

# **Board Governance Committee Charter |As approved by the ICANN Board of Directors on 26 October 2023**

## **I. Purpose**

The Board Governance Committee is responsible for:

- A. Assisting the Board to enhance its performance;
- B. Leading the Board in periodic review of its performance, including its relationship with ICANN's Chief Executive Officer;
- C. Creating and recommending to the full Board for approval a slate of nominees for Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, Chair and membership of each Board Committee, including filling any vacancies which may occur in these positions during the year; and overseeing the creation and membership of Board Working Groups, Board Caucuses, and other Board groups;
- D. Oversight of compliance with ICANN's Board of Directors' Code of Conduct;
- E. Administration of ICANN's Conflicts of Interest Policy;
- F. Recommending to the Board corporate governance guidelines applicable to ICANN as a global, private sector corporation serving in the public interest;
- G. Recommending to the Board a nominee for the Chair of the Nominating Committee and a nominee for the Chair-Elect of the Nominating Committee; and
- H. Coordinating the dynamic development of the Board priorities and their associated deliverables, and monitoring progress against the set priorities.

## **II. Scope of Responsibilities**

- A. Assisting the Board to enhance its performance.
  - 1. The Committee will serve as a resource for Directors in developing their full and common understanding of their roles and responsibilities as Directors as well as the roles and responsibilities of ICANN. The Committee will provide guidance and assistance in orienting new Directors as the Board's

membership evolves. It will help reinforce the Board's commitment to adhere to its Bylaws and Core Values.

2. The Committee will encourage the development of effective tools, strategies, and styles for the Board's discussions. The Committee will periodically review tools, templates, and guidelines for Board preparatory materials and reports.
  3. The Committee will work closely with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board and the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICANN.
- B. Leading the Board in its periodic review of its performance, including its relationship with the ICANN President and CEO.
1. The Committee will develop a thoughtful process for the Board's self-analysis and evaluation of its own performance and undertake this process at least every two years. The Committee will consider, as appropriate, any external input that speaks directly to the performance of the Board.
  2. The Committee will develop a sound basis of common understanding of the appropriate relationship between the Board and the President and CEO under the Bylaws. From time to time it will review and advise on the effectiveness of that important relationship.
  3. The Committee will serve as a resource to Directors and the President and CEO by stimulating the examination and discussion of facts and analysis to complement anecdotal and other information acquired by individual directors from members of the community. In this way the Committee will assist the Board to distinguish among systemic problems, chronic problems, and isolated problems and will focus the Board's attention to both facts and perceptions.
- C. Creating and recommending to the full Board for approval a slate of nominees for Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, Chair and membership of each Board Committee, including filling any vacancies which may occur in these positions during the year; and overseeing the creation and membership of Board Working Groups, Board Caucuses, and other Board groups.
1. In accordance with the Board Governance Committee Procedures for Board Nominations posted on the Committee webpage, the Committee will: (a) in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) create for Board approval a new slate of nominees to serve on each committee for the upcoming year; (b) fill any vacancies that arise during the year; and (c) recommended to the Board committee appointments for Board members beginning their terms on a date other than at AGM.

2. The Committee shall oversee the creation and membership of Board Working Groups, Board Caucuses, and other Board groups.
  3. The Committee shall periodically review the charters of the Board Committees, including its own charter and work with the members of the Board Committees to develop recommendations to the Board for any charter adjustments deemed advisable.
  4. The Committee may serve as a resource for the President and CEO and Directors who are considering the establishment of new committees.
  5. The Committee shall periodically review the participation of Board members across Board Committees, Working Groups, Caucuses and other Board groups. The Committee shall also recommend adjustments to the composition of any of these groups, as necessary to ensure that: (1) the workload of Board members is appropriately balanced across the Board; and (2) the Board groups have the right mix of skills and expertise among Board members to accomplish their respective goals.
- D. Oversight of compliance with ICANN's Board of Directors' Code of Conduct.
1. The Committee shall be responsible for oversight and enforcement with respect to the Board of Directors' Code of Conduct. In addition, at least annually, the Committee will review the Code of Conduct and make any recommendations for changes to the Code to the Board.
  2. The Committee shall provide an annual report to the full Board with respect to compliance with the Code of Conduct, including any breaches and corrective action taken by the Committee.
- E. Administration of ICANN's Conflicts of Interest Policy.
1. The Committee shall review the annual conflicts of interest forms required from each Directors and Liaisons and shall consider any and all conflicts of interest that may arise under the Conflicts of Interest Policy.
  2. The Committee shall periodically review the Conflicts of Interest Policy and consider whether any modifications should be made to the policy to improve its effectiveness.
- F. Recommending to the Board corporate governance guidelines applicable to the ICANN as a global, private sector corporation serving in the public interest.
1. The Committee shall review, at least every four years but in line with best practices, the existing corporate governance guidelines developed by ICANN staff, be attentive to developments in corporate governance in the

global context, and bring ideas and recommendations for adjustments in these guidelines to the Board for its consideration.

