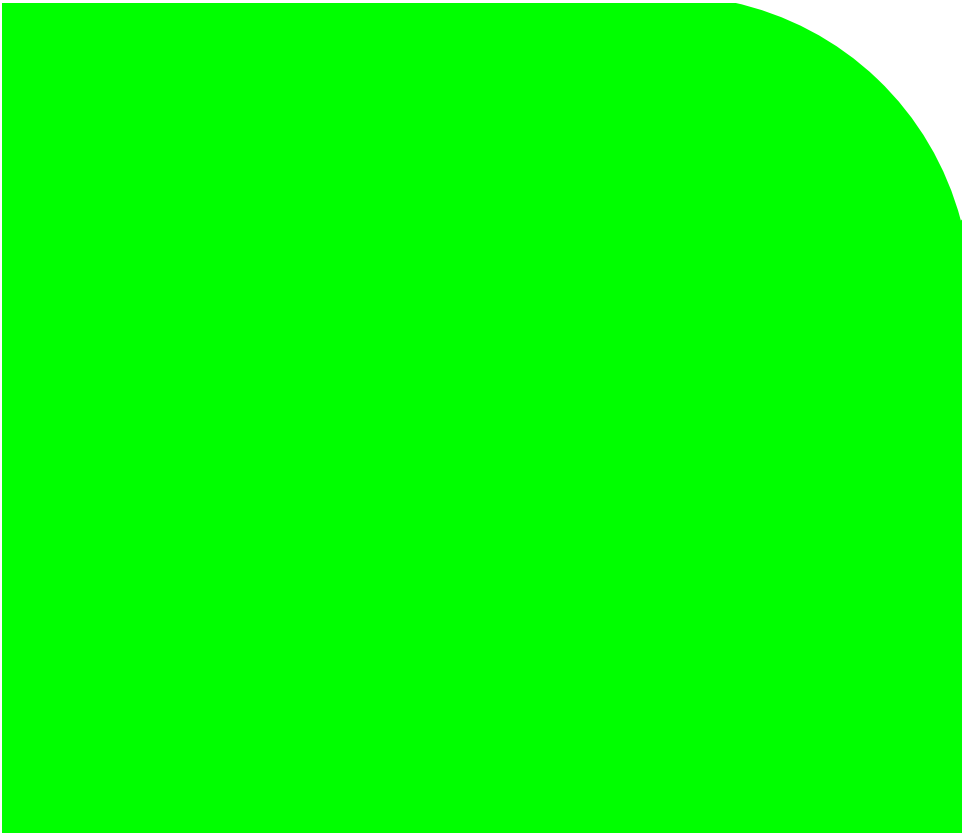


At-Large Advisory Committee Activity Report



Vittorio Bertola, Chair
At-Large Advisory Committee
(ALAC)

ICANN Meeting
Mar del Plata, Argentina
6 April 2005

The At Large Advisory Committee

- ICANN created Interim At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) in 2003
 - Framework of local, regional groups to promote structured involvement and informed participation of world's individual Internet user community ("At-Large")
 - Outreach activities to encourage groups worldwide to join ICANN At-Large
 - Advocacy activities to advance user interests in ICANN on critical issues



Committee Activities (since Cape Town, December 2004)

- At-Large Organizing
 - Finalized the appointment of new members:
 - Jean Armour Polly (North America) (since Cape Town)
 - John Levine (North America) (replacing Esther Dyson)
 - Annette Muehlberg (Europe) (replacing Thomas Roessler)
 - Appointed new GNSO liaison: Bret Fausett (North America)
 - Received new ccNSO liaison: Ron Sherwood (Latin America)
 - Joint programs with the Non-Commercial Users Constituency

Committee Activities (since Cape Town, December 2004)

- At-Large Organizing
 - Regional organizing meetings held in Latin America, Africa, Asia/Pacific
 - ALAC members also participated in various user events in regions
 - Outreach/involvement also advanced by ALAC website, forum, mailing lists, monthly newsletter
 - Started to podcast meetings (thanks to Bret)
 - At-Large Structure applications (29 received to date) and At-Large Structure accreditation process (19 certified) continues

Committee Activities (since Cape Town, December 2004)

