

# Chair's Report: ALS Mobilization Working Party

The ALS Mobilization Working Party (WP) is composed of 21 members from the five RALOs plus Alan Greenberg (Chair), Maureen Hilyard (ex officio, ALAC Chair) and Cheryl Langdon-Orr (ex officio, ARIWG). The WP has met seven times since the start of January. Each meeting requires at least one member from each region to be present. Attendance records can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ALS-Mob-WP-Attendance>.

We have worked through many of the issues identified in the draft ALS Mobilization Plan, but there are still additional ones that we will work on after ICANN67. Each issue has been discussed extensively within the WP with a proposed way forward being developed. Any proposal is brought back to the WP at the next meeting for either final approval or further revision.

Unless otherwise noted, this report extracts the decisions reached (with some rewording for clarity). All such decisions were made with all members present accepting it and considered any e-mail or Google Doc comments. As we move forward, any of these decisions could be re-opened, but they are all firm at the time that this report is written (08 March 2020). Due to time constraints, this report has not been subject to extensive WP review.

## What We Will Expect from an ALS

1. Each ALS will report to the ALAC biennially (every two years). The report will include:
  - 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.

To the extent practical, this reporting process will be streamlined and easy. The report, excluding personal information (names, contact details) will be posted for public access.

*[Implementation notes: Probably an online form. Implementation would probably be carried out on a rotating basis to spread staff effort throughout the year.]*

2. An ALS must either:
  - a. redistribute targeted ICANN At-Large updates to its members; or

- b. provide an e-mail address for direct distribution by At-Large.

This requirement may be waived on a case by case basis where the ALS has a mandate that clearly maps to only a specific aspect of ICANN and agrees to act as a resource for issues related to that aspect (such as phishing or spam, etc.).

*[Implementation notes: These updates will be created by ICANN staff but might be augmented by the RALO. They must be aimed at people who have little or no knowledge of ICANN and its terminology and buzzwords. They will be delivered in all of ICANN's official languages (as selected by ALS). We will need to give ALSes an expected communications rate and that might typically be 1 per month, but it could be as little as 3 per year or unusually as much as 3 per month depending on circumstances. We will need to gear up to respond to people who do contact us in response to our messages. If a redistribution address is not provided, ALS representative will certify that redistribution will happen. Distribution material may include questions or links (which can be tracked) to facilitate understanding how effective distributions are. It is expected that in some cases, an ALS may distribute our material to a wider audience than its members and there would be no prohibition about doing that.]*

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. The ALS will have the option of being able to update this space if they wish.
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.

*[Implementation note: 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.

## Criteria for ALS Accreditation

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.

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.
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).
5. *[Current rule: Expectation - Still needed?]* Assist the RALO in performing its function.
6. ALS Application submitters and future representatives do not need to be organization leaders, but an ALS application must have leadership knowledge and support.
7. There is 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.]*

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**

These are issues that were proposed as possible expectations. It was decided that they not be included as expectations, but the ideas were felt to have significant merit and should not be lost.

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

These are issues that were discussed as possible expectations. It was formally decided that they not be included. It is conceivable that a RALO might consider these as important, but they will not be in the ALAC-established set of expectations for initial or continued accreditation

1. Vote if there are things to vote on (note that some RALOs have very few votes, others more).
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 (including GNSO, CCWG, etc.), probably using the forthcoming ICANN Client/Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System. 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

These are issues that arose during WP deliberations. They are neither expectations nor criteria, but were either factors that were considered important in the WP decision making or were considerations that ultimately were not addressed but felt should not be lost.

1. We are not looking for 100% certainty. This applies to whether ALSes are perfectly meeting our expectations, or to identify whether a person is active in a meeting or just listening. We do however want a level of comfort that things are working as expected, and we should investigate anomalies when identified.
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

Although not yet discussed at length, it is expected that once we approve any new rules, and get Board approval if needed, there will be a period of about 6-12 months to implement and then we will begin the 2-year cycle of reports. “Enforcement”, to the extent that the term is meaningful will come based on the reports and if applicable investigations related to specific reports of problems.

## Other Discussions

1. We have discussed whether an ALS may be an institutional member of some other constituency within ICANN (such as the NCUC or IPC). We have not reached consensus, but there is pretty well universal belief that there should be no prohibition, but there is not yet agreement on whether the organization should be allowed to vote in both constituencies. Note that this is solely about the organization and not in reference to the people holding key roles within them
2. We have begun discussing whether there should be any rules on whether an ALS representative may hold key roles in other constituencies of ICANN (such as a Chair of a group, a member of their policy council, or a formally appointed member of a PDP or CCWG – i.e. in a position to speak on behalf of that constituency). This is something that has come up repeatedly in the past and merits discussion. Note that the WP can ONLY make recommendation in regard to ALS representatives. If there is a recommendation for some prohibition, it would have to be echoed by the ALAC for other roles within At-Large.