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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on ccNSO PDP3: Initial Proposals for Process to Retire ccTLDs

Introduction

On 05 May 2020, Public Comment opened for [ccNSO PDP3: Initial Proposals for Process to Retire ccTLDs](#). On the same day, an At-Large [workspace](#) was created for the statement. The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG), decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop an ALAC statement on the Public Comment, and Hadia Elminiawi, ALAC Member of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), and Barrack Otieno, At-Large Liaison to the ccNSO, volunteered for the drafting team of the ALAC statement.

On [20 May 2020](#), Barrack Otieno and Hadia Elminiawi presented items for At-Large consensus on the Public Comment during that week's CPWG meeting. It was determined after CPWG discussion that an ALAC statement could be drafted after agreeing upon points of consensus.

On [18 June 2020](#), Hadia Elminiawi shared the first draft of the ALAC statement. ICANN Policy staff in support of the At-Large community posted the draft to its workspace and issued a call for comments on the CPWG and ALAC mailing lists. There were no additional comments from the community, so a final call for comments was issued.

On 03 July 2020, after one comment for suggested revisions was received, the CPWG Co-Chairs decided that the statement could move to the ALAC for ratification before submission to ICANN Public Comment.

On 07 July 2020, Hadia Elminiawi finalized the ALAC statement.

On 07 July 2020, the ALAC Chair, Maureen Hilyard, requested that the statement be ratified by the ALAC.

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The ALAC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Process to Retire ccTLDs.

From an end user perspective, two points need to be considered:

1. As a user of the Internet, the removal of a TLD will mean less likelihood for confusion as usually a ccTLD would be removed to make way for a new one. This enhances Trust in the domain name identifiers.
2. As a domain name registrant, the retirement of the ccTLD could pose a problem when correspondents are accustomed to use the "old" address using the obsolete ccTLD. Some companies have built a brand around the "old" ccTLD.

In relation to the definition and applicability of process, the retirement triggering event perfectly describes the situation. However, the ALAC notes that in the event that a retired ccTLD does not have a ccTLD Manager referred to in this policy as a Functional Manager and the IANA Naming Functions Operator (IFO) operator is required to transfer the responsibility of the ccTLD to a Functional Manager, transparency and following due process is necessary to avoid any unexpected disruption to the process. In relation to the retirement process, the policy determines that both the IFO and the Functional Manager will work together in good faith to ensure the interests of the registrants are taken into consideration. Where end users are accustomed to using the old retired domains, the interests of the end users need to be taken into account as a part of the interests of the registrants.

In relation to the review mechanism, it is unclear what review mechanisms would be used and what exactly the mechanism will review.

As a whole, the ALAC supports the ccNSO PDP3. The retirement plan is fit for purpose. It is comprehensive and takes into account special cases like .UK .AC and .EU.