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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on Operational Design Phase (ODP) Concept Paper

Introduction

In a 23 December 2020 blog post, ICANN President/CEO Göran Marby asked that Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees provide ICANN with their comments on the proposed ODP by 22 January 2021. ICANN staff in support of the At-Large community created an At-Large workspace 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 ODP, and Alan Greenberg and Hadia Elminiawi, ALAC Members of the EPDP 2, volunteered for the drafting team of the ALAC statement.

On 19 January 2021, Alan Greenberg shared the first draft of the ALAC statement on the CPWG and ALAC mailing lists, and the At-Large workspace. There were several additional comments from the community on the workspace and CPWG mailing list in advance of the weekly CPWG meeting.

On 20 January 2021, Alan Greenberg and Hadia Elminiawi presented the draft ALAC statement to the CPWG. A final call for comments was issued after the meeting on the CPWG and ALAC mailing lists.

On 21 January 2021, Alan Greenberg and Hadia Elminiawi finalized the ALAC statement.

On 22 January 2021, the ALAC Chair, Maureen Hilyard, requested that the statement be submitted pending ratification by the ALAC.

On 26 January 2021, staff confirmed the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with 15 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. Please note 100% (15) of the 15 ALAC Members participated in the poll. The ALAC Members who participated in the poll are (alphabetical order by first name): Abdulkarim Oloyede, Bastiaan Goslings, Carlos Raul Gutierrez, Dave Kissoondoyal, Humberto Carrasco, Holly Raiche, Javier Rua-Jovet, Joanna Kulesza, Jonathan Zuck, Justine Chew, Marita Moll, Matthias Hudobnik, Maureen Hilyard, Sylvia Herlein Leite, and Tijani Ben Jemaa. You may view the result independently under:
   https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=1341281kPC2QMHQLhLywveF7LYp

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The ALAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ODP Concept Paper v2.0.

The ALAC supports the idea of an Operational Design Phase (ODP) to provide sufficient information to the Board in their decision process on addressing complex PDP recommendations such as those coming from EPDP Phase 2.

The ALAC agrees that the Community Design Feedback Group (DFG) as described in the original concept paper was overkill and would add unneeded complexity and time to an already long process.

However, the concepts that it embodied were extremely important. Specifically:

- Those providing feedback would have specific qualifications related to the subject of the design phase; and
- The group would be charged with proactively seeking and coordinating feedback from their respective groups.

The replacement proposed on the v2.0 paper sadly loses all of this. By replacing the DFG with a (or perhaps multiple as discussed during the webinar) GNSO Council liaison(s):

- We no longer have subject-matter experts involved;
- We no longer may have direct paths to the communities who will be involved in the final product, noting that some of these communities may not be presented on the GNSO.

Looking at the SSAD as an example, the GNSO may be able to represent contracted parties and even some of the potential SSAD users, but there would be a complete lack of representation of communities such as law enforcement and cyber-security experts who will certainly be among the most critical SSAD users.

Looking at upcoming Board decisions on PDP recommendations, we have the Subsequent Procedures PDP and Review of Rights Protection Mechanisms. Both of these will greatly involve people and entities that will not be part of the ICANN community at the time of their respective ODPs.

Without such groups having a clear path to commenting on and influencing the operational design (we are not talking about altering the policy), the chances that the Board will consider and approve a design which will meet all of the multiple communities needs will decrease significantly. And that negates the very purpose for which the ODP was created.