



AL-ALAC-ST-0514-03-01-EN

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: 16 May 2014

STATUS: Final

**AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**ALAC Statement on the ICANN Strategy Panels:**  
**Public Responsibility Framework**

**Introduction**

Holly Raiche, ALAC member from the Asian, Australian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) and ALAC Leadership Team member composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 30 April 2014, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large ICANN Strategy Panels Workspace](#).

On 02 May 2014, 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 08 May 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 09 May 2014 and close on 15 May 2014.

On that same day, the Chair requested that the Statement, referenced AL-ALAC-ST-0514-03-00-EN, be transmitted to the Public Comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this Public Comment topic, with a note that the Statement was pending ALAC ratification.

On 16 May 2014, 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=3897Mv3KfEPxzifKaluzmd4F>.

**Summary**

1. The ALAC strongly supports the report from the Panel on Public Responsibility Framework.
2. This Panel is a useful reminder of the ways ICANN has started to globalize its activities, but real assistance and support for participation in ICANN is a critical element in the globalization of ICANN and Internet Governance.
3. The issue is additional funding for those unable to self fund real participation in ICANN. There may be other models for funding participation that do not rely on the 'contracted parties' model that can ensure all parties have equal seats at the table.

## **ALAC Statement on the ICANN Strategy Panels: Public Responsibility Framework**

The ALAC strongly supports the report from the Panel on Public Responsibility Framework. Although the Panel was developed prior to the US Government's announcement on IANA, it nevertheless provides valuable insights and recommendations for ICANN's expanded role in Internet Governance.

This Panel is a useful reminder of the ways ICANN has started to globalize its activities, particularly its capacity building, leadership training, support for stakeholder attendance, and its strategic plans for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. It is very clear both from public comments made at the Public ICANN Board meeting and at NetMundial, however, that real assistance and support for participation in ICANN is a critical element in the globalization of ICANN and Internet Governance. Many countries and organizations are simply unable to self-fund attendance at ICANN meetings or even full participation in working groups. Websites, remote hubs and other new technologies do not equal physical stakeholder to stakeholder meetings and dialogue.

The core issue is therefore additional funding for those unable to self fund in person participation in ICANN. Currently, funding is channeled through the contracted parties (registries and registrars) in their contracts with ICANN. This sole source of funding is a concern since it is akin to a single product company. There may be other models for funding participation that do not rely on the 'contracted parties' model that can ensure all parties - registrars, registries, governments, civil society and users have equal seats at the table. The ALAC hoped that the Public Responsibility Framework Panel would have examined this core problem. Perhaps should it be one of the Panel's conclusions that this essential study be undertaken.