ICANN BOARD PAPER NO. 2019.09.27.XX

TITLE: **Election of Vice Chair**

PROPOSED ACTION: **For Board Consideration and Approval**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On 8 September 2019, a vacancy was created in the role of Vice Chair of the ICANN Board. As part of the ICANN Board's traditional transition to leadership, the Board director expected to serve as the next Chair of the ICANN Board serves as the Vice Chair for a period of time in order to become more familiarized with the responsibilities traditionally reserved to Board leadership. As the current and incoming members of the Board have indicated support for Maarten Botterman to serve as the next Chair of the ICANN Board, the Chair recommends that Maarten be formally elected to Vice Chair, to serve in that role until the Board elects its new slate of leaders at the Organizational Meeting that will occur on 7 November 2019 during ICANN 66.

BOARD CHAIR RECOMMENDATION:

The Board Chair recommends that Maarten be formally elected to Vice Chair, to serve in that role until the Board elects its new slate of leaders at the Organizational Meeting that will occur on 7 November 2019 during ICANN 66.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Whereas, the current Chair of the ICANN Board will be departing from the Board at the close of ICANN's Annual Meeting in November 2019.

Whereas, the ICANN Board as a whole has discussed and considered the succession of the Board's leadership, including during the Board's September 2019 workshop in Los Angeles, California.

Whereas, all current and incoming members of the Board had an opportunity to participate in the discussion of the Board's future leadership, and have indicated support for the future election of Maarten Botterman as Chair. The Board followed the process as documented at https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/informing-leadership-slate-practice-23jun19-en.pdf.

Whereas, the formal election of the next Chair and Vice-Chair of ICANN will be a matter for consideration of the ICANN Board seated after the close of ICANN's Annual Meeting in November 2019 (ICANN 66). As in prior years, the newly seated ICANN Board will convene an Organizational Meeting for the purposes of electing the Chair and Vice-Chair, identifying the Board Committee compositions, and other regular organizational items.

Whereas, the Chair has provided a communication summarizing the workshop, including the Board leadership selections identified for inclusion in the slate to be considered and voted on at ICANN 66.

Resolved (2019.09.27.XX), Maarten Botterman is elected Vice-Chair of the ICANN Board, effective immediately, to support the transition of leadership for next ICANN Board.

PROPOSED RATIONALE:

The Board is taking this action today to support transparency and to demonstrate its commitment to a well-supported transfer of responsibilities in leading the Board. As learned in 2017, advance planning for the transfer of those responsibilities will help support continuity in ICANN's service of its mission. The public interest is served through the advance announcement of the future leadership slate, as it provides predictability and stability to the entirety of ICANN (the Community, Board and Organization) and assurance that the Board continues to focus its energies on its strategic and oversight roles.

In identifying the future leadership, the Board included all members that will be eligible to vote on the leadership slate at ICANN 66, and followed its documented process that is available at https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/informing-leadership-slate-practice-23jun19-en.pdf. The current Chair, Cherine Chalaby, will remain as Chair until the end of his term, and Maarten Botterman, identified to serve as the next Chair (for election at the Organizational Meeting at ICANN 66) will take over as the Vice-Chair of the Board until the end of the Annual Meeting held at ICANN66. This will allow Mr. Botterman to participate more closely in the leadership processes of the current Board and better support a transfer of leadership responsibilities when the new leadership of the Board is formally elected. The new leadership of the Board will be subject to consideration and vote at the Organizational Meeting convened at the end of ICANN 66.

There are no anticipated impacts on ICANN's resources as a result of this action. In addition, there is not anticipated impact on the security, stability or resiliency of the Internet's DNS. This supports ICANN's mission and is in the public interest, as it provides stability in the transition of leadership of the Board's oversight across all of ICANN's work.

This is an Organization Administrative Action for which no public comment is required.

Signature Block:

 Submitted by: Cherine Chalaby

Position: ICANN Board Chair

Date Noted: 23 September 2019