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**STATUS: Final**

**AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ALAC Statement on the Preliminary Issue Report  
on gTLD Registration Data Services**

**Introduction**

By the Staff of ICANN

An initial draft of this Statement was composed by Carlton Samuels, ALAC Executive Committee (ExCom) Vice-Chair and ALAC member from the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO), after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the mailing lists.

On 7 March 2013, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large Preliminary Issue Report on gTLD Registration Data Services Workspace](#).

On 1 April 2013, a call for comments on the draft Statement was sent to At-Large members via the [ALAC Announce mailing list](#).

On 11 April 2013, this Statement was discussed in the [ALAC & Regional Leadership Wrap-up Meeting](#).

During that meeting, the draft Statement was discussed by all present At-Large members, as well as those participating via Remote Participation.

The Chair of the ALAC then requested that a ratification vote be held on the Statement.

Staff then confirmed that the 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://community.icann.org/x/GQV-Ag>.

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.

# ALAC Statement on the Preliminary Issue Report on gTLD Registration Data Services

The ALAC notes the release of this Issue Report (IR) which was prepared “pursuant to a Resolution during a Special Meeting of the ICANN Board of 8 November 2012”. We are unanimous in agreement with the issues identified in the report as germane for crafting an acceptable community solution to gTLD Directory Services, popularly referred as the WHOIS problem. However, we believe that the timeline proposed for community consideration of the report runs counter to the plain terms of the Board resolution.

The rationale for [the specific Board Resolution](#) laid out “a two-pronged” approach:

1. Directing the President and CEO to continue to fully enforce existing consensus policy and contractual conditions as well as to increase efforts to communicate, conduct outreach on, and ensure compliance with such existing policy and conditions.
2. Directing the President and CEO to launch a new effort focused on the purpose and provision of gTLD directory services, to serve as the foundation of an upcoming Board-initiated gNSO PDP. The outcomes of this work should act as guidance to the Issue Report that will be presented as part of the GNSO's policy development work; as a result, the Issues Report is not expected to be produced until such time as the President and CEO determines that his work has progressed to a point that it can serve as a basis of work within the PDP.”

The ‘new effort’ identified above – and a critical component of second leg of the Board-initiated approach - is the gTLD Registration Data Services Expert Working Group (EWG). By virtue of the plain terms of the Board resolution and since there is no indication that the EWG “has progressed to a point that it can serve as a basis of work within the PDP”, we believe this IR, even while stamped ‘preliminary’, may be premature. More directly, it could serve to undermine the process the Board has outlined in progressing resolution of the gTLD Data Directory Service issues. The ALAC urges caution on all parties, recommend the IR be re-called and re-issued at a later date and reflecting the benefits that may be accrued from the output of the EWG.