- Policy Development and Related Activities
 - ALAC involved in numerous issues of interest to end users and ALAC members are serving as liaisons/members in many policy-related groups
 - ALAC members participating in 3 WHOIS task forces, and involved in other GNSO activities
 - ALAC co-organized WSIS Workshop in Mar del Plata
 - ALAC held public meetings in Mar del Plata
 - ALAC releasing statements on policy issues

At-Large Organizing

- Africa
 - At-Large event held in Accra in February in conjunction with WSIS Prep-Com, with 300+ participants
 - Additional At-Large events planned for North Africa, East Africa, and South Africa
 - Web page www.afralo.org launched
 - Temporary staff support helping with information sharing, outreach, and supporting RALO formation
- Europe
 - Replaced outgoing member
 - Outreach going on at WSIS events and by email
 - Need to finalize staff support in Brussels

At-Large Organizing

- Asia/Australia/Pacific
 - At-Large meetings in conjunction with the APRICOT in Kyoto, Feb 2005
- Latin America
 - Regional workshop in Mar del Plata
 - Web page www.lacrало.org launched
- North America
 - New members appointed
 - Ready to start, but plenty of questions

At-Large Organizing

- Currently 19 groups certified as At-Large Structures + 10 applications under due diligence
(in Kuala Lumpur: 19 + 4)
- Current list of applications under due diligence:
 - Communications and Multimedia Consumer Forum of Malaysia (CfM) (Asia/Aust./Pacific)
 - ISOC Australia (Asia/Pacific)
 - America@Large (North America)
 - Intellectual Property & Technology Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association (North America)
 - African Youth Foundation (Africa)
 - Nigerian Internet Users Coalition (Africa)
 - ISOC Netherlands (Europe)
 - AEDIT (Latin America)
 - CORPECE (Latin America)
 - Danny Younger (North America)

Policy Activities: Whois

- Continuing work in the task forces
 - Extremely worried by the situation
 - The introduction of privacy protection for individual registrants cannot be further delayed
 - Significant “system failure” for ICANN

Policy Activities: Dot net

- Need to consider non-technical factors
 - Past compliance with contracts (i.e. SiteFinder)
 - Fostering competition in the registry market
 - Fostering geographical diversity in key technical infrastructure
- More importance to be given to:
 - Customer support, especially multilingual
 - Privacy protection mechanisms
- As the report states that all applicants are technically fit, Board should make a decision based on the non-technical factors

Strategic Plan comments

- More competition and choice
 - New gTLD process, compliance / complaint mechanisms
- Better processes (problems with PDP)
- More transparency
- True multilingualism (in process, not in advertising)
 - Strategic plan itself should have been translated!
 - IDNs need to get much higher priority, and coordination
- Commend regional presence (internationalization)
 - Not just offices, also participants and internal culture
 - What about the end of the MoU?
- Commend support for developing countries
- Need for better practical support
 - Need for an ALAC Secretariat

More activities: WSIS/WGIG

- WSIS workshop co-organized here in Mar del Plata
- Informal participation by several ALAC members in WSIS and in related events
- ALAC Chairman participating in WGIG
 - Significant recognition for the At-Large effort, both among broader civil society community and among international diplomatic community
- Civil society is given an increased role in Internet Governance processes
- Need to adjust the way users participate in ICANN?

Challenges

- At a critical junction
 - Organizing proved much harder than initially thought
 - New problems of “buy-in” (from WSIS) add to older ones
 - We think the structure still deserves a try
 - But we have to succeed in the next year
- Problems
 - Most work done on a volunteer basis
 - Users participate in ICANN in spare time, not as part of their jobs
 - Unclear value proposition to applicants
 - Widespread feeling that participating in ICANN is useless (or even damaging) since there is no actual power for users
 - Too complex model?

Who needs the At Large?

- Initial idea: the self-sustaining At Large
 - Thousands of people at the door
 - “If you really want, here’s a room for you”
- Assumption was wrong!
- But openness is not just opening the door
 - Less powerful stakeholders (civil society, developing countries) need active encouraging and support, not just passive acceptance
 - But without these stakeholders, ICANN will not be legitimate and will not survive long

We think that all the community needs the At Large,
and all the community should support it



Thank you

For further information:

ALAC Website: www.alac.icann.org

ALS questions/forms: als@alac.icann.org

Email: committee@alac.icann.org