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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the New gTLD Program Implementation Review Draft Report

Introduction

Maureen Hilyard, ALAC member of the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), developed an initial draft of the ALAC Statement.

On 23 November 2015, the first draft of the Statement was posted on the [At-Large New gTLD Program Implementation Review Draft Report Workspace](#).

On 24 November 2015, Alan Greenberg, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the Statement to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 10 December 2015, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote on the proposed Statement.

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 New gTLD Program Implementation Review Draft Report

The ALAC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the New gTLD Programme Implementation Review Draft Report. We recognise that the review has been a self-assessment by ICANN staff of their execution of the processes involved at each stage of the implementation of the New gTLD Programme. The review provides a pragmatic overview of lessons learned from the implementation process which will not only inform the formal Review Team's assessment of the implementation process but also provide solutions for creating improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency of this process based on staff assessment of this first round of implementation.

Of concern to our community was the life-cycle of the application and evaluation process relating to this first batch of applications and that the remaining applications will still not be completed until the end of 2017 which is far beyond originally projected timeframes. Among the reasons for the delays include some effectiveness and efficiency issues relating to the time spent on some requirements of the application process that may not have been completely necessary for all applications as there was no contractual requirement attached. It was noted that some areas of the application may benefit from further community discussion based on staff lessons learned.

We encourage the Review Team to support the recommendations made by staff, and at the same time give full consideration for more practical support to ensure that the remaining and future batches of applications are expedited as quickly and efficiently as possible.