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Re: Letter of motivation re: ATRT application

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be so kind to find enclosed a copy of my résumé and of my declaration of interests for your perusal.

I would like to apply as a representative of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) on the ATRT.

My history with ICANN predates my direct involvement with the organisation which started in 2008 at the ICANN Paris meeting. Indeed, as a believer of the multi-stakeholder model for the past 20+ years, I have been caring about this organisation ever since its inception. In Y2K, when the ICANN Board was still selected by direct election, I was one of several people who noticed the problem of staging direct elections when all you needed to have a ballot was to have an email address. As a member of the Internet Society English Chapter, I campaigned hard for several candidates who respected the rules, but to no avail. The model had an Achilles' heel. This particular systemic fault was dealt with equally as brutally by cutting Achilles' foot off altogether. There followed a string of "flame wars", angry email exchanges on the then "DNSO" mailing list – with constant reminders that ICANN was on the brink of collapse. As I expected, it survived.

10 years later, the organization has matured a lot and there is definitely much more confidence that it is growing, improving, emerging, into a competent organization. It has proven its critics wrong by making sure that the Internet has kept on growing without a major technical glitch. But we, all stakeholders of the multi-stakeholder model still need to keep watching it. ICANN is still an evolving experiment which needs to be closely monitored so as for it to succeed. My passion for the multi-stakeholder model is still as strong today as it was 12 years ago. My fears are that the model disqualifies itself. How? By being unaccountable; by being opaque; by being captured; by being manipulated like a pawn, thus not serving Internet Users.

The ATRT Review Team addresses the points I have listed here, and more. As ALAC Chair, I can never purport to represent 2.2Bn Internet users, but as an Internet user for 24 years, I think I can reason like one and I would be honoured to serve my community by contributing my experience to make sure they can live the Internet I have had the privilege to live, for at least another 24 years.

Yours sincerely,


O. Crépin-Leblond