

Report of Public Comments

| Title: Proposed Bylaws Changes Regarding the Technical Liaison Group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Publication Date: | | 3 February 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prepared By: | | Elizabeth Le | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">Comment Period:</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Comment Open Date:</td> <td>30 October 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comment Close Date:</td> <td>29 November 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reply Close Date:</td> <td>20 December 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time (UTC):</td> <td>23:59</td> </tr> </table> | | Comment Period: | | Comment Open Date: | 30 October 2013 | Comment Close Date: | 29 November 2013 | Reply Close Date: | 20 December 2013 | Time (UTC): | 23:59 | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Important Information Links</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Announcement</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Public Comment Box</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">View Comments Submitted</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Report of Public Comments</td> </tr> </table> | | Important Information Links | | Announcement | | Public Comment Box | | View Comments Submitted | | Report of Public Comments | |
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| Section I: General Overview and Next Steps | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>The ICANN Board has recently been reviewing the fundamental question of how it can obtain technical advice that it needs. Advice on technical matters is one of those key areas where the existing advisory mechanism, the Technical Liaison Group (or TLG), is not meeting the Board's needs or the mission as stated in the Bylaws. One of the key functions that the TLG is supposed to serve is to appoint experts to which ICANN can direct technical questions. To date these experts have not yet been appointed. The proposed Bylaws posted for comment are anticipated to help streamline the efforts of the component entities of the TLG in providing the ICANN Board with technical advice. Instead of focusing their efforts on the appointment of a Board Liaison or a Nominating Committee member, the primary task remaining with the TLG entities will be to focus on the appointment of experts that the Board can call upon for advice. The Liaison role does not offer this more global access to expertise, as the TLG Liaison role rotates on an annual basis, and no one Liaison is able to deliver a coordinated position representing all of the TLG entities.</p> <p>The Bylaws changes do not represent any change to the role of the TLG, which is to "channel technical information and guidance to the Board and other ICANN entities." Nor is there any change to four entities that make up the TLG. This proposed change is directed only towards simplifying how the TLG operates and delivers technical advice to the Board.</p> <p>Next Steps: ICANN Staff will provide a copy of this summary and analysis, along with the proposed Bylaws revisions, to the Board for consideration.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Section II: Contributors

At the time this report was prepared, a total of two (2) community submissions had been posted to the Forum. The contributors, both individuals and organizations/groups, are listed below in chronological order by posting date with initials noted. To the extent that quotations are used in the foregoing narrative (Section III), such citations will reference the contributor's initials.

Organizations and Groups:

| Name | Submitted by | Initials |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| At-Large Advisory Committee | ICANN At-Large Staff | ALAC |
| | | |

Individuals:

| Name | Affiliation (if provided) | Initials |
|------|---------------------------|----------|
| | | |
| | | |

Section III: Summary of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section is intended to broadly and comprehensively summarize the comments submitted to this Forum, but not to address every specific position stated by each contributor. Staff recommends that readers interested in specific aspects of any of the summarized comments, or the full context of others, refer directly to the specific contributions at the link referenced above (View Comments Submitted).

Summary of Substantive Comments

The At-Large Advisory Committee ("ALAC") supports the intent of the proposed Bylaws changes to increase the availability of technical advice to the Board as well as the effectiveness of the TLG. The ALAC expressed concerns that the order in which the changes are presented is out of line with the original recommendations of the Board technical relations WG findings. The ALAC asked the ICANN Board to make sure, in the substitution of the TLG position on the Board, that it be structurally replaced by constant access to the necessary technical competence, not through a structured, distance consultation. The ALAC noted that the actual elimination of the position of a technical liaison to the ICANN Board should not occur until, at least, a mechanism to seek regular advice from the TLG be founded. The ALAC recommended that mechanisms for reciprocal advice be explored for ICANN to improve its links with some organizations, specifically the W3C, ITU-T, and ETSI, that are part of the TLG. With respect to the proposal to remove a TLG delegate from the Nominating Committee ("NomCom"), the ALAC does not support this change. The ALAC expressed concerns that this proposed change is inconsistent with the WG's Final Report on this issue. The ALAC commented that the TLG delegate to the NomCom has provided a significant outreach component to technical communities and that removing this position is likely to hinder the NomCom's Outreach component. The ALAC further noted that given the concerns of having persons on the Board with sufficient technical expertise, this change should not be supported and the TLG should continue to be able to select a delegate to serve on the NomCom.

Summary of Non-Substantive/Procedural Comments

The ALAC submitted a comment on 23 November 2013 advising that it will be submitting a Statement during the reply period.

Section IV: Analysis of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section is intended to provide an analysis and evaluation of the comments received along with explanations regarding the basis for any recommendations provided within the analysis.

There was only one substantive comment submitted. As noted above, the ALAC supported the intent of the proposed Bylaws revisions to increase the availability of technical advice to the Board as well as the effectiveness of the TLG. However, the ALAC expressed concerns with the elimination of the technical liaison position to the Board without first having a mechanism to seek regular advice from the TLG in place. The ALAC does not support removing a TLG delegate from the NomCom.

With respect to the comment regarding strengthening of TLG advisory mechanism, the Board has already addressed this issue on 28 September 2013 in resolution 2013.09.28.15.

With respect to the concern regarding outreach to the technical communities, each of the four organizations that make up the TLG are engaged in ongoing community outreach efforts. The removal of a TLG delegate from the NomCom does not prevent these organizations from continuing with their efforts and they are encouraged to continue those efforts.

ICANN Staff will provide a copy of this summary and analysis, along with the proposed Bylaws revisions, to the Board for consideration.