- G. Recommending to the Board a nominee for the Chair of the Nominating Committee and a nominee for the Chair-Elect of the Nominating Committee.
  - 1. Annually the Committee shall identify, through informal and formal means, and recommend that the Board approve a nominee to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee and a nominee to serve as the Chair-Elect of the Nominating Committee.
- H. Coordinating the dynamic development of the Board priorities and their associated deliverables, and monitoring progress against the set priorities.

### **III. Composition**

The Committee shall be comprised of at least three but not more than seven Board members, as determined and appointed annually by the Board, each of whom shall comply with the Conflicts of Interest Policy. The voting Directors on the Committee shall be the voting members of the Committee, and the majority of the Committee members must be voting Directors. The members of the Committee shall serve at the discretion of the Board.

Unless a Committee Chair is appointed by the full Board, the members of the Committee may designate its Chair from among the voting members of the Committee by majority vote of the full Committee membership.

The Committee may choose to organize itself into subcommittees to facilitate the accomplishment of its work. The Committee may seek approval and budget from the Board for the appointment of consultants and advisers to assist in its work as deemed necessary, and such appointees may attend the relevant parts of the Committee meetings.

### **IV. Meetings**

#### **A. Regularly Scheduled Meetings**

The Board Governance Committee shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities. The Committee's meetings may be held by telephone and/or other remote meeting technologies. Meetings may be called upon no less than forty-eight (48) hours notice by either (i) the Chair of the Committee or (ii) any two members of the Committee acting together, provided that regularly scheduled meetings generally shall be noticed at least one week in advance.

## B. Special/Extraordinary Meetings

Special/extraordinary meetings may be called upon no less than 48 hours notice by either (i) the Chair of the Committee or (ii) any two members of the Committee acting together. The purpose of the meeting must be included with the call for the meeting.

## C. Action Without a Meeting

### 1. Making a Motion:

The Committee may take an action without a meeting for an individual item by using electronic means such as email. An action without a meeting shall only be taken if a motion is proposed by a member of the Committee, and seconded by another voting member of the Committee. All voting members of the Committee must vote electronically and in favor of the motion for it to be considered approved. The members proposing and seconding the motion will be assumed to have voted in the affirmative. The action without a meeting and its results will be noted in the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting and will be included in the minutes of that meeting.

### 2. Timing:

- a. Any motion for an action without a meeting must be seconded by another Committee member within 48 hours of its proposal.
- b. The period of voting on any motion for an action without a meeting will be seven (7) days unless the Chair changes that time period. However, the period must be a minimum of two (2) days and a maximum of seven (7) days.

## V. Voting and Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Voting on Committee matters shall be on a one vote per voting member basis. When a quorum is present, the vote of a majority of the voting Committee members present shall constitute the action or decision of the Committee. While only Directors can vote or constitute a quorum, the non-voting Board Liaisons on the Committee play an important role and their contributions and views on proposed motions are essential for informed decision-making.

## VI. Records of Proceedings

A preliminary report with respect to actions taken at each meeting (whether electronic, telephonic or in-person) of the Committee shall be recorded and distributed to committee members within seven working days, to the extent

feasible and appropriate, and meeting minutes shall be posted promptly following approval by the Committee.

A report of the activities of the Committee shall be prepared and published semi-annually.

## **VII. Committee Chair Alternate**

The Committee Chair shall designate a Committee member to serve as an alternate for the Chair in the event that the Chair is unavailable for a meeting, or recuses themselves from presiding over a matter, or is otherwise unavailable to fulfill their role as Chair.

## **VIII. Review**

The Board Governance Committee shall conduct a self-evaluation of its activities on an annual basis and may recommend to the full Board changes in membership, procedures, or responsibilities and authorities of the Committee if and when deemed appropriate. Performance of the Board Governance Committee may also be reviewed as part of any independent review of the Board and its Committees.