Your Quarterly NARALO Newsletter
August 2020

The latest news from the North American At-Large Regional Organization (NARALO)

Visit our Website

Chair's Corner

Eduardo Diaz, NARALO Chair

Welcome to another issue of the NARALO newsletter.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, NARALO has focused its monthly call format on "in-reach activities", in order to leverage current members' engagement and participation. The in-reach activities include offering capacity building webinars.

The first capacity-building webinar held was "ICANN's Multistakeholder Model of Governance", with Marita Moll, NARALO ALAC Member, as speaker.

The webinar was promoted via social media and was very well attended. It prompted an interesting discussion on the effectiveness of the multistakeholder model, including the questions: What are the main interests of end users in this debate? If the voice of end users is to remain strong, where should At-Large focus our attention?

My sincere hope that when you receive this you and your family are in good health and safe.

ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum
ICANN68 was ICANN's second virtual public meeting. See the Post-ICANN68 Policy Report here. ICANN68 resources, including key At-Large sessions, may be found on the At-Large ICANN68 workspace.

Maureen Hilyard, the ALAC Chair, stressed the need for At-Large members to prioritize their activities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. She introduced the At-Large draft set of priorities (see: At-Large Priority Activities - 2020).

NARALO Selection Results - 2020
- ALAC Voting Delegate to the NomCom, North American Region: Glenn McKnight
- ALAC Member (NARALO): Marita Moll
- NARALO Chair: Eduardo Diaz

See all 2020 ALAC and RALO Elections, Selections and Appointments here

The Third At-Large Summit (ATLAS III)

The Post-ATLAS III Activities are ongoing, in four areas of activities: 1) Policy, 2) Capacity Building, 3) Outreach and Engagement and 4) Organization/Communications. These activities include Post-ATLAS III Feedback, At-Large Regional Policy Engagement Plan (PEP), Completion of At-Large Review Implementation Plan Activities, 2020 At-Large Plan Activities (including policy involvement, capacity building, outreach and engagement, communications). Both the Post-ATLAS III Survey and Report Analysis Report, which I am leading, will soon be released.

See ongoing Post-ATLAS III Activities here.

Universal Acceptance
NARALO has a dedicated group of three individuals (Denise Hochbaum, Judith Hellerstein and Michael Casadevall) to focus on Universal Acceptance (UA). This group is liaising with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) to create work synergies. Its members will become experts in UA concepts and help the region in understanding why this so important to the evolution of the Internet and for Internet end users in particular. Participate in the NARALO monthly meetings to learn more about this and other matters!

NARALO Monthly Call
The most recent NARALO Monthly meeting was held on 10 August 2020. Please join the monthly meetings for the latest NARALO and At-Large community updates, including post-ATLAS III and policy activities.

At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG)
The At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG) is an At-Large Working Group within the Operations section of the At-Large Organization, tasked with preparing statements and requests related to ICANN finance and budget, strategy, and operational initiatives. See the OFB-WG workspace for more details, including upcoming meetings.

At-Large Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) Webinars
The CBWG recently held two webinars, on EPDP II and DNS Abuse. Several more are planned for 2020, the next will be on 07 September with ALAC Member Holly Raiche, on the topic of DNS over HTTPs (DoH) and DNS over TLS (DoT). See all 2020 At-Large Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) Webinars here.

At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG)
I want to encourage all of you to join the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG). It is a great space to learn about current ICANN policy issues and discuss them from the Internet end user perspective. Send an email to ICANN staff asking to be included in the CPWG email discussion list.

Workspace
Next Meeting

ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach & Engagement
I also want to encourage all of you to join the ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach & Engagement. Send an email to ICANN staff asking to be included in the ALAC O&E SC email discussion list. The Subcommittee is currently finalizing a FY21 Strategy in a virtual environment.

