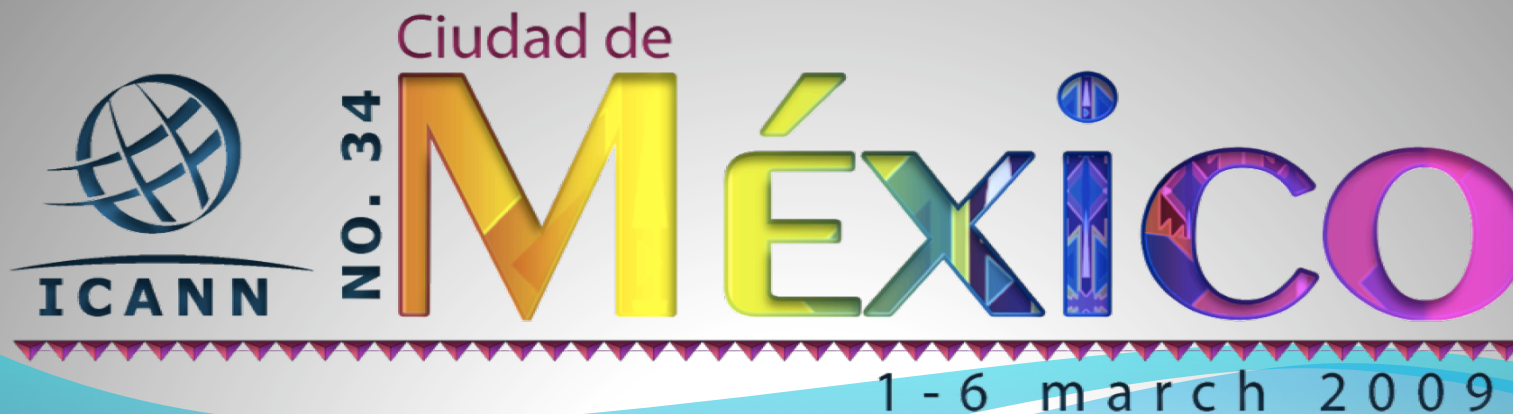


# ALAC Review workshop

ICANN Structural Improvements Committee ALAC Review Working  
Group

4 March 2009



# Today's Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and setting the scene
- Joining the dots....
  - links with other aspects of ICANN
- ALAC Review WG Report – Key Points Summary
- Importance of linking ALAC more strongly into ICANN process
- Observations on the issue of Board seats for ALAC
- ALAC perspective on the process
- Next steps
- Questions and discussion

# ALAC Review Working Group Members

- Harald Alvestrand
- Karl Auerbach
- Vittorio Bertola
- Tricia Drakes (Chair)
- Thomas Narten
- Nii Quaynor
- Jean-Jacques Subrenat

# Setting the scene

- Review of ALAC part of ICANN's program of continuous improvement
- Required under ICANN's Bylaws
- Objectives of Review to determine:
  - (i) whether that organization has a continuing purpose in the ICANN structure, and
  - (ii) if so, whether any change in structure or operations is desirable to improve its effectiveness.

# Timeline (1)

- January 2008 - ICANN Board appoints:
- Westlake Consulting to undertake independent review
- ALAC Review WG to help ensure that the evaluator's final report (independent review) contains the data and information needed, and (primarily) to advise on whether any change is needed for At-Large having considered the Independent Reviewer's final report, Board input, and comments from stakeholders and the public.

## Timeline (2)

- July 2008 – Westlake Consulting publishes final report after consultation at Paris ICANN Meeting and consideration of Public Comments
- October 2008 – ALAC Review WG publishes “Mid Term Consultation Report” for discussion with community at Cairo ICANN Meeting and Public Comments.
- February 2009 – ALAC Review WG Draft Final Report published for discussion with the community at Mexico ICANN Meeting and Public Comments.

# Joining the dots.... with the wider Internet

- As a global infrastructure, the Internet...
  - 7 bn humans, 4 bn mobile 'phones, >1 bn Internet users
- ... must meet global challenges
  - reliability, safety
  - governance
- « At-Large » viewed in the light of
  - public participation (PPC)
  - ICANN looking forward (PSC)
  - This is the context of our debate

# ALAC Review WG Report

## Key Points Summary (1)

- The ALAC has a continuing purpose in the ICANN structure. This continuing purpose has four key elements:
  - providing advice on policy;
  - providing input into ICANN operations and structure;
  - part of ICANN’s accountability mechanisms
  - an organising mechanism for some of ICANN’s outreach
- The section of the ICANN Bylaws that deals with ALAC should be changed to reflect this purpose.



# ALAC Review WG Report Key Points Summary (2)

## Organisation

- At Large should be given two voting seats on the ICANN Board
- The ALAC-RALO-ALS structure should remain in place for now

# ALAC Review WG Report

## Key Points Summary (3)

### Effectiveness and participation

- Educating and engaging the ALSs should be an immediate priority; compliance should be a longer term goal
- ALAC should develop strategic and operational plans (including performance criteria and cost information) as part of ICANN's planning process
- More effort needs to be put into developing accurate cost models for At Large activity
- ALAC should be encouraged to make its own choice of tools for collaborative work
- The public comment period should be kept at 30 days except in special circumstances, in which case ALAC may request an extension to 45 days
- ICANN should strengthen its translation and interpretation processes

# ALAC Review WG Report

## Key Points Summary (4)

### Relationship with other ICANN entities

- The ALAC is the primary organisational home for the voice and concerns of the individual Internet user in ICANN processes, although individual users may choose to participate in many other ways in the ICANN process.
- ICANN should develop a mechanism for allowing the voice of those recognised bodies who represent consumer interests to be heard at critical points in key decisions and to provide input into policy processes.
- As the provision of advice on policy is part of ALAC's purpose, ALAC should strive to provide policy advice on any issues that affect individual Internet users. Processes for providing advice on policy should be strengthened within ALAC for the development of policy advice, within SOs for requesting input from ALAC on policy issues and from SOs, ACs and the Board to provide feedback on how ALAC advice has been used.

# ALAC seats on the Board

- Strong input from the community in support of voting seats for ALAC
- Important to improve the representation of individual Internet users in the ICANN process
- ALAC structures and processes are mature enough to support this
- Voting seats will be an incentive for further improvements in representativeness and effectiveness
- Mechanism still to be determined, but should involve ALAC, RALOs and ALSs

# Involvement in ICANN processes

- Providing advice on policy should be a strong focus for ALAC
  - ALAC should be included at the beginning of policy processes, possibly as part of an “environmental impact statement”
  - Starting work when a comment period opens is too late
  - Input from ALAC (as with other groups) needs to be acknowledged
- Active involvement in ICANN’s Strategic and Operating plans is essential

# An ALAC perspective

# Next Steps

- Further input from the community
  - Please study report and submit comments
  - <http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/#alac-review>
- ALAC Review Working Group Report on ALAC Improvements to be finalised following the end of the public comment period. Ongoing “outreach” and consultation by WG during this period.
- The Final Report will be issued and submitted to the Structural Improvements Committee for consideration and submission to the Board for decision.

# Questions and Discussion