

From: Maureen Hilyard
Subject: ALAC Advice to the Board
Date: 12 December 2018
To: Cherine Chalaby

Dear Cherine,

It is with pleasure that I am hereby sending ALAC Advice to the Board on the **Follow-Up to the Joint Statement by ALAC and GAC: Enabling Inclusive, Informed and Meaningful Participation at ICANN.**

This statement was updated jointly with the Governmental Advisory Committee prior to and during the ICANN63 meeting in Barcelona, with input from the ALAC Liaison to the GAC, Yrjö Lansipuro, and GAC Liaison to the ALAC, Ana Neves. The original statement was developed jointly with the GAC prior to and during the ICANN60 meeting in Abu Dhabi. The ALAC formally approved the Follow-Up to the Joint Statement as Advice to the Board during its Wrap-Up meeting on Wednesday, 24 October 2018.

We note that the statement was also included as GAC Advice to the Board in its [ICANN63 Communique](#).

The ALAC echoes the rationale provided by the GAC. Specifically:

One of ICANN's core values is to seek and support "broad, informed participation reflecting the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision-making to ensure that the bottom-up, multistakeholder policy development process is used to ascertain the global public interest and that those processes are accountable and transparent" (Bylaws Section 1.2.c.ii)

In the view of the GAC and the ALAC, it is not only among ICANN's core values but also critical to ICANN's legitimacy to act in the global public interest to allow non-expert stakeholders to meaningfully participate in ICANN's processes and make their voices, their needs and interests heard, and duly take them into account in order to act and take decisions that are in fact, in the global public interest. These proposed measures will go some way to address this.

In its Follow-Up to the Joint Statement, the ALAC and GAC agreed in the context of the Information Transparency Initiative (ITI) that:

"Clear and up-to-date information (from ICANN) to facilitate quick understanding of relevant issues and high interest topics is key for inclusive, informed and meaningful participation by all stakeholders, including non-experts," as, " In the context of the IANA transition process, ICANN was able to offer timely and comprehensible information by breaking down complex issues into understandable components, which allowed interaction within the entire community. The ALAC and the GAC are now asking from ICANN that the same level of effort be made and the same service be provided to the community concerning information on all other relevant issues."

The ALAC welcomes further discussion with the Board to ensure full understanding of this Advice, and having ICANN address the issues identified.

Warm regards,

Maureen Hilyard
Chair, At-Large Advisory Committee

**Follow-Up to the Joint Statement by ALAC and GAC:
Enabling Inclusive, Informed and Meaningful Participation at ICANN
ICANN63 in Barcelona, 24 October 2018**

Original: ICANN60 in Abu Dhabi, 2 November 2017

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) thank the ICANN Board for its response to their joint statement “Enabling inclusive, informed and meaningful participation at ICANN”, issued at ICANN60 in Abu Dhabi on 2 November 2017.

In its response, the Board referred to the Information Transparency Initiative (ITI), launched in January 2018, which hopefully will lead to the creation of a document managing system that – as required by the ALAC and the GAC – will allow, even to non-expert stakeholders, a quick and easy access to ICANN documents. However, its development will take time. According to the ICANN website, its delivery is expected in December 2019.

In their joint statement, the ALAC and the GAC also asked ICANN to produce executive summaries, key points and synopses for all relevant issues, processes and activities – something that could be implemented without delay.

In its response, the Board referred to the current offer of monthly newsletters, pre-and post-meeting reports and video interviews, as well as to the ICANN Learn online platform. All these initiatives are commendable and likely to improve access to information and content regarding ICANN activities. However, they are not enough to reach the goal that the ALAC and GAC have in mind.

Particularly in policy development processes, non-expert stakeholders need executive summaries to be able to quickly determine, whether a particular issue is of concern to them, and if yes, to participate in the process easily and effectively, on equal footing with other stakeholders, even if ICANN is not in their full-time focus. Summaries should be provided at least, but not only, on issues put out for public comment. Clear and up-to-date information to facilitate quick understanding of relevant issues and high interest topics is key for inclusive, informed and meaningful participation by all stakeholders, including non-experts.

In the context of the IANA transition process, ICANN was able to offer timely and comprehensible information by breaking down complex issues into understandable components, which allowed interaction within the entire community. The ALAC and the GAC are now asking from ICANN that the same level of effort be made and the same service be provided to the community concerning information on all other relevant issues.