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AL-ALAC-ST-0716-02-00-EN

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: 29 July 2016

STATUS: Ratification Pending

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the ICANN Fellowship Program Application Process Review

Introduction

Alan Greenberg, ALAC member of the North America Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and the ALAC Chair, developed an initial draft of the ALAC Statement with assistance from Ariel Liang, Policy Analyst at ICANN.

On 28 July 2016, the first draft of the Statement was posted on the [At-Large ICANN Fellowship Program Application Process Review Workspace](#).

On that same date, Alan Greenberg, Chair of the ALAC, sent a Call for Comments on the Statement to the At-Large Community via the [ALAC Work Mailing List](#) and the [ALAC Announce Mailing List](#).

On 29 July 2016, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote.

In the interest of time, the 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.

Once ratified, this Statement will be resubmitted incorporating updated ratification information in the introduction section.

ALAC Statement on the ICANN Fellowship Program Application Process Review

The ALAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ICANN Fellowship Program Application Process Review. The ALAC believes that the Fellowship Program is one of the best methods for attracting and integrating dedicated younger generation participants into the ICANN Community. The At-Large Community, in particular, has greatly benefited from the contributions of Fellowship alumni. For example, several current and past leaders of AFRALO, APRALO and LACRALO, as well as ALAC Members from those regions (including the ALAC Co-Chair of CCWG-Accountability) were ICANN Fellows. They play an impactful role both within ICANN and in their respective countries to advocate for the interests of end users and help in the development of the Internet for the future.

The ALAC strongly supports the projected FY17 improvements to the ICANN Fellowship Program. These changes promise to make the program even better by:

- Not arbitrarily restricting countries and territories from which applicants are submitted;
- Helping address ICANN's diversity requirements; and
- Placing a focus on applicants that have greater potential for becoming ongoing committed volunteers.

The ALAC appreciates that these changes may make the process of selecting candidates more difficult, but believes ICANN is making a wise choice in doing this, ensuring that under-served communities everywhere can begin to be involved in the ICANN community.

In light of the proposed changes to the ICANN Fellowship Program, the ALAC is confident that this successful initiative will continue fulfilling the capacity building needs of an evolving ICANN Community, bringing in new blood, and strengthening the multistakeholder organization.