EN

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the SSAC Report on Dotless Domains

Introduction
By the Staff of ICANN

Sergio Salinas Porto, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) 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 10 September 2012, this Statement was posted on the At-Large SSAC Report on Dotless Domains 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 14 September 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.

On 22 September 2012, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 13 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 1 abstention. You may review the result independently under: https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=2645T7wbbm7PUmTA5eudS5AS

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]

ALAC Statement on the SSAC Report on Dotless Domains

The New gTLD Program will introduce a significant number of new top level domain names into the Domain Name System (DNS). This prospect has generated considerable interest, and sometimes confusion, in how top level domain names can be used.

The SAC053 report relates the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee's advice on "dotless domains", defined as domain names without a dot.

It is our understanding that trust in the Domain Name System, as well as its stability and accessibility, is one of the pillars upon which the Internet is based. For an Internet user, this includes trust in the consistency of name resolution.

Having reviewed the SSAC report, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), congratulates the SSAC for its excellent advice and fully supports the contents of its report.

We find there are serious and well-grounded issues derived from the use of dotless domains. Specifically, we are concerned that dotless domains may not work as expected for some Internet users depending on the application they are using. This is detrimental to Internet user experience.

Therefore, we recommend that ICANN should explicitly prohibit dotless domains in contracts with organizations that obtain the delegation of a new gTLD.

We understand that ICANN has the necessary mechanisms to monitor the observance of this rule and penalize instances of breach through the tools contained in its contracts, on the basis of the contractual review conducted by ICANN's Contractual Compliance Team.