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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Statement of the ALAC

On the Draft ICANN Strategic Plan 2010 - 2013

Introduction

By the Staff of ICANN

Sébastien Bachollet, Vice-Chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) originally composed this document based on input received from the five At-Large regions (RALOs) and Vanda Scartezini, ALAC Liaison to the Board of ICANN.

The RALOs discussed the Draft Strategic Plan during their monthly teleconferences and online and drafted five individual regional comments in advance of the [At-Large community call on the Strategic Plan](#) held on January 15th 2010. The regional comments on the Draft Strategic Plan are linked to an [online workspace on Strategic Planning](#).

This draft Statement was made available for community review on January 18th, 2010. The Chair of the ALAC asked the Staff to start a five-day online vote on the final revision of the ALAC Statement on the Draft ICANN Strategic Plan 2010 – 2013 (the present document) on January 21st and submit it to the public consultation on the [Draft ICANN Strategic Plan for 2010- 2013](#) on behalf of the ALAC with a note that the document is currently undergoing the internal ratification process.

The online vote resulted in the ALAC unanimously endorsing the Statement with a 15-0 vote. You may review the result independently under:
<https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=uzKMLnhG6MNUNFLPgZri>.

On January 27th 2010, the Staff person responsible for the public consultation on the ICANN Strategic Plan was informed about the result and the Statement was also transmitted to the ICANN Board of Directors.

[End of Introduction]

The original version of this document is the English text available at www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail

ALAC Statement on the Draft ICANN Strategic Plan for 2010 - 2013

The Draft ICANN Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2013 makes reference to the following four work areas:

1. Preserve DNS stability and security
2. Promote competition, trust, choice and innovation
3. Excel in IANA and other core operations
4. Contribute to shaping a healthy Internet eco-system

In particular, ICANN is seeking the views of the community on the following issues:

- What should be the three to five year high-level strategic objectives for each of the four areas of work?
- What would be the specific metrics for each of the four areas of work?

This document contains ALAC's comments framed within the areas of work mentioned above, as well as further suggestions for action, which it considers equally as important for inclusion in ICANN's draft Strategic Plan.

ICANN's core function is the management of Domain Names and Internet Addressing System. The focus of the strategic plans should be on its core functions. Other functions related to Internet Governance may be defined as peripheral functions in which ICANN would play a significant but participatory and contributory role. Those who do not fully understand the Internet and Internet Governance tend to perceive ICANN (which happens to be the Elephant in the room) as a central organization in matters related to Internet Governance. The staff and community participants of ICANN should not lose sight of ICANN's core functions but have the inclination to participate and contribute to the further evolution and stability of the Internet, the Internet Governance process.

ICANN's multi-stakeholder model is a pioneering model that has inspired the multi-stakeholder model of the Internet Governance Forum. The community participation model of ICANN is starting to be emulated even by Governments. ICANN should do everything possible to strengthen this model within.

ICANN needs to define its partners and their roles. The formal or informal arrangements which link ICANN to its partners must be explained. Also, if rival organizations threaten to capture ICANN and its functions, ICANN must have contingency plans in place to ensure a defense of its processes and its stability, at least among its core management team.

ICANN is not a key forum for global Internet governance. It is an exaggeration to say that ICANN involves thousands of companies. ICANN's business participants largely come from a single business class – the Domain name industry. Internet Service Providers are another business class and most of the rest of its business participants are related to businesses that derive direct revenue from the Internet. Its individual participants are also from a typical group, not representative of the universe of Internet users. So we ask for caution in self-assessing the constitution of our processes' participants and in determining our role in Internet Governance.

1. Preserve DNS stability and security

This is a core area. Preservation of DNS stability and security requires stretching beyond the security of DNS infrastructure traditionally considered as within the scope of ICANN's functions. This project should include ALL infrastructure related to DNS, whether or not within the scope of ICANN, for instance the DNS cache servers, IBP (Internet Backbone Provider) and ISP (internet service provider infrastructure, equipment at Internet exchange points and all other infrastructure technically related to the Security and Stability of the DNS. Measures to ensure Security and Stability have to be total and complete without leaving 'weak links' as seen at present.

