

## **At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) Report to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ICANN, on activities of the ALAC and At-Large, in Cairo, November 6<sup>th</sup> 2008.**

In the last 12 months, involvement of the world's individual Internet user communities in ICANN has continued to grow. The number of Internet user organizations certified as At-Large Structures (ALSs) continues to increase worldwide, with 116 applications received as of October 2008. A list of these groups, which range in size from 25 individuals to millions of members, is posted at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/en/applications>. ALS certification recognizes groups that involve individual Internet users at the local or regional level in issues addressed by the ICANN community.

Effective participation as an ALS facilitates input into ICANN activities and processes that affect users via contributions to the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). ALS certification enables groups to participate in the work of the Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) nearest them. Our five RALOs are the focal point for At-Large information sharing and participation from around the world, and they select the majority of the members of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) directly as their representatives. The forthcoming At-Large Summit scheduled for the ICANN meeting in Mexico in 2009 is a landmark event in the facilitation and development of the community and the ALAC invites wide participation in this event from the wider ICANN community.

The At-Large community has gone from strength to strength this year. It has continued to increase its activities in policy development, providing more input to the Board of Directors than any other Advisory Committee. These statements are a genuine example of the bottom-up consensus building process, as they incorporate the ALS communities' views in positions before the ALAC votes on them. One key feature in this development of a best practice model for consensus building involves ensuring we have an informed ALS community. To assist in this, monthly telephonic briefings on topical issues are held in three languages for the At-Large community - and the wider ICANN community.

At the same time, ALAC has become the first community to oblige its members to accept performance and transparency obligations, and is we believe the first ICANN community to publish monthly key performance indicators (KPIs) related to these obligations. Issues affecting Internet users on which the At-Large community has provided input is in my opinion an impressive list for a 'mere year' and includes working groups, workshop activities, statements and/or comments on; The introduction of new gTLDs; Advancing use of Internationalized Domain Names; Changes to Whois services; Revisions to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement; Migration from IPv4 to IPv6; Domain Name Tasting; The restructuring of the Generic Names Supporting Organisation (GNSO) specifically including the engagement of

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individual Internet users more fully in the GNSO; the ICANN Travel Procedure for volunteers, and the ICANN Operating Plan and Budget. These statements and those from previous years may be found online at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/en/correspondence>.

The current ALAC (v.2.0) is also undergoing its Independent Review, and the Board Governance Committee Working Groups' recent report and the ensuing ICANN communities discussions around their initial thinking, is an activity that we both look forward to participating in and learning from as we strive to create an ALAC v.3.0 that is a thriving part of ICANN processes and policy development.

### Main Areas of Work for At-Large during Cairo:

\* At-Large community leaders discussed the mid-point report of the Board Governance Committee's At-Large Review Working Group (BGC-ALRWG) with that group and other parts of the community. A drafting team of community members met several times and a draft statement is nearly ready to be sent to the ALS's and RALOs for comments to ensure bottom-up input from the community members not present during the Cairo meeting.

\* ALAC met with the Registrar Constituency during the Cairo meeting; Amongst the subjects discussed were proposed RAA amendments provisions that would extend registrant protections and a proposal being debated in the ALAC that would request a new RAA amendment to require all registrars to publish their place of incorporation and business addresses in order to ensure that they could be reached by registrants when issues arise. ALAC is also proposing that work on a registrar Code of Conduct should commence something that has been done in ccTLDs (EURid, auDA) successfully on a multi-stakeholder basis. Meetings between the two communities will continue in Mexico City and in intercessional work.

\* The ALAC discussed with staff and community members their proposal to request an issues report related to how post domain expiry grace periods operate in order to strengthen protection of registrants. This has been a subject of ongoing work and consultation between stakeholders over the past several weeks. The ALAC voted unanimously to transmit the request, subject to some further consultations with other GNSO communities being concluded. The formal request is expected to be transmitted to the Staff shortly. And copy of this request can be on our Web site soon as an announcement and is currently found (along with earlier drafts) at: <https://st.icann.org/alac/index.cgi?request+for+issues+report+on+post+expiry+domain+recovery#>

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\* ALAC met with Steve Crocker and members of the SSAC to discuss working more closely together on topics such as WHOIS data accuracy (especially in an IDN context) and DNSSEC and its value to end users and registrants. The discussion about DNSSEC explored the importance of helping end users understand the importance of the DNSSEC rollout; one of the outcomes of this discussion is that a telephonic briefing, in the series of such briefings held regularly, would focus on DNSSEC to help all of At-Large, and other ICANN communities, understand it and the proposals related to its rollout better.

\* ALAC and RALO (Regional At-Large Organisation) leaders met Saturday to considerably advance work on the organisation of the At-Large Summit, scheduled for the Mexico City ICANN Meeting in March 2009.

\* Organizational Development: ALAC will be discussing improvements to their accountability requirements as community leaders. At-Large is the first community to adopt written criteria for community leaders' participation obligations and to publish ALAC members' performance; this effort is to improve them and expand upon them. In addition, the ALAC advanced work on formalizing the process by which ALAC Statements are developed in a bottom-up way involving the worldwide At-Large community.

\* ALAC concluded nominations of candidates for ALAC Liaisons and began discussing the candidates. Elections will begin shortly after the conclusion of the Cairo meeting as required by ALAC's Rules of Procedure.

In closing I would like to publically thank and recognize the long serving and tirelessly committed outgoing members of the ALAC; Annette Muehlberg (EURALO), Izumi Aizu (APRALO) who are being replaced by NomCom Appointment Adam Peak (EURALO) and by Regional Election, Dr. V.C. Vivekanandan, HRD IP Chair Professor & Head-Centre for IPLaw Studies, Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad (APRALO); and the stepping down From the role of ALAC IDN Liaison of Hong Xue, whose extraordinary efforts and energy in this vital work to benefit our community and specifically those millions of internet users whose online experience will be enhanced so much by the introduction of Doman Names in non-ascii scripts. Hong has selected for us, a most worthy successor for this vital role, Sivasubramanian Muthusamy, President at ISOC India Chennai and CEO at Turiya, his appointment became effective with his appointment at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Session Meeting of the ALAC yesterday and the ALAC look forward to the energy and enthusiasm these generous volunteers will bring to our work and activities over the next 12 months. I should also confirm for the record that the Executive Officers of the

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ALAC for the 2008-2009 period have been elected and are, for their second terms of office as co-Vice Chairs Vanda Scartezini (Brazil), Sebastien Bachollet (France), along with myself as continuing ALAC Chair, and we are joined by Alan Greenberg (Canada) who is serving his second term as Nom Com appointee for the North American Region and also continues to serve as our ALAC Liaison with the GNSO.

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Cheryl Langdon-Orr,

ALAC Chair (November 2007–November 2009)