Status of the ALAC/At-Large Improvements Project

03 June 2011

Executive Summary

This update is being submitted for informational purposes only. No action is being requested of the SIC or Board.

A. Brief background

The goal of the ALAC/At-Large Improvements Program is to develop a set of proposals aimed at implementing the recommendations presented in the Final Report of the ALAC Review Working Group on ALAC Improvements (Final Report). To this end, the ALAC has established four Improvements Working Teams (WTs).

B. ICANN's Silicon Valley Meeting and beyond

Since the Silicon Valley Meeting, the WTs have been refining their implementation proposals and incorporating the feedback received at the Meeting from the ALAC and At-Large. Some WTs are also combining their multiple proposals into flowcharts representing the overhaul of ALAC decision-making and policy advice processes.

C. ICANN Bylaw amendments

One Final Report recommendation calls for the revision of ICANN's Bylaws to reflect the ALAC's continuing purpose within ICANN. With the public comment period now closed on the proposed Bylaw amendments, staff has submitted them to the SIC with the request that it recommend Board approval during the Board's June 2011 meeting.

D. Improvements Project schedule

The ALAC has revised the Project's schedule, now planning to submit the final report to the SIC in August 2011. The Project remains on track and is coming to a successful conclusion.

The ALAC and At-Large staff are submitting this update to the ICANN SIC and Board for informational purposes only. No action is being requested of the SIC or Board.

A. Brief background

The ALAC/At-Large Improvements Project grew out of the ALAC's 2008 independent review, mandated by the ICANN Bylaws. Based on the findings of this review and the input from two

public comment periods, the Review Working Group on ALAC Improvements, appointed by the BGC, developed 13 recommendations for the ALAC and At-Large.

These recommendations were published in the [Final Report of the ALAC Review Working Group on ALAC Improvements](#) (9 June 2009; Final Report). In June 2009, the [Board then approved](#) all these recommendations (except for the allocation of two voting ICANN Directors to At-Large) for implementation.

There are four areas into which these recommendations fall. Consequently, the ALAC established four working teams (WTs), each focused on one of these areas:

- [WT A](#) focuses on the ALAC's continuing purpose within ICANN;
- [WT B](#) focuses on increasing participation by the local At-Large Structures (ALSes) around the world;
- [WT C](#) focuses on improving ALAC and At-Large strategic, operational, and financial planning processes; and
- [WT D](#) focuses on enhancing the ALAC's policy advice processes.

The ALAC/At-Large Improvements Project is truly a bottom-up endeavor. Each WT includes members from all five of At-Large's Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs), and the majority of WT co-chairs are, in fact, At-Large members who do *not* serve on the ALAC.

These WTs began meeting in September 2010. Now, nine months later, the WTs are heading toward a successful conclusion of their work.

B. **ICANN's Silicon Valley Meeting and beyond**

During ICAAN's 40th Meeting in Silicon Valley/San Francisco, the Improvements WTs focused on developing their draft proposals aimed at implementing the recommendations in the ALAC Review WG's [Final Report](#). Specifically, the WTs presented their proposals and received feedback from the ALAC and At-Large community.

The WTs will ultimately present their final proposals to the ALAC for approval. Once approved, the proposals will be presented by the ALAC to the Board in the form of a final report.

Since the Silicon Valley Meeting, the WTs have been:

- Refining their implementation proposals;
- Incorporating the feedback received from the ALAC and At-Large; and
- Working on combining multiple proposals into flowcharts representing the overhaul of ALAC decision-making processes; this is being done, for example, for the ALAC's financial planning process and the At-Large's policy advice development process.

Following are examples of the WTs' specific proposals:

- WT A has already proposed amendments to the ICANN Bylaws that strengthen the mandate of the ALAC and At-Large (please see the "ICANN Bylaw amendments" section below);

- WT B will propose a series of new training and communication initiatives for the ALSes, many tailored to their specific regions;
- WT C will propose improvements to the ALAC's strategic, operational, and budgetary planning, specifically geared toward enhancing participation by the regions and ALSes; and
- WT D will propose that At-Large's policy advice development process be supplemented with multiple points at which extensions can be requested, more policy input from the ALSes, and more accessible background material.

C. **ICANN Bylaw amendments**

Among the recommendations in the ALAC Review WG's Final Report is the recommendation (p. 6, par. 1) that the ICANN Bylaws be revised to reflect the ALAC's continuing purpose within ICANN:

- In providing advice on policy;
- In providing input into ICANN's operations and structure;
- As part of ICANN's accountability mechanisms; and
- As an organizing mechanism for some of ICANN's outreach.

In addition, the Final Report acknowledges that the ALAC, as the representative body of At-Large, is ICANN's primary organizational home for individual Internet users, although ICANN's multi-stakeholder model also allows individual users to participate in other ways (p. 6, par. 10).

To comply with these provisions of the Final Report, the ICANN Office of the General Counsel, in close consultation with the ALAC and At-Large staff, has drafted a set of proposed amendments to ICANN's Bylaws.

On 8 April 2011, under the Board's direction, staff began a 30-day public comment period on these proposed amendments. Only one comment was received, but it was on a topic unrelated to the amendments. The public comment period, therefore, resulted in no change to the Bylaw amendments.

The final, proposed amendments have now, on 3 June 2011, been submitted to the SIC with the request that the SIC recommend them for Board approval during the Board's meeting in June 2011 in Singapore.

D. **Improvements Project schedule**

The ALAC Executive Committee (ExCom) had initially set a self-imposed target date of June 2011 for the completion of the ALAC/At-Large Improvements Project. Recently, the ExCom has revised this target to August 2011 – only one year after the Board approved the ALAC/At-Large Improvements Implementation Project Plan (7 June 2010) in August 2010.

The ExCom decided on this revision for two reasons:
- The ALAC has chosen, since ICANN's Silicon Valley Meeting, to focus on the priority of increasing its output of policy comments. (By doing so, the ALAC has produced an unprecedented 16 policy comments over the last few months.)
- During ICANN's Singapore meeting in June 2011, the ALAC would like to focus on the timely issues of (a) the new gTLD program, (b) the Joint gTLD Applicant Support Working Group, and (c) the ALAC's collaborations with the Government Advisory Committee (GAC).

With the Improvements Project on track and coming to a successful conclusion, the ALAC now plans to submit the Project's final report for the SIC's consideration at its August 2011 meeting.