Status of ALAC Improvements Implementation

09 March 2010

Executive Summary

In the months following Nairobi, the At-Large community, working with the At-Large Improvements Project Manager, will execute the following broad steps toward the implementation of the At-Large Improvements:

- The creation of a project plan, including an accurate budget (to be submitted to the Structural Improvements Committee by its May 2010 meeting);
- The strengthening of the At-Large Working Groups, which will be responsible for much of the work implementing the At-Large Improvements; and
- The allocation of specific implementation tasks to individual Working Groups, committees, and relevant ICANN staff.

Since ICANN's Meeting in Seoul, a number of milestones have been accomplished as part of the implementation of the At-Large Improvements, including:

- The publication of regional brochures, in the relevant languages, by three of our RALOs; brochures by the remaining two RALOs are in production. These will be used as part of a new education, outreach, and recruitment strategy.
- A review of the information flow between the At-Large ALS-RALO-ALAC structure and individual Internet users has begun.
- The public-comment period on a proposed selection process for the At-Large Board member has closed.
- Draft revisions to the ICANN Bylaws, more clearly defining the At-Large role and contribution, are underway.

For a comprehensive list of implementation deliverables completed to date, please see the attached Simplified At-Large Improvements Outline (6 March 2010).

A. Overall next steps in the At-Large Improvements Implementation

Next-Step Details

In the months immediately following ICANN's 37th Meeting in Nairobi (7-12 March 2010), the At-Large community will commence its next steps toward implementing those At-Large Improvement tasks considered to be near- and medium-term priorities. These priorities were determined by the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and Regional Leaders during ICANN's 36th Meeting in Seoul (25-30 October 2009).

Supporting the At-Large community in this endeavor will be the newly hired At-Large Improvements Project Manager and other At-Large staff. The immediate form and goals of this support are described below.

Project plan and budget
The creation of an At-Large Improvements project plan, including a budget, will be based on the staff's At-Large Improvements Implementation Outline presented to the Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) on 24 October 2009. Once drafted, the project plan will require review and approval by the At-Large community. Following this approval, it will be submitted to the SIC by the committee's May 2010 meeting.

Strengthening of At-Large Working Groups
Supported by the At-Large Improvements Project Manager and other At-Large staff, the At-Large community's activities to strengthen its Working Groups (WGs) will begin immediately following Nairobi.

There are two reasons strengthening the WGs is deemed necessary. First, it was decided that the implementation of the At-Large Improvements would be carried out by the WGs (community call on ALAC Improvements, December 2009). Second, in the months following the At-Large Summit (March 2009), the WGs have been relatively inactive for various reasons, including the At-Large staff's prior lack of capacity to support them.

As a first step toward reinvigorating the At-Large WGs, ideas for doing so will be discussed on a mid-March conference call for Working Group Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and ALAC Focal Point personnel, assisted by the At-Large Improvements Project Manager. Topics of this call will include:

- The WGs' mandate as the primary implementation agents of the recommendations delineated in the ALAC Review Working Group's Final Report;
- The process for allocating, among the WGs, the discrete recommendation tasks listed in the At-Large Improvements Implementation Outline;
- The process of further dividing these tasks into manageable action items;
- The process for monitoring the WGs' progress on these action items; and
- A review of the steps required to repopulate the WGs with new members.

Allocation of Improvement tasks to Working Groups
The At-Large WGs, with the support of the At-Large Improvements Project Manager and other At-Large staff, will be responsible for allocating among themselves the At-Large Improvement tasks. After this process is discussed by the Working Group Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and ALAC Focal Point personnel in mid-March (see above), the At-Large Project Manager will suggest a method for determining which Improvement tasks go to which WG.

Once these tasks are allocated, the WGs will be responsible for further dividing each into manageable action items, monitoring their progress, and meeting the completion deadlines. Again, the At-Large Improvements Project Manager and other At-Large staff will support the WGs throughout this process.

Certain At-Large Improvement tasks will not, however, be allocated to WGs but will, instead, be allocated, based on their specialized nature, to existing ALAC subcommittees or ICANN staff – all subject to approval by the At-Large community. (An example of such a specialized task is the amendment of the ICANN Bylaws under Recommendation 1 described in the At-Large Improvements Implementation Outline.)

