30 Apr 2009

ALAC Review WG Final Report

Please accept the following comments in response to ICANN's publication of the Final Report of the ALAC working group.[1] Go Daddy reserves the right to future comments on this issue and our positions include, but are not necessarily limited to, the text herein.

We agree with the working group's conclusion that the ALAC and At Large community have a continued purpose within the ICANN community. The interests of individual users must be a component of policy development and structural work, and the ALAC and At Large community play a key role as an instrument of outreach and participation.

However, we discourage any assumption that the ALAC is the primary organizational home for the voice and concerns of individual Internet users. It certainly is a significant one, but in many respects and particularly within the soon reformed GNSO, participation of individual Internet users is welcomed and encouraged on par with other stakeholder groups.

With regard to staff and resources, we note that the support needs of ALAC and the RALOs have the potential to grow rapidly in conjunction with increased participation. In addition, the reformed GNSO will no doubt see an increase in individual user participation. Together, this growth will mean considerable increases in expectations by individual users for financial assistance from ICANN. It will be important for the ALAC to carefully set its priorities and objectives and work closely with ICANN Staff on setting a reasonable budget, and following through on appropriate resource management. ALAC and Staff should also agree on reasonable and measurable metrics by which ALAC performance can be evaluated from budget to budget.

Finally, we support the Westlake recommendation that the ALAC position on the Board should remain that of a liaison, and agree with Westlake's reasoning behind that recommendation. However, if the decision is made to allow the ALAC to appoint one or two voting seats on the Board it should be done using the following process and conditions:

- The ALAC Board seats will equally reduce the total number of seats selected by the Nominating Committee;
- The ALAC communicates its Board candidate selections to the Nominating Committee; and
- The Nominating Committee would perform its typical review to be sure that the ALAC candidates meet all eligibility criteria in place for Nominating Committee appointees.

This approach will ensure participation in ICANN Board selection without increasing its size or otherwise affecting the other stakeholder group's level of participation in selecting the Board membership.

GoDaddy.com acknowledges the numerous improvements made by the ALAC and At-Large organizations in recent years, and we anticipate close and productive collaboration with ALAC in the future.

Sincerely,
GoDaddy.com, Inc.

Tim Ruiz
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1. http://icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-11feb09-en.htm