At-Large Organizing Committee Members Submission to the ICANN Evolution & Reform Committee

As ICANN’s Evolution and Reform Committee and Board of Directors considers changing the Corporation’s policy and decision making structures and processes, as well as other operational elements, we ask that you take into account the progress and promise of our At-Large organizing efforts.

We are members of the newly formed “At-Large Organizing Committee,” and we represent “At-Large Structures” that have been formed, or designated, throughout the world to provide meaningful, informed participation by Internet users in ICANN.

At this writing, 15 At-Large structures have been created (or designated) representing over 500,000 individual Internet users in over 70 countries:

(Worldwide)
- Icannatlarge.com (www.icannatlarge.com)

(Africa)
- Internet Society Madagascar (www.isoc.mg/cop/isoc)
- Internet Society Benin (www.isoc.bj)

(Asia-Pacific)
- Cyber Law Solutions Ltd (www.naavi.com)

(Europe)
- Internet Society Bulgaria (www.isoc.bg)
- Confederation of European Computer User Associations (CECUA) (www.cecua.org)
- Sistemas Técnicos de Enseñanza Consultores (STEC) (www.stec.info)
- ISOC Finland (www.isy.fi)
- ISOC Italy (www.isoc.it)
- ISOC European Co-ordination Council (ECC) (www.isoc-ecc.org)

(Latin America/Caribbean)
- Internet Society Argentina Chapter (www.isoc.org.ar)
- LatinoamerICANN (www.latinoamerican.derecho.org.ar)

(North America)
- Institute for the Study of Information Technology and Society (InSITeS) (www.cmu.edu/insites)
- Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (Civil Society Democracy Proj.) (www.CPSR.org)
- California Democratic Party, Computer & Internet Caucus (www.ca-dem-net.org)

The At-Large Organizing Committee, an informal group that was created to guide and encourage At-Large organizing, comprises representatives of these At-Large Structures, as well as one member each from the former At-Large Study Committee and the former NGO and Academic ICANN Study (NAIS) group.

The At-Large Organizing Committee currently includes the following members:

- Esther Dyson, edyson@edventure.com (ALSC - ICANN At-Large Study Committee, www.atlargestudy.org)
- Christian Ahlert, Christian.Ahlert@sowi.uni-giessen.de (NAIS - NGO and Academic ICANN Study; www.naisproject.org)
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- Alain Moscowitz, alain.moscowitz@ccea.org (CECUA - Confederation of European Computer User Associations, www.ccea.org)
- Tom Jacobsen, JacobsenTom@acm.org (CECUA - Confederation of European Computer User Associations, www.ccea.org)
- Núria de la Fuente Teixidó, ateneas@retemail.es (STEC - Sistemas Técnicos de Enseñanza Consultores, www.stec.info)
Our efforts are a response to the Board's decision that "ICANN should have a robust At Large mechanism for meaningful, informed participation by Internet users of the kind recommended in the [At-Large Study Committee] ALSC report." We have answered the Board's call to the ICANN community to "devote sustained energy to the creation of At Large structures built upon bottom-up, self-organized, local Internet community institutions and other organizations that meet the general criteria of openness, participation, and self-sustainability..."

With no funding currently available in ICANN's budget, the Board authorized the acceptance of initial contributions to fund staff support for the creation and nurturing of At-Large structures. Thus far, a total of US$17,000 in donations has been received from Esther Dyson, Salesforce.com, Timothy Andrews, and Verisign, and we are seeking additional private sector support.

Our goal is to represent individual Internet users in ICANN's development of policies and practices for the management of the domain name system, thus helping to ensure that ICANN operates as a private entity for the benefit of all members of the Internet community. ICANN was created to be representative not only of an "industry" that benefits from self-regulation, but also of the Internet's users. To be successful, ICANN needs to be accountable to those who are affected by its actions – including individual Internet users.

Our organizations and our individual members are concerned about, and involved in, a variety of Internet issues and, as Members of the At-Large Organizing Committee, we are currently discussing which ICANN issues we will work together to address. Suggested issues on which we could provide collective or distinct individual Internet users perspectives include:

- Internationalized domain names;
- Practices and policies for registering and transferring generic top level domain names (gTLD's);
- Requirements concerning provision, access to, and use of "who is" data;
- Domain-name intellectual property issues;
- Introduction of new top level domains (TLDs);
- Implementation of IPv6;
- Fair allocation of address space; and
- Participation and representation of At-Large in ICANN's policy and decision-making.

Although we are not yet in a position to offer detailed, substantive input (having just formed last month), we would like to share some general observations that may assist ICANN in its restructuring.

Since the Board agreed in Accra to support a self-organized At-Large, and since our organizing efforts are proceeding well and we consider them to be successful, we believe the Board should plan to institutionalize a new At-Large (at the appropriate time and with the appropriate mechanisms), with dedicated At-Large seats on the Board and in the Nominating Committee, to ensure that "individual user" perspectives are represented in ICANN's policy and decision-making.
We recommend that the Board consider the establishment of an At-Large Supporting Organization (with an At-Large Steering Committee) comprised of our organizations and future self-forming, self-supporting At-Large Structures to help ensure individual Internet user needs are reflected in ICANN activities and decisions. At-Large Structures should be groups that meet specific criteria (e.g. see www.at-large.org for criteria currently in use).

To facilitate coordination and effective policy-making, we suggest the Board consider instituting the following requirements: proposed policies and issues should be jointly referred to an At-Large Steering Committee for review and input (under Board-approved guidelines/criteria); the At-Large Steering Committee should designate liaisons to other policy-making and advisory bodies; and ICANN staff should be designated to support the At-Large Steering Committee’s work.

We also recommend the Board consider allowing the At-Large Supporting Organization to select their Steering Committee and Board members under Board-approved guidelines/criteria. Furthermore, to help ensure greater transparency, participation, and accountability for ICANN’s decision-making, we recommend that ICANN establish specific time periods and mechanisms for public participation in policy development, and establish venues for the participation and representation of individual Internet users. Although there has been extensive discussion regarding greater involvement of governments in ICANN, we believe that greater involvement of governments and the establishment of meaningful ways for the Internet’s users to participate in ICANN “are not” mutually exclusive ways to enhance the Corporation’s credibility and stability.

Thank you for your consideration of our input. We look forward to working with you as our At-Large efforts continue to progress.

Sincerely,

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