilege to add value to BC Outreach efforts during the 1st Summit of AfICTA in Lagos last year. Our members are also part of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), so we fully appreciate and support the BC's role within ICANN and have a strong history of engagement with ICANN, including hosting ICANN's Chairman/CEO/President and Board members in many events. Members of AfICTA have held past leadership roles at ICANN, and AfICTA is also an ICC-BASIS member.

I am currently a member of the Credential Committee and it has been a delight for me to contribute to BC comments on WHOIS Misuse Report and currently on the Expert Working Group Status Update Report. If given the opportunity, I'll keep and sustain this momentum.

I am familiar with the BC Charter in particular on the role expectation viz coordination with the Secretariat with regard to

- operational aspects of the constituency
- coordination with outreach liaisons
- coordination with other ICANN bodies outside of the GNSO excepting coordination with the CSG or on policy development.

I will do the above to the best of my ability knowing fully well the time commitment for both online and face-to-face meetings. I have interacted with the outgoing Vice-Chair, distinguished Chris Chaplow and he has committed to support the transitional process.

Prior to my current role as AfICTA Chair, I was the Vice-Chair (2009-2011) for Africa of WITSA. Between 2007 and 2011, I was the President of the Information Technology (Industry) Association of Nigeria (ITAN). While my day job for 19 years has been as the CEO of Kontemporary, a systems Integration, capacity building and ICT consulting firm based in Abuja, Nigeria; I've committed a significant part of my time to volunteer activities to advance the ICT and Internet revolution of our time.

In that regard, I've played active roles in shaping national, regional and global Internet Governance policies and principles through my result oriented participation as;
1. panelist and speaker in Internet Governance Fora (IGF) 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
2. member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), 2012 - 2014
3. one of five (5) business representatives in the United Nations Commission for Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Improvement to the IGF, 2010 – 2012.
4. Business member of the Nigerian delegation to the WCIT-12 and coordinator of engagement with US and European industry dialogues during WCIT-12
5. one of five (5) business representatives in the United Nations Commission for Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Enhanced Co-operation, 2013 –; and now

With regard to my academic background, I received a BSc degree in Applied Mathematics & Statistics from the University of Lagos, in 1988; a Master of Technology in Math/Computer Science from the Federal University of Technology, Minna in 2000 and a PhD 2007 in Strategic Management from the Irish University Business School, London.

I have consulted for the Nigerian Government, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Union (EU) and the World Bank on ICT projects in Nigeria and across West Africa.

I will look forward to asking for your vote, but for now, I wanted to let you know that I'm willing and ready to support BC in another capacity as its Vice Chair, Finance and Operations and thus enriching the ICANN we believe in, a dynamic, bottom-up, global and diverse MS institution for the stability, secure and resiliency of one Internet for our world.

Thank you.

Jimson Olufuye

Marilyn Cade, MCade LLC – Standing for Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) Representative

I have been nominated and seconded as candidate for CSG Representative to the BC, and want to express my appreciation for the nominations. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my candidacy, any questions that members have, and ask for your vote during the upcoming election for the one year term as CSG representative.

I was honored to be the CSG rep during the past year, and to contribute to the team effort of your ExComm to support the success of the BC.

As members know, the BC has an ExComm composed of the four officers and our two GNSO Councilors. The primary role for the CSG is to collaborate within the ExComm, understanding members concerns and views, and support and advance collaboration with the other CSG constituencies on behalf of the BC's interests.

This year, we will also have an increased opportunity to collaborate and engage with the rest of the 'House', as the NPOC and NCUC /NCSG, and our SG-CSG, will elect a Board member.

With the increased concern by BC members about governance of ICANN, and also Internet governance, additional focus is needed on engagement within the CSG, the House, and with the Contracted Party House. ICANN's rapid change is also presenting many challenges to the BC and our sister Constituencies, to ensure that our members concerns are being taken into account. It will be a busy year in 2014, with all the key policy issues, as well as the Strat Plan, expansion of ICANN, and proposed changes in the external Internet ecosystem. An effective and cohesive and expanding BC is critical to ensure that business users concerns are fully taken into account.

The CSG also helps to coordinate and collaborate in planning the face to face CSG engagements at the ICANN meetings, and I will continue to collaborate with the BC membership, and the BC Excomm to ensure that members interests are supported in those engagements. We have successfully used the sessions to engage with the GAC, with the Board; 2014 will bring us three excellent opportunities, with the London Meeting bringing high level government participation.   As CSG rep, I will commit to working to advance our ability to take advance of these opportunities.

The CSG representative supports the BC ExComm's and members perspectives through working as part of the leadership team and I look forward to contributing to the collaborative processes that we have built within the BC.

All of the officer and councilor roles are opportunities to collaborate with BC members, and to work in support of your concerns and interests. I am able to commit the time needed to fulfill this role and will value the opportunity to support the BC's members in the role of the CSG Representative.

I welcome questions from the BC members.

Marilyn Cade