



11 July 2023

**RE: Nominating Committee (NomCom) Rebalancing**

Tripti Sinha  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

Dear Tripti:

Thank you for your letter on 26 April 2023 reaching out to the RySG on the subject of “rebalancing” the Nominating Committee. The RySG appreciates the opportunity to share our views on this topic. Please find our responses to the six questions you posed in your letter below.

If you have any questions or would like to follow up regarding any of the information provided below, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**1. What does it mean to have a balanced NomCom at a point in time? For example, what criteria would you apply to measure or assess whether the NomCom is balanced? And further, how can one test whether or not the NomCom is balanced?**

From the RySG’s perspective, having a balanced NomCom means that there are a sufficient number of NomCom members that represent the diversity of the ICANN stakeholder community, without the group being too small or too large to function efficiently and effectively. The RySG believes that the current size and sources of NomCom delegates seems right at this time, and does not believe that the overall size should significantly increase or decrease.

We believe it is important to remind those that may be seeking to “rebalance” the NomCom that the delegates to the NomCom are appointed to perform a specific task - namely, to appoint individuals to ICANN leadership positions - rather than to advocate for or represent the views of their particular Constituency, Stakeholder Group, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee. As such, arguments that there appear to be “too many” reps from a specific group may be misplaced.

**2. Do you support the view that the current composition of the NomCom needs to be rebalanced? Please explain why or why not.**

The RySG believes that the composition of the NomCom should focus more on whether the appointed delegates have the skills and willingness to perform the work that the NomCom must

do, as opposed to which group each delegate represents. As stated above, delegates to the NomCom are not appointed to represent their community group's views but rather to select the best candidates for open leadership positions.

We do not have any strong feeling that the current composition of the NomCom needs to be rebalanced at this point in time. We recognize the work that has been done within the NomCom to establish clear methodologies and objective criteria for selecting candidates, as well as to ensure that such methods are routinely applied and carried over from one Nominating Committee to the next, in order to make the work of each Committee more efficient.

### **3. How frequently does the balance need to be measured or assessed?**

The RySG does not object to the recommendation from the NomCom2 Review that the balance of the NomCom should be assessed every five years, but cautions that the ICANN community should be careful to ensure that such work does not conflict with other scheduled reviews that may be of higher priority for the community as a whole.

### **4. How do you suggest that the NomCom's composition be rebalanced?**

Given the RySG's position that there is not a strong need to rebalance the NomCom's composition at this point, we do not have concrete suggestions at this time. Generally, the RySG believes it makes sense that the GNSO representation on the NomCom should reflect the current GNSO structure.

### **5. Who should conduct this work, and how should it be conducted?**

Should the community decide to go forward with a rebalancing effort, the RySG believes that the Standing Committee envisioned in the NomCom2 Review recommendations and by the Implementation Review Working Group should come up with initial rebalancing recommendations and present those to the ICANN community for review and input. The Standing Committee could also consider consulting with past NomCom leaders, including NomCom Chairs, Chairs-Elect, Associate Chairs and other alumni, to help inform its recommendations. We would caution against conducting an open call for volunteers to develop rebalancing recommendations, as such a call could draw volunteers that lack direct experience and knowledge of how the NomCom operates.

### **6. How would your community group prioritize consideration of this issue within your planning efforts?**

The RySG would categorize rebalancing the NomCom as a low priority item. We feel that the NomCom functions well for its purpose as it is currently composed. That said, we would be

willing to support rebalancing efforts if the broader ICANN community wishes to pursue such work.

Thank you again for your outreach and for your consideration of the RySG's input on this matter.

Sincerely,

Samantha Demetriou  
RySG Chair