



AL-ALAC-ST-1014-01-01-EN

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: 16 October 2014

STATUS: Final

## AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### ALAC Statement on the Public Interest Commitments

#### Introduction

Evan Leibovitch, ALAC member from the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and ALAC Leadership Team member, and Rafid Fatani, ALAC Member from the 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 October 2014, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large Public Interest Commitments 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 16 October 2014, this Statement was discussed in the [ALAC and Regional Leadership Wrap-Up Meeting Part 2](#) in Los Angeles. During that meeting, the draft Statement was discussed by all the At-Large members present at the meeting.

The Chair of the ALAC then requested that a ratification vote be held on the Statement. Staff then confirmed that the vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 14 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 0 abstention.

You may review the result independently under: <https://community.icann.org/x/yyfxAg>.

#### Summary

1. The ALAC advises the Board of ICANN to immediately "freeze" (that is, cease contracting of or delegating) the 28 TLD strings identified by the GAC as requiring enhanced safeguards ("Category 1, Safeguards 1-8"), pending further community review and subsequent changes to the Public Interest provisions of the TLD agreements;
2. The ALAC forms a sub-committee, comprised of At-Large and other ICANN community members, to examine the current PIC mechanism, as well as any other Public Interest safeguards that may be deployed for relevant TLDs, and to recommend enhancements that better protect consumers and end-users in an expedited manner;
3. The ALAC assigns a liaison to the newly-formed ICANN Contract Compliance and Safeguards group (subject to its approval), in order to ensure that the At-Large Community is aware of the initiatives and progress of the Department on an ongoing basis.

# ALAC Statement on the Public Interest Commitments

**WHEREAS** the At-Large Community of ICANN is deeply concerned about numerous identified problems with procedures related to Public Interest Commitments (PICs) in the current round of Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) applications;

**WHEREAS** these concerns have been expressed previously and repeatedly, having also been supported by comments previously made by ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), including its Communiqué of ICANN 51;

**WHEREAS** a subset of new gTLD applications -- notably in the fields of health, education, finance, charities and gambling -- have been identified by the GAC as particularly sensitive, requiring enhanced safeguards to build public trust;

**WHEREAS** the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) has held a Public Comment Process, that has attracted a number of comments from the broader community that have been critical of (and raised concerns regarding) the PIC safeguard processes;

And **WHEREAS** ICANN has proceeded to sign contracts regarding some of these highly-sensitive TLD strings, despite the repeated concerns expressed by the ALAC, GAC and other organizations regarding the urgency of enhancing their public interest protections;

**BE IT RESOLVED that the ALAC:**

**ADVISES** the Board of ICANN to immediately "freeze" (that is, cease contracting of or delegating) the 28 TLD strings identified by the GAC as requiring enhanced safeguards ("Category 1, Safeguards 1-8"), pending further community review and subsequent changes to the Public Interest provisions of the TLD agreements;

**FORMS** a sub-committee, comprised of At-Large and other ICANN community members, to examine the current PIC mechanism, as well as any other Public Interest safeguards that may be deployed for relevant TLDs, and to recommend enhancements that better protect consumers and end-users in an expedited manner;

**ASSIGNS** a liaison to the newly-formed ICANN Contract Compliance and Safeguards group (subject to its approval), in order to ensure that the At-Large Community is aware of the initiatives and progress of the Department on an ongoing basis.