ALAC acknowledges that the stability and security of the DNS is an important framework handled by ICANN for the global internet users. The implementation of DNSSEC is therefore a key point for ICANN.

Any initiative by ICANN to work in partnership with other organizations to develop a conceptual model for a DNS collaborative security response system gets the support of ALAC.

ICANN's initiatives such as training ccTLD operators, in cooperation with other Internet organizations and ICANN community are highly supported by ALAC.

Recent natural disasters reinforce the absolute necessity that ICANN must design a plan for Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity for its own operations and the ones of the other providers, in collaboration with the main other Internet Infrastructure providers.

The concept of a DNS collaborative security response system is a good one and should be pursued. Implementation of such a system should provide timely information about DNS related security issues and solutions and/or workarounds both for technical users and non-technical users, in a manner resembling CERT websites (e.g. <http://www.us-cert.gov/>).

2. Promote competition, trust, choice and innovation

In this focus area, ALAC suggests that the following initiative should be added: ICANN must promote "intelligibility" [in other words: (end) users must have a clear view of the Domain Name space and its possibilities.]

ALAC supports ICANN efforts for a full deployment of IPv6, to allow a sufficient address space, together with a stable operation of IPv4. These efforts should include specific outreach programs towards developing countries to make this deployment as smooth and useful as possible, without prejudice to the existing IPv4 addresses.

ALAC notes the positive step taken by ICANN to promote IDNs in the ccTLD arena and supports the need for the same development in the gTLD space.

gTLD and ccTLD 'options' in various languages need to be implemented with the caveat that language is uncharted territory for ICANN. ICANN needs to ensure that content generated in one language does not remain arcane to and closed within the community that speaks that

language. At the same time, any community should not suffer the disadvantage of content from other languages being shut off from its reach. CcTLDs in all languages and gTLDs in some languages are likely to be fully or partially outside the generic names management system, so prone to multiple national policies. ICANN needs to pay attention to the evolution of language TLDs in a manner that the Internet's oneness and unified nature does not get threatened or compromised.

ALAC believes that there is no better way to promote trust, choice, innovation and “intelligibility” than involving the public at large. It is therefore important that ICANN supports initiatives proposed by RALOs (and ALAC) to enhance the participation of the public in general through its current and future At-Large structures (ALS).

The development perspective of the Internet cannot be seen as a mere marketplace. The public interest needs more attention and respect in ICANN’s decision making process and strategic planning.

One of the erroneous arguments in this area is that new gTLDs, geoTLDs and IDNs are required to promote competition. Newer domains do provide choice, but it may not be argued that a plethora of domain names are required to promote competition. What is required is intra-industry competition, and not necessarily inter-domain competition

ALAC also believes that staff must work on setting-up training material for new gTLD operators (like the one for the ccTLDs).

3. Excel in IANA and other core operations

Strengthening International Operations and Presence, as a project, needs to be prioritized and defined as a more significant and central Strategic Project. Another Core Strategic Project is to do further work related to RAA and other channel related improvements.

ALAC supports ICANN structures to make a significant investment in upgrading the IANA function because it is important both for ICANN, for other providers and for users.

A lot of changes are likely to take place in the years to come with the increase in number of gTLDs, the implementation of new security tools (DNSSEC...), the roll-out of IDNs and the deployment of IPv6. It is therefore very important that ICANN structures stay on top of those evolutions and monitors them with an additional focus on the scaling of the root system.

4. Contribute to shaping a healthy Internet eco-system

To shape a healthy Internet eco-system, it is important that ICANN promotes a secure, open, accessible, evolved and developed Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world.

