AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Community Input Draft 2013-2016 Strategic Plan

Introduction
By the Staff of ICANN

Tijani Ben Jemaa, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) member from the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and ALAC Executive Committee member, composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large, as well as in the At-Large Finance and Budget Sub-Committee during the ICANN Toronto meeting and on the Mailing Lists.

On 29 October 2012, an initial draft of this Statement was posted on the At-Large Community Input Draft 2013-2016 Strategic Plan Workspace.

The draft was then discussed on the aforementioned workspace.

On 05 November 2012, a version incorporating the comments received was posted and Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification on the Statement.

On 12 November 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: http://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=2739qLCTpCTuwYXpgb55UIWX

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
Community Input Draft 2013-2016 Strategic Plan

The At-Large Advisory Committee welcomes the new vision of Strategic Planning, and finds it appropriate with the new management approach. It believes that the community should actively participate in the preparation of the new version of the Strategic Plan through ad hoc joint groups for more efficiency. These groups should be timely formed to conceive the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan on time.

Nevertheless, the ALAC believes that we cannot stop the ongoing Strategic Plan preparation and adoption because we are about to start the operating plan and budget elaboration; the FY14 budget priorities are drawn from the adopted 2013-2016 Strategic Plan objectives and projects.

The insertion of metrics for each focus area is a good approach for better assessment and follow-up. The At-Large Advisory Committee highly appreciates it.

Because the expansion of the domain space (New gTLD and IDN) will pose more challenges to ICANN and the operators corporate to maintain stability security and resiliency of the Internet global unique identifier systems, and also because the migration to IPv6 is now a necessity and not a choice for ISPs, business entities and consumers in general, the ALAC considers that training and capacity building will be utmost importance for the upcoming years, and thus should be one of the main strategic projects.

The ALAC notices with great satisfaction the implementation by ICANN of a standardized approach for all contracted parties. The ALAC claimed over several consecutive years such standardization for more fairness.

Also, the ALAC welcomes the expansion of the ICANN contractual compliance capabilities by increasing the resources allocated to the compliance function, which will make ICANN well positioned to support the public trust.

Thanks to the At-Large extensive geographic diversity and reach, as well as its large network worldwide, the At-Large Advisory Committee reiterates its willingness and ability to help ICANN in the effort of advocacy, outreach and training on:

- IPv6 adoption for ISPs, business entities and consumers
- Global DNS security for TLD operators
- Unique identifier SSR in developing countries

The participation of ICANN in Internet governance fora, including those organized by the United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies is absolutely necessary to share its bottom-up and inclusive multi-stakeholder model of global governance. Therefore, ALAC believes that this participation should reflect the openness, accountability and transparency of this model through substantive contributions made by the various ICANN community constituencies in those fora to build trust around ICANN activities. Such contributions will be much more beneficial for ICANN and for the global Internet actors than many other forms of communication speeches and exhibitions.

In conclusion, ALAC believes that the community input regarding the strategic priorities should be effectively taken into consideration for the final plan establishment and adoption.