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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on Draft ICANN Strategic Plan 2016-2020 Version 3.0

Introduction

Alan Greenberg, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) Chair, and Fatimata Seye Sylla, Vice Chair of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), developed an initial draft of the Statement on behalf of the ALAC.

On 03 September 2018, the first draft of the Statement was posted on its [At-Large workspace](#). On the same day, 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 September 2018, an updated draft of the Statement was posted to the same workspace. This draft posted by Fatimata Seye Sylla was a minor modification to the draft, incorporating comments from the At-Large community.

On 10 September 2018, the ALAC Chair submitted comment, and 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 September 2018, Staff confirmed that the online vote results in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 13 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 1 abstention. Please note 93.33% (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, Bastiaan Goslings, Hadia Elminiawi, Holly Raiche, Javier Rua-Jovet, John Laprise, Kaili Kan, Maureen Hilyard, Sebastien Bachollet, Seun Ojedeji, and Tijani Ben Jemaa. 1 ALAC Member, Ricardo Holmquist, abstained. 1 ALAC Member, Bartlett Morgan, did not vote. You may view the result independently under: <https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=1281717WHGGU5xDxv3fVnNnsnfW>.

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The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft ICANN Africa Strategic Plan 2016-2020 Version 3.0.

The main objective of the strategic plan is to strengthen the physical presence in Africa to conduct outreach and help reflect ICANN's global image via the regionalization of core ICANN operations. However, the draft raises some concerns about the feasibility of this plan.

The ICANN regional office is understaffed to conduct the activities recommended in the draft: Only one staff member is in Nairobi.

Among the recommendations outlined, the most important cannot be implemented without human resources to promote local engagement and strengthen ICANN operations within Africa. An increased number of African ICANN staff has to be seriously considered, taking into account diversity and gender equity.

In addition, involving more African participation in strategy planning and subsequent implementation review would help increase the number of Africans able to undertake awareness campaigns in their local communities.

Capacity building at the local level should be supported by ICANN and the local private sector, which is currently not very active within ICANN.

African participation within ICANN constituencies should be strengthened. Africa is well represented within the At-Large community and the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), but not within other SOs and ACs.

Finally, some recommendations in the strategy do not have a suggested path for implementation. For example:

4. Produce Targeted Documents in appropriate languages regarding ICANN operations (AU Languages)
5. Deploy & Support Anycast Instances in cooperation with regional organizations

There are no comments on how to implement; no indicators (p.11).

The African community within At-Large is willing to contribute to the definition of the implementation strategies of these recommendations.