Through the DNS and the IANA functions, ICANN can influence the operation maintenance of an open, secure and accessible Internet. ICANN should therefore facilitate an open

development of standards, protocols, administration, and the technical infrastructure of the Internet. ICANN should support education in developing countries specifically, and wherever the need exists. It should provide management and coordination for initiatives and outreach efforts to make the voice of all communities heard.

The Affirmation of Commitment (in September 2009) signed by ICANN and the DOC/USA needs a strong engagement of the overall community. The implementation of community reviews and the initialisation of impact reporting on all major decisions must be done in an open manner with a strong commitment of multi-stakeholders.

Improving the accessibility and dissemination of documentation generated by the work of ICANN and its' stakeholder groups should be a key strategic objective. It is still difficult for end users, especially those not familiar with ICANN and not having the benefit of attending any of the public ICANN meetings to understand ICANN, its Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, and the policy issues at stake.

Audio and video from the three public meetings should be better recorded and made available for download. For At-Large, it would make it easier for ALSes to study and distribute such material since not all internet users have broadband to view it directly from ICANN's web site.

While ICANN and IANA talks of the local internet community as it relates to ccTLD issues (<http://blog.icann.org/2009/09/local-internet-communities/>), the stakeholders in such internet communities in many LAC countries are not aware of each other. Whenever ICANN is attending/supporting or giving a presentation at an event in a country, it should make attendees aware of the local stakeholders such as At-Large Structures which are involved with ICANN policy work and/or attempt to ensure that such stakeholders are present at such events. This will strengthen local internet communities.

ALAC wishes to add one strategic project for the strategic objectives [All stakeholders have a voice at the table]: **“ALSes in every country”**.

This will support the implementation of the community recommendations discussed and defined during the first ICANN At-Large Summit in Mexico in March 2009 to improve ICANN's transparency and accountability.

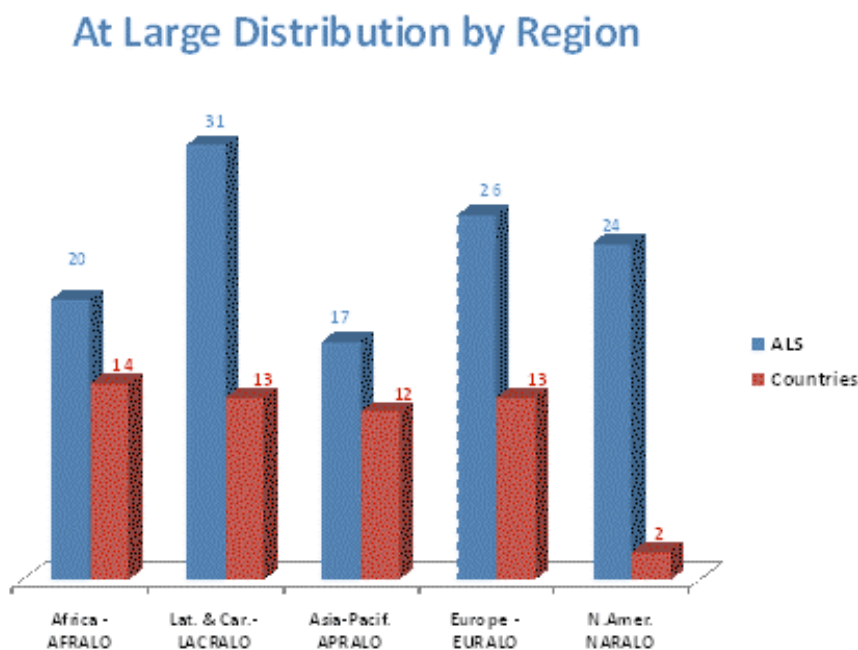
In this context it was stated that a further empowerment of ICANN's At-Large structure is necessary. More incentives and enabling mechanisms for ALSes and user communities are essential to strengthen multi-stakeholder participation and the voice of Internet users in the ICANN's decision making process.. In this framework, RALOs (which were set-up by an MOU between ALSs and ICANN in the 5 regions) need more institutional support and funding to allow them to organize regular General Assemblies and outreach activities (such as, in Europe, the ICANN-Studienkreis meeting, EuroDIG etc.). With this assistance from ICANN, RALOs will be given the opportunity to reach, during the next 3 years, an ambitious goal to double the number of countries where, at least, one ALS will join the RALOs (see some more details next page).

