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STATUS: Ratification Pending

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Recommendations to Improve SO/AC Accountability

Introduction

Alan Greenberg, ALAC Members of the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and the ALAC Chair, developed an initial draft of the Statement on behalf of the ALAC.

On 23 May 2017, the first draft of the Statement was posted on its [At-Large Workspace](#).

On that same date, ICANN Policy Staff in support of the At-Large Community sent a Call for Comments on the Statement to the At-Large Community via the [ALAC Announce Mailing List](#).

On 26 May 2017, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the ALAC Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote.

In the interest of time, the ALAC Chair requested that the Statement be transmitted to the ICANN public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this topic, with a note that the Statement is pending ALAC ratification.

Once ratified, this Statement will be resubmitted incorporating updated ratification information in the introduction section.

ALAC Statement on the Recommendations to Improve SO/AC Accountability

The ALAC supports the general direction of the recommendations, but does offer the following specific comments.

1. The "best practices", one by one, each make sense. However, together the ALAC has concerns about the impact on groups remembering that these are all volunteers with often relatively minimal staff support. Accountability is important, but a fully accountable group that does or nothing other than be accountable has no value within ICANN.
2. The ALAC supported the original position of the SOAC-Accountability Working Group to not pursue the accountability roundtable. That was overruled by the CCWG. As currently proposed there is a high likelihood that it will become a meaningless exercise taking up valuable time at ICANN meetings with little benefit. That notwithstanding, if the decision is made that it should be kept needs to be further thought given to exactly what it will do and what its aims are.
3. The ALAC does not support the explicit incorporation of AC/SO best practices reviews into the ATRT scope. The periodic organizational reviews are a more appropriate opportunity to do such reviews. If a future ATRT chooses to do such a review, it is already wholly within its scope and prerogative.