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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the ICANN Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan (FY16 – FY20)

Introduction

Dev Anand Teelucksingh, ALAC member from Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO) and ALAC Leadership Team member (ALT), and Rafid Fatani, ALAC member from Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 15 May 2014, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large ICANN Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan \(FY16 – FY20\) Workspace](#).

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the Recommendations to all At-Large members via the [ALAC-Announce Mailing List](#).

On 22 June 2014, 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 28 June 2014, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 11 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 1 abstention. You may review the result independently under: <https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=4063WLZntljf7kd7zKvJa5pt>.

Summary

1. The ALAC acknowledges the efforts by ICANN to incorporate the various comments from “[ICANN's Draft Vision, Mission & Focus Areas for a Five-Year Strategic Plan](#)” in this document and suggests an attempt to summarise the strategic plan on one page be kept.
2. The ALAC wonders if any analysis was done for previous ICANN Strategic Plans as to whether the objectives from prior Strategic Plans were achieved or not.
3. The ALAC notes the lack of translated versions of this document from the beginning of this public comment.
4. The ALAC suggests ICANN to: 1) Add a focus on improving the technical universal acceptance of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) at the application level under Focus Area #2; 2) include a focus on improving the logistical support needed for ICANN’s Board, Staff and the various ACs and Soss under Focus Area #3; and 3) reword the sentence under Focus Area #4.1 as “Ensure ICANN’s stakeholder groups’ role in the evolving Internet ecosystem is clear, recognized, and well understood worldwide.”

ALAC Statement on the ICANN Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan (FY16 – FY20)

The ALAC has reviewed the Five Year Strategic Plan and acknowledges the efforts by ICANN to incorporate the various comments from "[ICANN's Draft Vision, Mission & Focus Areas for a Five-Year Strategic Plan](#)" in this document.

We note the difference in layout from previous ICANN strategic plans and suggest for easier reference, an attempt to summarise the strategic plan on one page be kept, as was done in previous strategic plans.

With the mention of suggested outcomes for each of the strategic objectives in this draft plan, we wonder if any analysis was done for previous ICANN Strategic Plans as to whether the objectives from prior Strategic Plans were achieved or not. Such an analysis posted for review before the drafting of this strategic plan would be beneficial to ICANN and the ICANN multi-stakeholder community and would demonstrate to the global public of ICANN's proposed vision "ICANN strives to be trusted by all stakeholders for its inclusive, effective and consensus-based operations."

We also note the following:

- The lack of translated versions of this document from the beginning of this public comment to allow more of the global multi-stakeholder community to effectively review and comment on the strategic plan. This lack of translated versions of accessible policy documents in a timely fashion undermines the stated Focus Area #1, "Evolve and further internationalize and regionalize ICANN's implementation of the multi-stakeholder approach."
- Under Focus Area #2, "Continue to support a healthy, stable and resilient unique identifier ecosystem," ICANN needs to add a focus on improving the technical universal acceptance of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) at the application level (browsers, email clients, etc). This must be a strategic priority for ICANN by taking a more prominent role in collaborating and coordinating with the relevant technical communities. IDNs are only mentioned once in passing in this strategic plan and this lack of attention to IDNs is insufficient.
- Under Focus Area #3 "Advance technical and operational excellence," ICANN should include a focus on improving the logistical support needed for ICANN's Board, Staff and the various ACs and SOs to be able to fulfill their work in a timely, coordinated manner. There is a real concern that the ICANN Policy Staff are being stretched too thin to accommodate the ever growing needs of the Advisory Committees and Supporting Organisations.
- Under Focus Area #4.1 "Ensure ICANN's role in the evolving Internet ecosystem is clear, recognized, and well understood worldwide," places too much emphasis on ICANN the corporation and not the multi-stakeholder communities in ICANN. This should be reworded to also include "Ensure ICANN's stakeholder groups' role in the evolving Internet ecosystem is clear, recognized, and well understood worldwide."