During the next strategic plan (e.g. 2013 – 2016) the goal of At-Large, with the strong support of ICANN, will be to organize a second ICANN At-Large Summit.

Timeline:

- 2010 – 2013
 - One RALO General Assembly in each region,
 - To recruit new ALSes to cover 80% of the countries in each region.
- 2013 - 2016
 - A second ICANN At-Large Summit,
 - New ALSes to join.

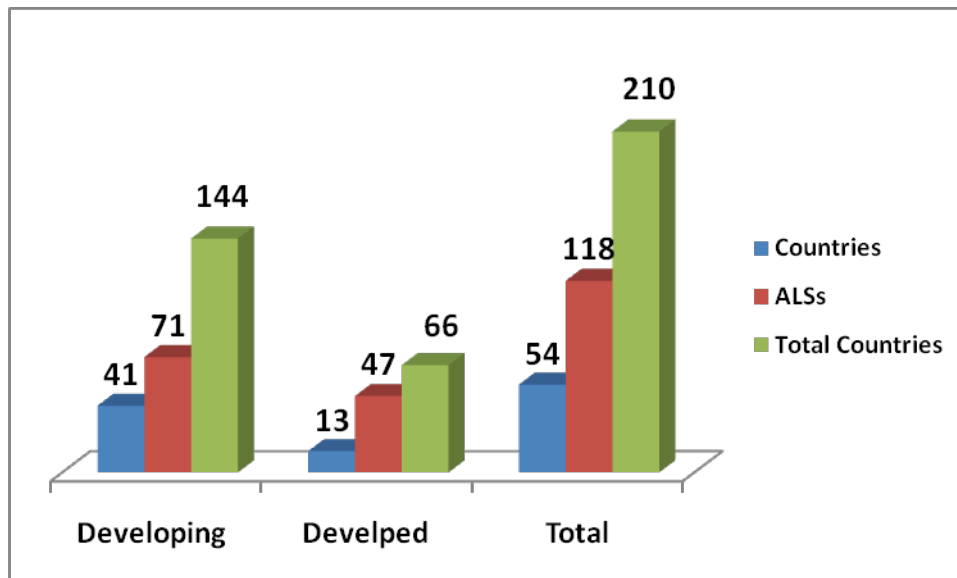
This project should be undertaken in conjunction with GAC and ccNSO (and possibly with stakeholder groups of the non-contracted House of the GNSO). ALAC hopes that a synergy could be found along similar objectives.



“ALSes in every country”

Create an action plan to stimulate new ALSs from developing and developed countries to join At Large in order to reach more balanced figures among countries (and to assure our compliance with AoC demand).

Today we have 118 ALSs (+ 2 in final analysis to be added), as shown in the graphic below, comparing numbers in developing and developed countries. These figures show how ICANN is improving its relationship with the users around the world.



With the current outreach effort (including fellowship), ICANN has managed to enlarge GAC and the ccTLDs, though not sufficiently. At-Large is one of the areas inside ICANN where the outreach is both possible and practical. Due to the “multiple hats” that many people in developing countries wear, involving the right people at an ALS will automatically have multiplier effects in that it will involve people who regularly interact in government and in business within their countries.

The ratio for developing countries is 1.7 ALSs per country, with 28% of the developing countries represented through the regions, while the rate for developed countries is 3.6 ALSs per country, with important concentrations in some, though only 20% of developed countries have their users participating.

For instance, the action needed to reach At-Large user representation for around 40% of developed countries will demand an effort focused on Europe, while to reach the same 40% of the developing countries will demand a wide effort in all regions.