Workspace
Next Meeting

ICANN Update

In July, ICANN:

- Published the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum Report .
- Announced the successful installation of an ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS)

instance in the Republic of Palau (Palau).
- Announced that the eighth Africa Domain Name System (DNS) Forum would be held virtually
- Extended the call for expressions of Interest: Standing Panel for ICANN's Independent Review Process until 21 August.
- Held two webinars on the Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3) Final Report. ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)'s released the " DNS Purchasing Guide for Government Procurement Officers", which focuses on three phases for obtaining and operationalizing domain names: Choosing a domain name, registering a domain name and DNS operations, and hosting for your domain name. Announced nominations are open for the Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building until 21 August.

ALAC Update

On 28 July, the ALAC held their monthly meeting. The ALAC Chair, Maureen Hilyard, led the meeting which focused on:

- ALAC Policy Development Activities
- Review of current ALS and Individual Member applications
- Reports and Discussion with At-Large Plus Leaders
- Discussion of the Draft ALAC Statement on the EPDP Final Report
- Post ATLAS III/2020 At-Large Activities - Review and Development of Recommendations for the ALAC
- Initial Discussion of At-Large at ICANN69 and the At-Large ICANN69 Planning Committee
- Discussion with Leon Sanchez - ICANN Board Vice Chair
- ALS Mobilization Update

In addition, the ALAC ratified the 2020 ALAC Delegates to the Nominating Committee. The following individuals will serve as the 2020 ALAC Delegates to the Nominating Committee from their regions for a term of one year, beginning at the end of ICANN69:

- Hadia Elminiawi - ALAC Delegate from the African Region
- Amrita Choudhury - ALAC Delegate from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Region
- Bastiaan Goslings - ALAC Delegate from the European Region
- Vanda Scartezini - ALAC Delegate from the Latin American and Caribbean Region
- Glenn McKnight - ALAC Delegate from the North American Region

ALAC / At-Large Policy Update

All of NARALO and the At-Large community are invited to contribute to ICANN public comment proceedings. For more information, please visit the At-Large Policy Advice Development Page or contact At-Large staff.

Have your say! To contribute to ALAC public comment, please comment on the wiki space or volunteer as penholder, and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

The ALAC submitted (6) statements since the last NARALO Newsletter:

Enhancing the Effectiveness of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model – Next Steps
The At-Large community is pleased to follow up on its prior ALAC statements regarding ICANN's Multistakeholder Model (see: 13 June 2019, 14 October 2019, February 2020) with this ALAC statement on Enhancing the Effectiveness of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model - Next Steps. The ALAC made recommendations on priority issues, moving out of silos, restoring recruitment and demographics, reviewing previous responses, identifying gaps, pandemic related issues and evaluation of success with respect to the latest Public Comment on the topic.

Final Report of the Cross Community Working Group (CCWG) on new gTLD Auction Proceeds
The ALAC appointed five Members to the CCWG and these Members, alongside several participants from At-Large, were very active contributors to the work of the CCWG. The ALAC believes that all of its concerns have been addressed and therefore was pleased to accept and ratify the Final Report of the new gTLD Auction Proceeds Cross Community Working Group.

Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3) Final Report

The ALAC strongly supports the limited and focused number of recommendations proposed by the ATRT3 report, reflecting the pending implementation of proposals from previous review teams. In moving forward, the ALAC advises the ICANN Board to: (1) Swiftly implement ATRT3 recommendation to evolve both specific and organizational reviews as per Section 8 of the final report; (2) Fully endorse the recommendation to enhance current methods of Prioritization and Rationalization of Activities, Policies, and Recommendations (as per Section 10 of the report); (3) Share the ATRT3 Review Team's approach to the review process and methodology behind it, aiming to ensure that all elements contributing to achieving strategic objectives and their subcomponents are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based (SMART) and that all reporting on these refers to well specified metrics, to be reviewed on a regular or timely basis (as per Section 9 of the report).

