Why the ALAC needs me as their Chair?

First of all, thank you so much to my nominators (John, Holly and Alberto) for giving me this opportunity to respond to the question.

In a nutshell, my response to why I should be the Chair is because for the ALAC, it is time for a change.

I believe that the ALAC has reached a turning point and is ready for a new approach to its leadership to better face its current challenges. While taking on the leadership of the ALAC and the considerable demands on time and effort to do justice to the role, may appear to be a deep dive into uncharted waters, it also offers new personal challenges which I know I can excel at, and can achieve successfully because of my firm belief in the ALAC team and in the bottom-up multistakeholder model.

At the same time, I am confident that as we prepare for our future, especially with regards to the At-Large Review, that we are doing what is right and that if we all work together on this, then we can manoeuvre successfully through what will surely be rough waters ahead. Admittedly the ALAC and At-Large in general will, no doubt, have to accept, that we may need to change the way we have done things in the past and to look at how we can work more efficiently and effectively, so that the ALAC can be better seen as the important and effective constituency within the ICANN ecosystem that fully represents the interests of internet end-users.

How I would aim to deal with these issues..

Firstly, looking at the role of the ALAC as per the ICANN Bylaws, there are two broad areas – organisational (which I affectionately call ALAC org) and policy.

My Masters is in Organisational Management and no doubt you will have noticed how I gravitate towards WGs that look more at efficiency and effectiveness models and how they might help the ALAC, RALOs or At-Large work smarter. Given a choice, my future interests lie more in coordinating the activities related to the Implementation of the Review, ALS Criteria and Metrics, ATLASIII, Outreach and Engagement, Capacity Building, relationship building with other organisations within ICANN - hardly easy activities in their own right.

I acknowledge that some complex policy areas are a challenge for me to immediately grasp so that I have had to commit a lot of time and effort to get "up to speed" where these areas are new and outside of my previous experience. However, I also acknowledge the great level of expertise, experience and competency on the ALAC team to deal with these issues and to represent the consensus views of the ALAC more befittingly. This is also no doubt the case within our RALOs and ALSes so a key focus of my leadership would be to explore how these valuable and so far underutilized talents can better contribute to our important policy work.

Under my Chairmanship, one of the Vice Chairs would take responsibility to guide an **ALAC Policy Team** consisting of policy working groups that would take responsibility for and deal with whatever issues are on top for ICANN (for example currently, the Accountability Work Tracks 1-5, Auction Proceeds, GDPR/Whois, KSK Rollover and possibly others). At the same time, I also see these working groups as development teams, that not only discuss and debate topical issues, but also create sub-teams that focus on how to transfer the important messages related to these issues to our end-users. One of the greatest needs that the ALAC has noted but had difficulty dealing with, has been addressing the education and training needs of its membership to encourage engagement and participation in our policy discussions. We need to take ourselves back to our purpose - serving the interests of our internet end-users within the Mission activities and Policy Development Work of ICANN.

To this end, I see the work of the policy groups as going beyond discussing the issues. We also need to focus on how we take the issues to our ALSes and individual members so that they too become involved in the discussions.

While we have often talked about it, we haven't worked on **how** we do it. We need to find ways to better interact and develop the skills of our At-Large members, many of whom are no doubt newbies to many of the ICANN issues as I was. It is important that their understanding matches their conceptual realities so that they can more easily visualise and then put into practice, how each policy issue could impact them as internet end-users in their own countries. We need to change our mindset about our target audiences for our policy work - not only for other ICANN constituency purposes, but also on making policy issues more digestible for our increasing and diverse membership that our outreach programmes are generating.

All relevant ICANN WGs should comprise of ALAC, RALO and other At-Large members to get a full multistakeholder approach to each policy issue, and to encourage the learning process as well as the development of the issue towards a consensus viewpoint. Membership of WGs should also be sustainable, with the burden of engagement not relying on only a few people. At-Large members may be in both a policy and an organisational working groups as happens now, but the flexibility would certainly encourage more sharing of ideas about how learning and development about policy issues can match At-Large needs.

My vision is that the primary leads from all working groups and representational activities should report back to the full ALAC team each month, in the same fashion as the ICANN Evolution Updates and Reports used to serve, which I felt were very effective and informative. Everyone can keep up to speed with what is happening in the At-Large working groups and it should become another learning activity. The ALAC Leadership Team would consist of the working group primaries, Liaisons and former ALAC Chairs, and their role will be mainly to strategize and evaluate how the RALOS, ALAC and At-Large are performing.

I would also like to concentrate on **individual membership** and how we recognise active participants from our ALSes. We already have unaffiliated members but I would like to establish a formal list of affiliated members – those who are already in the At-Large system through their ALS and are currently working within At-Large representing their own interests as end-users. While I acknowledge the value of ALSes and would retain their current registration because we still need them to disseminate information about ICANN into the regions, I believe that it is in our better interest to more formally engage the individual members of these ALSes and focus on **their** incorporation into At-Large rather than our current focus on the ALS itself.

I would suggest that each ALS should nominate a member (or two) to represent them within their RALO who are prepared to become actively involved in At-Large and whose role is to report back to their ALS who in turn will filter that information down into their communities. Over time, metrics would sort out whether these affiliated members are committed to this role or not. Any lack of member involvement may cause an ALS to be deregistered. In this way, individual affiliated members would be recognised for their individual contribution, rather than our current attempt to monitor the "engagement" of ALS organisations which has been a futile task in the past, to say the least.

In conclusion, a little bit about me for those who don't know and are prepared to read a little bit further.

My background is in education and school governance in NZ. After doing voluntary work on school committees and secondary school boards in NZ for nearly 20 years where I was a Board Chair of two local secondary schools for most of that time, I made a life changing decision in 2003 - to move to the Cook Islands to take care of family affairs soon after the death of my parents. My father had been a traditional leader, a chief of his village and it was expected that someone from the family would return, not

necessarily to take his place, but at least to represent community interests in local and national decision-making.

I arrived in the Cook Islands as an Aid-supported Distance Learning Facilitator, which led me into local internet involvement and setting up my own internet NGO - Cook Islands Internet Action Group – to address the poor internet service to our scattered and underserved outer islands. This then took me into regional involvement in the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC) including chairmanship for 5 years, and now in my 5th year with the ALAC in ICANN (not counting an additional year as ccNSO liaison before I got onto the ALAC). Working in the interest of communities has been part of my life for what seems like forever.

My involvement in school governance caused me to change my career path along the way. I completed a business degree and my Masters in organisational management, so that in between ICANN meetings, I am sometimes engaged in a day job as a consultant working on short term mainly government development contracts, and at night I attend ICANN meetings and do the best that I can to contribute to the work of the ALAC and At-Large.

I firmly believe in the value of the Fellowship Programme which got me interested in ICANN in the first place. The ALAC became my chosen constituency of interest from Day One through our first speaker who just happened to be Cheryl who immediately put me into my first working group – the Review of the ICANN Regions. I haven't looked back since.

I am a skilled communicator, and manage meetings efficiently, most importantly I am ready to be the ALAC Chair. I have the time, energy and enthusiasm to commit to make the role a success that with the help and support of the ALAC and the At-Large community, will best serve to build the reputation of all of us within ICANN.