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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the Draft Final Report on the RSSAC2 Review

Introduction

Alan Greenberg, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) Chair and Seun Ojedeji, ALAC Leadership Team Member of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), developed an initial draft of the Statement on behalf of the ALAC.

On 05 June 2018, the first draft of the Statement was posted on its At-Large workspace.

On that same date, ICANN Policy Staff in support of the At-Large Community sent a Call for Comments on the Statement to the At-Large Community via the ALAC Work mailing list.

On 10 June 2018, the ALAC Chair submitted comment. On 11 June 2018, the ALAC Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote.

In the interest of time, the ALAC Chair requested that the Statement be transmitted to the ICANN public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this topic, with a note that the Statement is pending ALAC ratification.

On 14 June 2018, Staff confirmed that the online vote results in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 14 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 0 abstention. Please note 93% (14) of the 15 ALAC Members participated in the poll. The ALAC Members who participated in the poll are (alphabetical order by first name): Alan Greenberg, Alberto Soto, Andrei Kolesnikov, Bartlett Morgan, Bastiaan Goslings, Holly Raiche, Javier Rua-Jovet, John Laprise, Kaili Kan, Maureen Hilyard, Ricardo Holmquist, Sebastien Bachollet, Seun Ojedeji and Tijani Ben Jemaa. 1 ALAC Member, Hadia Elminiawi, did not vote. You may view the result independently under: https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=954566HV56EzMN44YuXPbTIXdF.

ALAC Statement on the ALAC Statement on the Draft Final Report on the RSSAC2 Review

The ALAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Independent Review of the ICANN Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC). The ALAC is responsible for representing the interests of Internet Users within ICANN, and there are few parts of the Internet as critical as the Root Server System in allowing Internet Users to enjoy and benefit from the Internet

Recommendation 1

Modify the RSSAC membership criteria to allow the RSSAC to recruit a variety of skills, perspectives, and interests that include but are not limited to those available from the root server operator organizations.

The ALAC supports the intent of this recommendation and adding new members may well be both possible and desirable. But the ALAC is sensitive to rules being imposed which may be difficult to implement. Rather than suggest that additional "members" are the answer, consideration should be given to altering Recommendation 1 to allow forms other than "membership" while achieving the same aim of ensuring that the RSSAC has all of the skills and perspectives to properly fulfill its function.

Recommendation 2

Resolve the apparent mismatch between the charter and operational procedures of the RSSAC and the requirements and expectations of the ICANN Board and Community for interaction with the root server system.

The following paragraph from the report is critical:

> To the extent that ICANN either is or is widely held to be responsible for the reliable and secure operation of the root, it requires a relationship with the serving side of the root registry that extends beyond the "exchange of information" limits of the RSSAC charter. The nature of that relationship is primarily an RSO/Board issue, not an RSSAC issue, and therefore out of scope for the present review. But the apparent mismatch between what ICANN needs from an interface to the root server system and what the RSSAC is currently chartered to provide suggests that either the RSSAC scope should be expanded or the attention and expectations of the Board and Community should be explicitly redirected away from the RSSAC to some other group.

Although there is no clear way to address the issue, since ICANN has a part to play in ensuring that the DNS is a trusted and reliable resource, then it must have the ability to interact with all players who have a role in carrying that out and that must include the Root Server Operators. Simply lowering expectations does not address the issue. Whether this is done by widening the scope of the RSSAC or through some other mechanism is less important than noting that the current chasm must be bridged.

Recommendation 5

Engage more actively with the rest of ICANN and its Community.

The ALAC welcomes and supports this recommendation that the RSSAC interacts more actively with the rest of the ICANN Community.