AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report

Introduction
By the Staff of ICANN

Carlton Samuels, ALAC Vice Chair and At-Large member from the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO), and Alan Greenberg, ALAC Liaison to the GNSO and At-Large member from the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large.

On 30 May 2012, this Statement was posted on the At-Large Statement on the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report Workspace.

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of ALAC send a call for comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 9 June 2012, the Chair of the ALAC requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification on the Statement.

On 15 June 2012, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 11 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 1 abstention. You may review the result independently under: https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=2497AZ9HZdsABx9PJ8iVfaZU

The Chair then requested that the Statement be transmitted to the Public Comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this Public Comment topic.

[End of Introduction]

WHOIS Policy Review Team Draft Report

The ALAC applauds the WHOIS Review Team for a masterful Final Report and gives its full endorsement. The report manages to avoid the distraction of the most divisive WHOIS issues and focuses on those where progress can and must be made quickly.

The ALAC has already made a number of statements related to WHOIS, which can be found on the At-Large Correspondence Page. Our position remains consistent. WHOIS accuracy is mandatory, such information must be reasonably accessible to end-users and there must be a viable means of contacting those responsible for a gTLD domain.

We reiterate our position in highlighting the most significant strategic positions advised in this Final Report:

1. WHOIS must be established as a strategic priority for ICANN. Here, the Review Team gave specific guidance to objective, here forward.

2. Articulation of a single defining WHOIS policy

3. Explicitly assign value to the finding of widespread interest/convergence of WHOIS matters in the global Internet community with their recommendation for an active and far-reaching outreach initiative.

4. Explicitly connects improved compliance with greater operational transparency and a more accountable Board by recommending a direct reporting connection between ICANN Compliance Staff and the Board

5. Declares in favor of "a clear, unambiguous and enforceable chain of contractual agreements with registries, registrars, and registrants to require the provision and maintenance of accurate WHOIS data."

6. For ICANN to embrace the utility of privacy and proxy services in the WHOIS chain and act with urgency to formalize them.

All that remains is for action to proceed. And the Review Team has helpfully recommended a timeline that we think, in balance is aggressive yet practical. We urge effective Board action on these recommendations. The ALAC also urges the Board to take swift and effective action to address the more contentious WHOIS issues that are not addressed in this report, including the issue of WHOIS privacy.