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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Use of a Drawing for Prioritizing New gTLD Applications

Introduction

By the Staff of ICANN

Tijani Ben Jemaa, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) member from the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and ALAC Executive Committee member, composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 12 October 2012, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large Use of a Drawing for Prioritizing New gTLD Applications Workspace](#).

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of ALAC to send a call for comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the [At-Large New gTLD Work Group mailing list](#).

On 2 November 2012, a version incorporating the comments received was posted and the Chair requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification on the Statement.

On 10 November 2012, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. You may review the result independently under: <https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=2736qFPPLmrm5IU3N6GH5irb>

The Chair then requested that the Statement be transmitted to the Public Comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this Public Comment topic.

[End of Introduction]

The original version of this document is the English text available at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence>. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail.

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ICANN proposed to use a draw for prioritizing New gTLD applications in which the IDN applications will be given a priority.

The ALAC expresses its great satisfaction for the prioritization of the IDN applications because it promotes linguistic diversity on the Internet, which will enhance Internet accessibility to those whose language does not use the Latin characters and make the Internet more applicable to their daily life; this serves the public interest.

The New gTLD program showed that very few applications originated from developing economies, especially Africa and Latin America & Caribbean regions. It is our view that this is the result of poor outreach effort from ICANN regarding the New gTLD program as well as the availability of applicant support in the regions where those people live.

Therefore, and also because all the existing gTLDs are run by Registries based in developed countries, the ALAC finds it unfair to put the applications from developed and developing countries on the same level of priority. Giving the latter a priority will also promote diversity, enhance the accessibility of the developing economy citizens to the Internet and serve the public interest.

The ALAC believes that prioritizing New gTLD applications from developing economies will not have a big impact because the total number of the concerned applications (Africa and LAC regions) is only 41, which represent less than 2.13% of the total number of applications.

Nevertheless, the At-Large Advisory Committee understands the worries of those who are concerned about giving priority to applications from developing countries that are applied for by proxy, by candidates from developed countries, even if the same case applies for the IDN applications too.

To reduce the possibility of gaming this process, a case by case treatment should be undertaken for applications from developing economies to find out those genuinely applied for by developing country citizens and organizations.

The ALAC believes that re-balancing the Internet domain industry (lingual and geographic) and the consideration of the public interest should be the main criteria for any prioritization. IDN and developing economy applications deserve to be on the top of the list.