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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statement of the ALAC on
the eG8 Forum

Introduction

At-Large is the ICANN community representing Internet end users, other than the commercial or technical communities. ICANN works on the basis of a multi-stakeholder environment and a bottom-up decision making process.

The At-Large community selects the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) which has been an essential driving force, maintaining openness, ensuring accountability and transparency in ICANN's role in the naming and addressing of the Internet. This Statement was ratified by a vote of the ALAC on 24 May 2011.

The eG8 Forum

The ALAC takes note of the objectives of the Presidency of the Group of Eight (G8, French presidency) regarding the development of the Internet through the eG8 Forum, Paris, 24-25 May 2011.
We support some aspects of this initiative and wish to record our strong reservations regarding other aspects, notably the partial and biased participation in this event.

ALAC **supports** the G8 objectives to:

- Improve everyone's access to the Internet;
- Enable everyone to participate in global networks and promote respect for freedom of expression and opinion;
- Improve security of the Internet and protection of individuals; and
- Recommend examination of the Internet's economic and technical challenges.

We also recognize that several Internet organizations including ICANN, W3C, IAB and the Internet Society have been invited to be present in the eG8 Forum and that the outcome of the eG8 Forum may be submitted to the G8 Summit.

However, we are **surprised and concerned** that G8 governments, who have already committed themselves, in the WSIS and elsewhere, to the development of Internet policy placing all Internet stakeholders on an equal footing, omitted to ensure that all stakeholders, including representatives of end users and civil society, such as the ICANN At-Large community, among others, would be invited. On the contrary, we understand

that participation has been weighted more heavily towards commercial interests through sponsorship requirements.

The G8 will only be able to fully comprehend and include the perspectives of all Internet stakeholders if Internet end users and consumers are effectively represented and able to participate in discussions such as the eG8 meeting this week.

About At-Large

At-Large is the name for the community of individual Internet users who participate in the policy development work of ICANN. More than 120 At-Large Structures representing the views of individual Internet users are active throughout the world. To learn more about the community and its activities, as well as how to join and participate in building the future of the worldwide Domain Name System (DNS) and other unique identifiers which every single user of the Internet relies on with every online visit, please visit: www.atlarge.icann.org

About ICANN

ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.
For more information please visit: www.icann.org.

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