January 26, 2015

GNSO Council

Attn: Jonathan Robinson, Chair

Via e-mail to jonathan.robinson@ipracon.com

Dear Jonathan,

SCI is pleased to report the election of officers for 2015 as follows: Chair – Anne Aikman-Scalese (IPC), Vice Chair – Lori Schulman (NPOC).

SCI is currently planning its work for 2015 and is seeking further direction from Council in this regard. As you know, the SCI’s Charter is to review and assess the effective functioning of the GNSO Procedures and WG guidelines. This work falls into two general categories: (1) requests for review from Council relating to immediate problems and (2) periodic review of all procedures and guidelines in order to identify possible issues and/or improvements.

We would appreciate any suggestions or requests that Council may have. We understand that two matters raised previously by SCI were temporarily put on hold, but believe that the SCI’s focus on improvements is a positive aspect of ICANN’s overall accountability and should be ongoing in accordance with its Charter. Further possibilities for 2015 SCI work include:

1. **Review of Operating Procedures Relating to “Friendly Amendments” to Motions.** The SCI notes that the Council’s approach to “friendly amendments” is not defined and that this can lead to inconsistent handling of proposed amendments. SCI recommends clarification of procedures for identifying and acting on friendly amendments. We understand that this topic was put on hold in the January 15, 2015 GNSO Council meeting and are asking that Council provide further direction as to whether this matter should be undertaken by SCI following the meeting in Singapore.
2. **Voting Thresholds.** We note that this topic was put on hold in the January 15, 2015 GNSO Council meeting and assume this topic is more complicated in nature. We ask that Council advise SCI, through its liaison, Avri Doria, in the event Council wishes to refer this issue to SCI.
3. **Full Review of GNSO Operating Procedures (including PDP Manual and WG Guidelines).** It has been noted that SCI’s periodic review responsibilities will require a full review of the GNSO Operating Procedures at the appropriate time.

We are aware that the results of the GNSO Review are likely to impact SCI’s work in 2015. As such, we would expect that item 3. above should await the results of the GNSO Review and be prioritized along with other potential work items arising from that Review. On the other hand, we believe that Item 1 above could proceed immediately if Council chooses to refer this matter after discussion during the time tentatively scheduled with Avri Doria, SCI liaison, on February 7 in Singapore.

We look forward to receiving your response to the suggestions above and the Council’s view on how we prioritize our work for 2015. Pending Council’s response, SCI will begin work on a proposed work plan for its periodic review function, factoring into this consideration the results of the Westlake Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne

Anne Aikman-Scalese

SCI 2015 Chair