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# AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
## ALAC Statement on Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation

**Introduction**

Rinalia Abdul Rahim, ALAC member from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) and ALAC Executive Committee member composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 5 August 2013, this statement was posted on the ALAC Statement on Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation 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 draft Statement to all At-Large members via the ALAC Announce Mailing List.

On 9 August 2013, a version incorporating the comments was posted.

The Chair of the ALAC requested that ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC open a five-day ratification vote on the Statement.
This Statement was then sent to the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Board's new gTLD Program Committee with a note that it was currently undergoing ALAC Ratification.

## Summary
1. The ALAC has concerns about the sufficiency of community expertise in panels that evaluate new gTLD community applications.
2. The ALAC stands ready to offer appropriate ICANN community volunteers to serve as panel members or advisors.

# ALAC Statement on Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation

The ALAC has concerns about the sufficiency of community expertise in panels that evaluate new gTLD community applications. This concern stems from the experience gained by the failure of the new gTLD Applicant Support Program.

The Community Priority Evaluation has significant implications for communities:

Module 4 of the Applicant Guidebook specifies that the Community Priority Evaluation is applicable only for community-based applicants. The evaluation is an independent analysis which is not dependent on prior applicant review results. Any community application passing the Evaluation will "eliminate all directly contending standard applications, regardless of how well qualified the latter may be". Community applications failing the Evaluation will proceed into auction involving all contending parties where they may be at a disadvantage against fully commercial applications.

The panel tasked to conduct such an important evaluation must have sufficient and relevant community-related expertise.

As per the new gTLD Program Timeline published at http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/timelines, we note that the string contention resolution process will begin in September 2013. We also note that the Economist Intelligence Unit and InterConnect Communications have been appointed as service providers for the Community Priority Evaluation Panel, as published in the new gTLD Program Update at the ICANN Dakar Meeting in 2011.

We have concerns that these entities may have a natural familiarity and pre-disposition toward business that may discriminate against applications emphasizing community service.

The ALAC therefore calls for additional community-related expertise in the Community Priority Evaluation Panel and stands ready to offer appropriate ICANN community volunteers to serve as panel members or advisors.