

Dear Olivier and members of the ALAC,

As you are aware, ICANN has embarked on an effort to reinvent today's WHOIS system. A significant milestone was reached Monday with the publication of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG)'s [initial report](#) for community input and comment. The [initial report](#) proposes a paradigm shift – a new system in which gTLD registration data is collected, validated and disclosed for permissible purposes only, with some data elements being accessible only to authenticated requestors that are then held accountable for appropriate use. The EWG has identified the design features and principles that we believe are essential in this new system, and a proposed Model for the next generation data directory services to replace WHOIS.

The Expert Working Group is eager to hear the ALAC's thoughts on our proposal and has prepared a set of questions on which input would be especially useful to our ongoing work. Any additional feedback is also welcome. All input received by August 12 will be carefully considered as the EWG finalizes its recommendations and brings its work to a conclusion.

There are different avenues through which the ALAC may submit its input:

- The questionnaire available at: <http://www.icann.org/en/groups/other/gtld-directory-services/share-24jun13-en.htm>
- Additional comments via email: [input-to-ewg@icann.org](mailto:input-to-ewg@icann.org).
- A webinar on Monday, 8 July at 15:00-16:30 UTC: <http://www.icann.org/en/about/learning/webinars/gtld-directory-services-24jun13-en.htm>
- A community consultation in Durban on Monday, 15 July at 14:45-16:15 - <http://durban47.icann.org/node/39627>

The Expert Working Group will consider all input received by 12 August, and present a final report containing recommended design principles, features, and a suggested Model to ICANN's CEO and Board. This output will feed into a Board-initiated GNSO policy development process to serve as a foundation for the GNSO's creation of new consensus policy, and contractual negotiations, as appropriate.

The session in Durban will be an opportunity for you to voice your unique feedback and perspective. The EWG will walk the ICANN community through its work and initial set of recommendations: it will explain the recommendations and discuss the initial report in more details, as needed, and will open the floor for questions and input. ICANN SO/ACs' input is key in the policy development process. In light of the ALAC's role, the EWG looks forward to the ALAC's participation in this consultation and to hearing the ALAC's reaction to the EWG's Initial Report. Should you, however, require a separate session with the EWG, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with ALAC, as appropriate. If this is the case, please contact Alice Jansen at [alice.jansen@icann.org](mailto:alice.jansen@icann.org) to enquire about the Expert Working Group Members' availability.

Safe travels and I look forward to seeing you in Durban!

Very best regards

Jean-François Baril  
EWG Team Facilitator  
[Jf.baril@icann.org](mailto:Jf.baril@icann.org)