

ALS Mobilization Working Party Chair's Report

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How we got here

- At-Large Review independent examiner did not see sufficient benefit from ALSes and effectively recommended that they be eliminated (made equivalent to a single user).
- At-Large disagreed.
- At-Large went back to the Bylaws and agreed that a main rationale for an ALS is to gain access to the ALS members – supported by all RALOs.
- We proposed (to the ICANN Board) to maintain ALSes and take action to reach those members!
- The Board accepted the proposal.

Basis for Plan

ICANN Bylaws 12.2(d)(xi)

Establishing mechanisms and processes that enable two-way communication between members of At-Large Structures and those involved in ICANN decision-making, so interested individuals can share their views on pending ICANN issues.

ALAC Rules of Procedure Adjunct Document 04 - At-Large Structure Framework

The 1st ALS criteria: Commit to supporting individual Internet users' informed participation in ICANN by distributing to individual constituents/members information on relevant ICANN activities and issues, offering Internet-based mechanisms that enable discussions of one or more of these activities and issues among individual constituents/members, and involving individual constituents/members in relevant ICANN policy development, discussions and decisions.

History

- Current plan based on initial work done by the ALS Criteria and Expectations Taskforce several years ago.
- Concept ratified during At-Large Review Proposal planning.

ALS Mobilization Working Party

- 21 members from RALOs
- Chair – Alan Greenberg
- Ex officio: Maureen Hilyard and Cheryl Langdon-Orr

What we will expect of an ALS

1. Biennial (once every two years) report updating us on their status.

- ALS leadership (with confirmation that leadership is aware of ICANN/At-Large affiliation);
- formal ALS representatives,
- membership (approximate numbers and perhaps demographics (students, business, internet professionals, etc.))
- "linkages" with ICANN (i.e. why they are an ALS);
- ALS activities related to ICANN (if any);
- details of how information distribution to its members will be carried out (Expectation 2);
- details of organizational membership in any other part of ICANN (if applicable);
- the status of the ALS with respect to organizational membership with some other part of ICANN.

Expectations...

2. An ALS must either:

- redistribute targeted ICANN At-Large updates to its members; or
- provide an e-mail address for direct distribution by At-Large.

Distributions:

- Aimed at people who have little or no knowledge of ICANN and its terminology and buzzwords.
- Delivered in all of ICANN's official languages (as selected by ALS).
- Relatively infrequent

Expectations...

3. ALS must reference ICANN and At-Large on its website (or Facebook or whatever its Internet presence), either on its home page, or on a secondary page (or comparable).
 - The intent is to ensure that the ALS members and others looking at its web presence are aware that the organization is involved with ICANN through At-Large.
 - If an ALS does not have a functioning web site (or Facebook presence or comparable) with basic information about the organization, At-Large will provide a basic Wiki space populated with information originally from their application.

Expectations...

4. When specific issues are brought to the attention of ALS representatives, each ALS should evaluate whether they can contribute or not, and if they can, their ALS members should be involved. Respond if surveys or other issues are brought to their attention.

- *We will need to be careful and not flood ALSes with such requests.*

5. Provide an e-mail address or web link which will be publicized (via the At-Large web/wiki) for prospective ALS members or others to contact the ALS.

6. Designate between two and four representatives, one of which will be designated as prime.

- All representatives will be sent general mailings and unless the ALS requests otherwise, mailings requiring action will go only to the prime representative.

Accreditation Criteria

1. [Current rule: Will be re-worded to address new expectations, if any.]

Commit to supporting individual Internet users' informed participation in ICANN by distributing to individual constituents/members information on relevant ICANN activities and issues, offering Internet-based mechanisms that enable discussions of one or more of these activities and issues among individual constituents/members, and involving individual constituents/members in relevant ICANN policy development, discussions and decisions.

Criteria...

2. [Current rule: Subject to re-wording for ALSes spanning regions, if allowed.]

Be organised so that participation by individual Internet users who are citizens or residents of countries within the ICANN Geographic Region in which the ALS is based will predominate in the ALS' operation. The ALS may permit additional participation by others that is compatible with the interests of the individual Internet users within the region.

Criteria...

3. *[Current Rule: reworded.]*

Do not rely on or expect any ICANN funding.

4. *[Current rule: To be integrated into commitment to meet expectations.]*

Post on the Internet (on the ALAC's website or elsewhere) publicly-accessible, current information about the ALS's goals, structure, description of constituent group(s)/membership, working mechanisms, leadership, and contact(s).

Criteria...

5. [Current rule: Expectation - Still needed?]

Assist the RALO in performing its function.

New Criteria

6. ALS Application submitters and future representatives do not need to be organization leaders, but an ALS application must have leadership knowledge and support.

New Criteria

7. No formally specified minimum number of members for an ALS, but it should be more than just the representatives and the ALS leadership.

- Judgement calls needed to decide if a very small number is appropriate in individual cases (involving Staff and RALO leadership and possibly the ALAC (since decertification might be the ultimate result)).

[Rationale: If there are no additional members, the ALS cannot fulfil its prime role of informing its members about ICANN with the hope that they will become actively involved in ICANN policy activities.]

New Criteria...

8. Clear statement of the intersection between interests of organization and those of ICANN.
9. Certification that all criteria are met and the organization commits to satisfying Expectations.

Suggestions but NOT Expectations

1. ALSes may be encouraged, to survey their members (not just ALS reps) and provide lists of “areas of expertise” on which ALAC or RALO could request input or assistance. At-Large should set a “standard” survey format to ensure results are comparable and readily combined into a single database.
2. Participation in Internet Governance (multistakeholder) activities is often complementary with involvement with ICANN and At-Large. ALSes may wish to consider whether such involvement makes sense for them.

Explicitly Not Expectations

1. Vote if there are things to vote .
2. We will not track participation of an ALS in our various activities.
 - We WILL need to track participation of individuals (whether a member of an ALS or an unaffiliated member) in activities. Since individual records will likely include a RALO and ALS (if applicable), we may be able to derive ALS numbers, but it is not a requirement.
3. We will not expect each ALS to produce active participants and will therefore not evaluate them on that basis.
 - Such statistics will however be an interesting measure of our success with this program.

Notes

1. We are not looking for 100% certainty.
2. Although the WP members generally felt that RALOs should not make rules related to ALS participation, the group decided that we should be silent on the issue at this point. That notwithstanding, if a RALO should make such a rule, the ALAC would not be bound to consider it in the case of an ALS decertification request from a RALO.
3. “On the ground” activities of an ALS which have no direct relevance to ICANN (perhaps the reason the organization was originally created) enhance the ALSes local credibility if and when the ALS, as a group, might become active in ICANN.

Timing

6-12 months after formal approval and announcement

- Expectation of compliance
- Start of requests for biennial reports.

Discussion