ALAC Statement on EPDP (July 2020)

A vast amount of work has been done, but the ALAC believes that if and when the System fo Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) is deployed, the probability of its meeting the goals needed by the communities whose efforts we support will be low. Therefore, in order for the ALAC to support the EPDP Final Report, the ALAC noted the following GNSO Council outcomes would be required:

1. GNSO Council would agree that any Evolution Standing Committee recommendation on additional SSAD decision use-cases (that are in full accordance with the EPDP Policy Recommendation 9.3) will be treated as Implementation and not require further policy deliberations.
2. Legal vs Natural, Accuracy, WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System and Anonymized contact email will be fully addressed with full participation in all aspects of discussions by the ICANN Advisory Committees that wish to participate. If these issues are deemed to be policy, they must be addressed by a group empowered to make policy recommendations, led by a qualified, non-conflicted chair. The GAC, ALAC and SSAC must be involved in setting the mandate or charter of such groups. The target for completion of all work should be no later than April 2021.
3. The GNSO Council would agree that ratifying the Evolution Standing Committee recommendations will only require a GNSO Majority as currently called for in the GNSO Policy Manual.
4. The GNSO Council would acknowledge that deliberations during implementation setting of prices for the SSAD must involve the future potential users of the SSAD and not only look at cost recovery but the actual ability and willingness of SSAD users to pay the prices being set.

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Strategic Plan for FY2021-2025 (LACRALO Statement)

The LACRALO statement was in response to the ICANN Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025. As all LACRALO countries fall under the LAC Regional Plan, a diverse drafting team from the region provided feedback on strategy topics such as security, ICANN governance, unique identifiers system, geopolitics, and financials. Note: Ratified by the LACRALO Leadership Team and the ALAC.

ccNSO PDP3: Initial Proposals for Process to Retire ccTLDs

As a whole, the ALAC supports the ccNSO PDP3. From an end user perspective, the ALAC suggested two points to be considered: 1) As a user of the Internet, the removal of a TLD will mean less likelihood for confusion as usually a ccTLD would be removed to make way for a new one. This enhances Trust in the domain name identifiers; 2) As a domain name registrant, the retirement of the ccTLD could pose a problem when correspondents are accustomed to use the "old" address using the obsolete ccTLD. Some companies have built a brand around the "old" ccTLD.

In addition, there are ongoing workspaces regarding CPWG SubPro Comment and PDP 3.0.

See: At-Large Website Policy Comments & Advice
See: Executive Summaries: ALAC Policy Comments & Advice
See: Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG)

NARALO Secretariat Update

Judith Hellerstein, NARALO Secretariat

Hope all are enjoying the new format for the NARALO Monthly meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here is what is new in NARALO:

I wanted to remind all that we are encouraging all participants to become active in At-Large and ICANN wide policy issues. At-Large now has two separate policy vs public comment working groups.

One focuses on Operational, Budget and Finance issues (OBF-WG) and includes such topics as multistakeholder issues and priorities, travel related issues, ICANN strategic plan, priorities, and processes, ICANN's operational initiatives, and ICANN Budget issues. This group meets once a month and more often when formulating a response to a public comment.

The Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meets weekly and discusses policy issues that are not related to operational and strategic issues within ICANN. Two of the hottest issues have been the EPDP and the Subsequent Procedures (SubPro). I encourage all to get involved and to join the CPWG and OBF-WG meetings. Both of these groups can be found on the At-Large Working Groups workspace.

There are other working groups that you can get involved in as well such as the Technology Task Force, the Outreach and Engagement, and a host of other groups. More information on these groups is also on the At-Large website, atlarge.icann.org.

As the new ICANN fiscal year just started July 2020, we have funding available under the RALO Discretionary Funding. The guidelines are here. This funding is for outreach activities in your region now or in the future. Please visit the At-Large workspace for the form here to fill out to apply for this funding. Each request needs to be reviewed and approved by Regional Leadership prior to sending to At-Large staff members, Silvia Vivanco and Heidi Ullrich.

We have ordered more NARALO Mailcards, which we are using instead of brochures for outreach purposes. We have also ordered some promotional items that once we are able to have meetings in person we distribute to get the NARALO name out for more recognition and people to ask about what is NARALO. If you are planning an in-person event in the near future just let us know.

