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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Initial Report on Data & Metrics for Policy Making

Introduction

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

On 25 August 2015, the first draft of the Statement was posted on the [At-Large Initial Report on Data & Metrics for Policy Making Workspace](#).

On that same day, 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 04 September 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.

On 09 September 2015, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 13 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 0 abstention. You may view the result independently under: <https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=5012ShmNmiK7CvNLbsHMre6m>.

ALAC Statement on the Initial Report on Data & Metrics for Policy Making

The ALAC welcomes the opportunity to provide community input into the Initial Report from the GNSO's Working Group with regards to possible recommendations for the use of Data and Metrics for Policy Making.

The ALAC appreciates the need for solutions that will improve the way in which consensus policies are developed, especially in relation to critical registrant, registry and registrar issues. It is desirable that these issues are addressed within an open and transparent working culture as well as an environment where data is collected in a confidential and anonymous manner. Subsequently, this will encourage better-informed, fact-based policy development and decision-making.

It is important that all parties involved in GNSO decision-making recognise the benefit and value of relevant baseline data and metrics to the Policy Development Process, especially at the initial stages of scoping, understanding and describing a problem or issue. In order to ensure engagement of all parties in the new process, the ALAC supports the possible need to employ an independent third party in order to address any concerns relating to the collection, anonymization and aggregation of data. Fact-based deliberations and decision-making will enable the appropriate prioritization of critical issues based on tangible evidence rather than "gut feeling" or anecdotal examples.

The ALAC supports the introduction of a "pilot" where working groups will be able to submit proposals or ideas whereby the collection and assessment of fact-based data and metrics can become the basis for the initial identification and analysis of issues and/or problems. We also support the view that any funding required to implement the pilot should be considered an investment in the improvement of the policy process rather than a cost against budget.

The ALAC supports the revision of the templates for the Issue Report, Charter and Final Report to update earlier WG guidelines and also the development of a decision tree. These changes will help determine the best avenue to request additional data and metrics. The development of a Policy Development Process Manual, which will include the "Metrics Request Tree and Form", will ensure consistency of both process and practice.

Establishing a framework for distributing information through early outreach to other SOs, ACs and related organisations will facilitate broader qualitative input and support a culture of collaboration between our organisations. This will not only contribute to continuous improvement being fully integrated into the Policy Development Process but also encourage the potential of an Open Data culture across ICANN.