B. **History and references**

Parallel processes

The below two chronologies – citing important references (and including links to these documents on the Web) – together outline the history of steps taken thus far in the implementation of the At-Large Improvements. That they are separate chronologies reflects the fact that, in practice, two separate but largely parallel implementation processes have thus far been pursued under the At-Large Improvements project.

The first chronology summarizes the steps so-far taken to implement the bulk – indeed, all but one – of the At-Large Improvement recommendations (set out in the Final Report of the ALAC Review Working Group on ALAC Improvements,9 June 2009). The recommendation *not* addressed by this first chronology is the call for a process to select an At-Large voting member to ICANN's Board of Directors.

The second chronology summarizes the steps so-far taken to create the selection process for this At-Large Board member.

I. At-Large Improvements (except for Board-member selection process): Implementation chronology and references

25 Jul 2008	Westlake Consulting Limited presents its Independent Review of the At-Large Advisory Committee: Report to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (25 July 2008), summarizing the findings of its At- Large independent review. The report contains 24 recommendations.
09 Jun 2009	The Final Report of the ALAC Review Working Group on ALAC Improvements (9 June 2009; hereafter, the "Final Report") is published, incorporating input from two public-comment periods. In its 13 recommendations, it identifies key areas of needed improvement, focusing on At-Large's organization, effectiveness, participation, and relationship to other ICANN entities.
22 Jun 2009	The Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) approves a recommendation to the Board to accept the Final Report.
4 Aug 2009	ALAC adopts a Resolution on Creating an At-Large Review WG Implementation Plan (AL.ALAC/RES.0809/1), endorsing specific steps in the creation of a plan for the implementation of the Final Report's recommendations. In short, these steps prescribe: • Dividing each recommendation into a list of smaller constituent activities (later, often referred to as "tasks"); and

	• Assigning a relative priority, corresponding to a target completion period, to each of these tasks.
24 Oct 2009	The SIC receives a staff update on the implementation status of items approved by the Board from the Final Report. • The staff presents the SIC with an overall At-Large Improvements Implementation Outline (hereafter, the "Implementation Outline"), dividing the Final Report's recommendations into smaller tasks, and an update on the ALAC procedure to arrive at a statement for the Board. • Regarding the recommendation within the Final Report on strengthening translation policies: The SIC requests staff to forward to the Public Participation Committee (PPC) information on the organization's translation work and a draft translation policy prepared some years ago.
25 Oct 2009	In Seoul, ALAC approves the staff's Implementation Outline, after which ALAC and Regional Leaders assign relative priorities to the tasks into which the Outline divides the Final Report recommendations. In accordance with the resolution adopted by ALAC on 4 August 2009 (see above): • These relative priorities correspond to completion targets in the near term (3-6 months), medium term (6-9 months), and longer term (over 9 months); and • The rationale used to assign these priorities is that the community does not wish to spend the majority of its time or energy on process improvements, to the detriment of its policy mandate.
28 Oct 2009	At the ALAC and Board SIC meeting, the assigned priorities of the At-Large Improvement tasks are discussed. The SIC concludes that the implementation process is consistent with the Final Report's recommendations.
17 Dec 2009	The At-Large community holds a teleconference on the Implementation Outline. It is decided: • The existing At-Large Working Groups will be strengthened and used to implement the tasks associated with each recommendation. • Where necessary to complete specific subtasks, the WGs may create work teams.
12 Feb 2010	The At-Large Improvements Project Manager joins the At-Large staff.
24 Feb 2010	The ALAC Chair, Director for At-Large, and At-Large Improvements Project Manager hold a call to further define the details of the needed next steps and an agenda for the 7 March ALAC and Regional Leadership Working Session in Nairobi that would best expedite those steps.
26 Feb 2010	A new At-Large Improvements Workspace is created on the internal ICANN Web site, to be used by the WGs and others as a hub for all updates, documents, and work related to the At-Large Improvements Implementation.
7 Mar 2010	In Nairobi, various aspects of the needed next steps to implement the At-Large Improvements are discussed in the ALAC and Regional Leadership Working Session, including the project plan and budget, the strengthening of the WGs, and the allocation of the Implementation Outline tasks to the WGs and others.