ICANN NomCom Update

by Glenn McKnight, NARALO NomCom Delegate

Mid-Term Report

We are moving to the Phase Four of the ICANN NomCom. As you can see, we are behind schedule and facing serious challenges for face-to-face meetings to come up with the final selection.

In summary:
- Based on around 40 virtual one hour interviews with candidates, done by small teams of NomCom members.
- We had four rounds of virtual discussions in July 2020.
- We now have produced for each of the seven positions shortlists.
- For the two positions in the ICANN Board we have seven candidates on the shortlist.
- PTI Board, GNSO, CNSO and ALAC we have smaller shortlists.

Next Step:
- The NOMCOM, despite the COVID 19 situation, is considering various options for the next phase.
- Note due to the ICANN Bylaws, we need to make our final selection 8 weeks before the Annual Meeting, which would be mid-August.
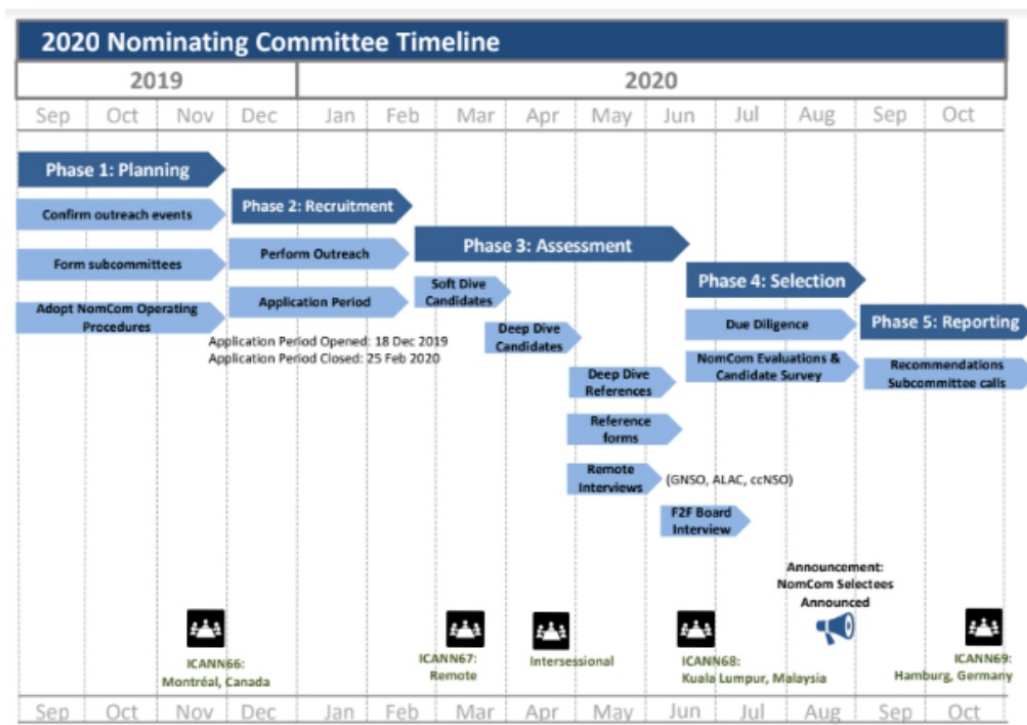
Option One:

To create regional (geographical hubs) and to have a decentralized process i.e. North American members of the committee would meet in the US or Canada. This is someone problematic for people returning to Canada which is subject to a two week quarantine.

Option Two:

To continue interviews using Zoom.

As of today we are leaving our options open for the selection process and the committee is committed to the process.

Timeline

Stats for Last 5 NARALO Newsletters

April 2020 - now moved to quarterly newsletter
29% open rate, 8% click rate

March 2020
31% open rate, 11% click rate

(February skipped) January 2020
31% open rate, 5% click rate

(December skipped) November 2019
28% open rate, 6% click rate

October 2019
24% open rate, 14% click rate