

Candidate Statement

Katrina Sasaki

Dear ccNSO members,

Firstly, I would like to thank my nominators and seconders: Bruce (.au), Svitlana (.ua), Marta (.pt), Javier, Davi (.gw), Dina (.eg), and Piotr (.pl) for their confidence in me. I also very much appreciate each message of support off list.

Back in 2021, you entrusted me with the role of an ICANN Board director. I thank everyone who supported me and those who had some doubts. The first gave me strength and encouragement, the latter – determination and motivation to work harder. I have served on the ICANN Board for more than a year now. I have participated in Board’s discussions on various topics. I am a member of several Board Committees, working groups and Caucuses. I chair the Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee and hope that my Board colleagues will trust me with this role in the coming year. Together with Danko I am leading the Board’s community engagement development efforts to make Board-community interactions more lively, more valuable and interesting to everyone as I believe the transparency and availability of Board members to the community are the key for strengthening ICANN in general and each SOAC in particular.

When I joined the ICANN Board, my biggest fear was to lose the connection with ‘real life’, i.e. with what is happening in the ccNSO. While I admit it is challenging to be up to speed with Board ‘business’ and at the same time stay well informed about numerous ccNSO activities, I am confident that to date I have been meeting this challenge. My participation in the Guidelines Review Committee and Meeting Planning Committee, as well as the opportunity to observe the work of the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee are helping me a lot. As one of the Board Liaisons, together with Patricio, I also observe the work of the ccPDP4. And of course, the opportunity to actively participate in the planning of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ccNSO and be with ccTLDs to commemorate this significant milestone is something I will never forget.

Now, after one and half years of learning and trial and error, I understand the role of a Board director much better, how the Board works and see how I can effectively contribute to this work. I have a better knowledge of the different SO/ACs dynamics with the Board, their interests, concerns and aspirations. I believe that Board directors can help ICANN staff to deliver on community expectations and many projects we have in the pipeline.

Background information: I started my career in the DNS environment in 1994 when I joined the Academic Networking Laboratory LATNET of the Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Latvia, the .lv manager at the time. As a webmaster, I developed the website for www.nic.lv and the first domain name registration platform. Later, when the Network Solutions Department (NIC.LV) was established to manage the .lv ccTLD, I became the deputy executive and, in 2007, the chief executive of NIC.LV. Most of the work that had to be done to ensure the growth of the .lv registry, my colleagues and I learned from other registries at CENTR and ccNSO.

My first, personal experience in the international arena was in 2007 when I participated in a CENTR Legal and Regulatory workshop. The level of openness and willingness to share with others had a deep impact on me. It changed the way I have been looking at international collaboration ever since. Since then, I have participated in many CENTR meetings – General Assemblies, Tech, Admin,

Marketing workshops and in many ccNSO meetings. These meetings and all the fantastic people from other registries helped me to grow both professionally and personally.

In 2012, I was elected to the ccNSO Council from the EU region. In 2016, the Council entrusted me with the role of the Chair. In this role I have worked with my colleagues on the Council, with many working groups, with other communities.

Education and other activities: I hold a professional degree in Mathematics, Master of Science in Computer Science and Master of Science in Law from the University of Latvia.

Conclusion:

I believe that many have noticed how determined the Board is to deliver on community expectations. The Board's overall success is a collaborative effort. I am committed to being a tireless and dynamic Board member, further contributing to the work of this incredible team.