



## AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### ALAC Statement on the Second Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT 2) Final Report & Recommendations

#### Introduction

Rinalia Abdul Rahim, At-Large member from the Asian, Australian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 20 February 2014, this Statement was posted on the "[At-Large Second Accountability and Transparency Review Team \(ATRT 2\) Final Report & Recommendations Workspace](#)."

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the Recommendations to all At-Large members via the [ALAC-Announce Mailing List](#).

On 28 February 2014, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote on the proposed Statement.

On 07 March 2014, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. You may review the result independently under: <https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=3695vv4GhaFC4ReREQfQgfh>

#### Summary

1. We advise the ICANN Board to: (1) Place equal emphasis on recommendations and observations, and address key issues outlined in the observations indicated in Appendix B and C of the report in advance of the next WHOIS and Security, Stability and Resiliency (SSR) reviews; and (2) Take measures to improve future reviews by ensuring that review processes are accorded sufficient time for a thorough and effective assessment and to ensure that ICANN is better prepared organizationally to support the review process.
2. We believe that the Board should examine both Recommendations and Observations in the ATRT2 report with equal diligence. A careful examination of the Observations laid out in Appendix B and C on the reviews of the WHOIS Review Team and the Security, Stability and Resiliency Review Team implementation reveals serious issues requiring Board attention. Developing new recommendations on these topics are outside of the ATRT2 scope, but the issues remain within the purview of the Board. Ignoring these issues at this stage will likely worsen the problems in a few years' time. We recommend that the issues be addressed now through appropriate mechanisms.
3. The ATRT2 report includes a section on its review work experience in Appendix E. This section highlights observations and recommendations on "Improving Future Reviews" for the next Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3). We note with concern that the ATRT1 and the ATRT2 processes had less than 12 full months to undertake their review and that this affected their work. Given the importance of the review process, we recommend that ICANN be better prepared organizationally to support future reviews and that the ATRT3 be provided with a full year (12 months) for its review work, even if review commencement is delayed.

The original version of this document is the English text available at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence>. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail.

# **ALAC Statement on the Second Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT 2) Final Report & Recommendations**

The ALAC congratulates the Second Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT2) for the completion of its final report and recommendations to the ICANN Board of Directors.

We recognize the amount of effort required to assess ICANN's implementation of recommendations from past Review Teams (i.e., the ATRT1, the WHOIS Review Team and the Security, Stability and Resiliency Review Team). We are appreciative of the assessment as well as the ensuing recommendations, which incorporate valuable input from our community.

We find the ATRT2 recommendations to be clear, appropriate and actionable. We thus support the recommendations and urge the ICANN Board to adopt them as a strategic priority towards creating a culture of accountability and transparency in ICANN.

In moving forward, we advise the ICANN Board to: (1) Place equal emphasis on recommendations and observations, and address key issues outlined in the observations indicated in Appendix B and C of the report in advance of the next WHOIS and Security, Stability and Resiliency (SSR) reviews; and (2) Take measures to improve future reviews by ensuring that review processes are accorded sufficient time for a thorough and effective assessment and to ensure that ICANN is better prepared organizationally to support the review process.

## Place Equal Emphasis on Recommendations and Observations

The ATRT2 emphasized that the observations in its assessments and report should be “duly considered by the Board and afforded all due weight in ongoing and future implementation efforts.” We believe that the Board should examine both Recommendations and Observations in the ATRT2 report with equal diligence. A careful examination of the Observations laid out in Appendix B and C on the reviews of the WHOIS Review Team and the Security, Stability and Resiliency Review Team implementation reveals serious issues requiring Board attention. Developing new recommendations on these topics are outside of the ATRT2 scope, but the issues remain within the purview of the Board. Ignoring these issues at this stage will likely worsen the problems in a few years' time. We recommend that the issues be addressed now through appropriate mechanisms that are either existing or newly created in advance of the next WHOIS and SSR reviews.

## Improve Future Reviews

The ATRT2 report includes a section on its review work experience in Appendix E. This section highlights observations and recommendations on “Improving Future Reviews” for the next Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3). We note with concern that the ATRT1 and the ATRT2 processes had less than 12 full months to undertake their review and that this affected their work. Given the importance of the review process, we recommend that ICANN be better prepared organizationally to support future reviews and that the ATRT3 be provided with a full year (12 months) for its review work, even if review commencement is delayed. This 12-months period complies with the rules established in the Affirmation of Commitments.