6 February 2019

Maureen Hilyard
Chair, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Dear Maureen,

I wish to provide an update on the Follow-Up to the Joint Statement by ALAC and GAC: Enabling Inclusive, Informed and Meaningful Participation at ICANN that the ALAC approved on 24 October 2018.

On 27 January 2019, the ICANN Board passed a resolution (2019.01.27.18), adopting the scorecard titled "GAC Advice – Barcelona Communiqué: Actions and Updates (25 January 2019)" in response to items of GAC advice in the Barcelona Communiqué and the Panama Communiqué. The Scorecard included reference to the Joint ALAC/GAC Statement.
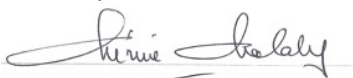
The Board's response is as follows:

The Board notes that the GAC has provided clarification on this advice in a letter from the Chair of the GAC to the Chair of the ICANN Board of Directors, dated 20 December 2018. The Board thanks the GAC for this clarification.

The Board affirms its response to the original advice, in which it stated: "The Board accepts this advice and is committed to accountability and transparency and pursuing easily understandable and relevant information on matters of concern to all stakeholders. These values align with the recently started Information Transparency Initiative (https://www.icann.org/news/blog/creatingcontentgovernance-and-rebuilding-the-infrastructure-oficann-spublic-sites). The Board acknowledges and agrees with the need to ensure effective and equal participation in the policy process by all stakeholders, which is in line with the Mission, Commitments, and Core Values, as expressed in the Bylaws" (see the Abu Dhabi scorecard).

Additionally, the Board understands that the ICANN org is currently undertaking a review of the relevant interface and format of public comment proceedings.

The Board intends to direct the ICANN org to explore specific improvements to public comments, including the use of summaries, that can allow the community to quickly identify the questions being asked in each proceeding. The Board notes that the provision of timely and comprehensible information on all other relevant topics will mean additional financial and staff resources will be needed. In view of the current budgetary constraints, the Board intends to consult with the ICANN org to consider the feasibility of prioritizing possible topics for ongoing improvements in this area.

Sincerely,

Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors