

# **Evolving the Standing Committee on ICANN Budget & Operations (SCBO)**



John McElwaine, GNSO Council Vice-Chair

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# Current State

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- The GNSO Council Standing Committee on ICANN's Budget and Operations (SCBO) limited to comments on annual budgetary cycle, and **only as it relates to the GNSO Council's remit.**
- **Membership is limited to Councilors only, but participants from GNSO SG/Cs with relevant expertise are welcomed.**
- The SCBO has typically operated from October to March of the following year for each budget cycle, producing comments for:
  - PTI/IANA Operating Plan and Budget (Sep - Nov)
  - ICANN Org five year operating and financial plan, including a specific fiscal year operating plan and budget (Dec - Mar)
  - Five Year Strategic Plan (5 year cycle)
- Each previous budget and planning cycle consisted of **approximately ten meetings, across several months,** for the SCBO.

# Issues/Concerns With Current State

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- In recent years, interest in planning and the budget has waned.
- Comments from SCBO have generally been high level and recently, they simply **emphasize or reiterate comments from past**.
- Participation from Councilors can be limited, with SG/C participants often engaging more: **can push discussion beyond the narrow remit of the Council's gTLD policy-making** which are more **appropriately limited to SG/C comment**.
- There is a **lack of a consistent platform for the SGs/Cs to engage with ICANN Finance and Planning team**, especially broadly across the GNSO.
- Drafts comments submitted to GNSO Council received **little to no additional input**. Timing, as a result of the Bylaws, never allowed for the GNSO Council to formally adopt the comment and are **submitted via non-objection**.

In summary: ***Is the investment in time and effort worth the outputs?  
Is there a better way to approach the subject area?***

# Proposed Path Forward for the SCBO

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The newly envisioned SCBO would serve as an **open, central forum** (“town hall”) for the **GNSO Council AND all SG/Cs** interested to collaborate as necessary with respect to ICANN's strategic and operational planning and budgetary processes. The charter would be amended to loosen membership requirements for broader participation by those interested. This new format would allow Council/SG/Cs to:

- *Primarily: Interface with ICANN finance in a coordinated and more efficient manner to gather information, ask questions, etc; doing so is also envisioned to help in knowledge transfer and dissemination between and amongst the various GNSO groups.*
- In addition: Discuss budgetary topics of interest amongst the GNSO Council and SG/Cs if desired.
- And: Coordinate on public comments when and only if applicable (e.g., if there is broad support to submit a comment that is in relation to the GNSO’s role as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community).

# Proposed Path Forward for the SCBO, cont.

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However, it is important to also note what the newly envisioned SCBO will NOT do:

- It will NOT prevent the GNSO Council or any SG/C from meeting individually and in order to develop its public comment.
- **It will also NOT develop a singular GNSO public comment; the Council and SG/Cs must retain the ability to submit individual public comments, *as they do now*.**

# Questions to Consider

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- Will the new SCBO format impact participation of GNSO members in the annual budget and planning process (positively or negatively)?
- Would the new format add value? Would it provide new information beyond the Finance and Planning team's existing outreach (e.g., webinars, two week period for the community to submit clarifying questions)?
- Would the new format impact how GNSO community groups and/or Council produce comments, based on past public comment cycles (positively or negatively)?
- Would the new format materially impede the GNSO's role as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community? If so, how?

If the proposal does not seem to add value: Would it be adequate to provide for a GNSO specific SCBO mailing list to disseminate information, coordinate, and/or organize ad hoc engagement sessions?

# Engage with ICANN



## Thank You and Questions

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