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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Draft Project Plan for the Proposed Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP)

Introduction

Jonathan Zuck, member of the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and Hadia Elminiaiwi, ALAC Member of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), developed an initial draft of the Statement on behalf of the ALAC.

On 13 April 2018, the first draft of the Statement was posted on its [At-Large workspace](#).

On that same date, ICANN Policy Staff in support of the At-Large Community sent a Call for Comments on the Statement to the At-Large Community via the ALAC Work mailing list.

On 18 April 2018, the ALAC Chair submitted comment. On 18 April 2018, a version incorporating additional comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the ALAC Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote.

In the interest of time, the ALAC Chair requested that the Statement be transmitted to the ICANN public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this topic, with a note that the Statement is pending ALAC ratification.

ALAC Statement on the Draft Project Plan for the Proposed Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP)

As the principle voice of end users within the ICANN community, the At-large Advisory Committee (ALAC) supports the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) in its efforts to address the issue of Name Collisions as it remains an area of some uncertainty. The ALAC urges the SSAC to proceed with the Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP) Work Party's project plan and allocate enough time to do it right. We believe it is important to minimize the unintended consequences for end users. Name Collision occurs when a user, attempting to reach a private domain name, unintentionally reaches a public domain name and, as such, cut to the core of end user trust of the internet and could pose potential security issues.

The NCAP Work Party's project plan, as it currently stands, seems adequate without being excessive. We urge the SSAC to stay the course and not expedite the process for the benefit of any subsequent procedures. There is great anticipation, from parts of the community, for new applications but not only is a specific delay unlikely, given other factors, we believe it would be prudent for the SSAC to execute the project plan as submitted to provide the ICANN community with a holistic assessment of the risks.

Additionally, the ALAC seeks clarity on the SSAC's bidding process for work contemplated under this Draft Project Plan, as touched upon in sections 3.1 and 3.2. First, we appreciate the SSAC's candour in disclosing that it will consider NCAP Work Party members' bids (and that of their affiliates), but it remains unclear as to their overall status as compared to invited guests of the SSAC. Moreover, we see a potential issue with having only a select group of the SSAC community choosing with whom they will contract. The ALAC recommends that any decision with respect to contracting with either NCAP Work Party members and their affiliates or independent third-party contracting agents be taken by the whole SSAC (and excluding invited guests), and for SSAC to provide the ICANN community with adequate amount of notice with respect to any party with whom they wish to contract.

We believe that this recommendation will ameliorate concerns related to potential conflicts of interest that may arise.