II. At-Large Board-member selection process: Implementation chronology and references

02 Nov 2008	The Boston Consulting Group and Colin Carter & Associates present their [Independent Review of the Board of ICANN: Executive Summary and Recommendations](#) (November 2008). The report recommends providing ALAC with the possibility to nominate up to two voting ICANN Board members.
09 Jun 2009	The [Final Report of the ALAC Review Working Group on ALAC Improvements](#) (9 June 2009; hereafter, the "Final Report") is published. It recommends that At-Large be granted two voting seats on the ICANN Board.
22 Jun 2009	The [Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) approves a recommendation](#) to the Board to accept the Final Report. • The SIC further asks the Board Review Working Group "… to identify different scenarios for the size and composition of the Board, taking into consideration the recommendation from the ALAC Review Working Group report to consider the inclusion of voting seat(s) on the Board for At-Large; and to identify different scenarios for the size and composition of the Nominating Committee."
27 Aug 2009	In a [special meeting of the Board,](#) the Board approves in principle the implementation of the Board Review WG's recommendation "…to add one voting Director appointed from the At Large Community to the ICANN Board of Directors, and removing the present ALAC Liaison to the Board…." • The Board further directs staff "…to identify all steps required to achieve the implementation of this principle, after issuing of the BRWG Final Report."
11 Jan 2010	ALAC and the At-Large community release the White Paper [Call for community Comment on the 'Proposed process for the 2010 selection of an ICANN At-Large Board Member'](#) (11 January 2010; revised 4 February 2010), which will be posted for public comment. The document contains a timeline that assumes the new At-Large Board member would be seated by June 2010 (ICANN's 38th Meeting in Brussels, June 2010).
11-26 Jan 2010	In an e-mail exchange between the SIC and ALAC chairs, the SIC Chair states the following clarifications regarding the process of selecting an At-Large Board member: • "…there is no provision in the ICANN bylaws requiring any action by the Board of Directors with regard to a process by which the At-Large community would select a member of the board. In fact, the current bylaws leave the manner of choosing those board members who are not appointed by the NomCom to the [B]oard to the organizations which choose them. The board has not decided yet whether the same would hold true for the At Large Community." • "The SIC expects to receive the final report from the Board Review Working Group in time to make a recommendation to the Board at its scheduled meeting in Nairobi. The committee anticipates that it will be able to act further on implementing the principle of a [B]oard voting member selected by the At Large Community during the 2nd Quarter of 2010."

26 Jan 2010	The ICANN Board Review Working Group Final Report (January 2010) is released. Regarding an At-Large Board member, the document states: • The Board already approved in principle the recommendation for one At-Large voting Director to replace the ALAC Liaison to the Board. • The Board recommends not reducing the current number of Board Directors appointed by the Nominating Committee (NomCom). (The proposal to reduce this number had been discussed as a means of balancing the addition of the one new At-Large Board member.) • The Board concludes that ALAC and At-Large should develop a mechanism for the selection of their voting Board Director. Furthermore, "[t]he selection process must ensure that the appointment has the approval of ALAC and the approval of the At-Large community more broadly." • The Board expects that "…the selection process will be designed, approved and implemented in time for the new Director to be seated at the 2010 AGM" (ICANN's 39th Meeting in Latin America, December 2010).
29 Jan 2010	The Final Report of the NomCom Review Finalization Working Group (January 2010) is released. Regarding an At-Large Board member, the document: • Discusses whether or not a new Board Director appointed by At-Large would necessitate a decrease in the present ALAC representation on the NomCom (which currently has five At-Large delegates); and • Reports, in conclusion, that the WG "does not recommend the change of the Nominating Committee's structure and composition for the time being" – consistent with the balance of differing opinions held within the WG and the broader community.
5 Feb 2010	ALAC and the At-Large community post their White Paper Call for community Comment on the 'Proposed process for the 2010 selection of an ICANN At-Large Board Member' (11 January 2010; revised 4 February 2010) for public comment through 6 March 2010.