AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Request for Community Input on Formulation of 2013 -2016 Strategic Plan

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), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 25 July 2012, this Statement was posted on the At-Large Request for Community Input on Formulation of 2013-2016 Strategic Plan Workspace.

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

On 30 July 2012, a version incorporating the comments received was posted and the Chair of the ALAC requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification on the Statement.

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, along with a note saying that the document was currently undergoing ALAC ratification with a vote to start shortly.

On 9 August 2012, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 1 abstention. You may review the result independently under:
https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=2574HZy3ZVnIEwKEfGR2y9UG

[End of Introduction]

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The ALAC believes extensive feedback and interaction can only inure to improve planning outcomes for the ICANN Strategic Plan 2013-2016. In this context, we note and approve the process change to cross constituency type consultations for plan formulation and development as a useful enabler for our expectations. Making the right decisions on the structure and identity of the players are all critical elements for the success we seek, especially in light of the aggressive timeline for plan development now being projected. We trust this hurry is a one-off affair. After all, certain knowledge of Board timelines should prompt a sufficiently earlier start to the plan development process, thus negating the need to shortchange full community deliberation and input.

On the whole, the ALAC believes the overarching priorities for plan development are well-intentioned:

1. Achieving operational excellence
2. Preserving the multi-stakeholder model (MSM)
3. Fulfilling ICANN's limited mission

We shall insist on transparency in both approach and actions, from staff to community and back, thru to the Board and all points between to further plan development. We favor and encourage a deliberative approach to defining what MSM means in the ICANN context. We also recommend a full-bore restatement of ICANN's mission, especially in light of recent political developments.

We believe the plan that shall eventually emerge from this exercise would be more robust if the question of market evolution occasioned by technology and/or business model changes is addressed.

Finally, the ALAC remains concerned that no long term strategic plan or vision appears to exist. This needs to be remedied in the near future.