



AL-ALAC-ST-1125-01-00-EN

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: 21 January 2026

STATUS: Ratified

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the Proposed GNSO Process for ICANN Board to Reverse
Adoption of GNSO Policy Recs

Preamble

On 20 November 2025, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the Proposed GNSO Process for ICANN Board to Reverse Adoption of GNSO Policy Recs. An At-Large workspace was created in preparation for this Public Comment submission. The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group reviewed the Proposed GNSO Process for ICANN Board to Reverse Adoption of GNSO Policy Recs and decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop and submit an ALAC Public Comment Statement.

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Ratification Record

On 20 November 2025, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the Proposed GNSO Process for ICANN Board to Reverse Adoption of GNSO Policy Recs. On 17 December 2025, the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) discussed the comments for an ALAC statement. The CPWG decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop and submit an ALAC statement for this Public Comment proceeding. Justine Chew volunteered to draft the initial ALAC statement for CPWG consideration and ALAC endorsement.

On 07 January 2026, a draft statement was shared with the CPWG for review and input. On 15 January 2026, the At-Large Public Comment Statement was finalized. The ALAC Chair, Jonathan Zuck, requested that the Public Comment Statement be ratified by the ALAC before submission to the ICANN Public Comment feature.

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On 21 January 2026, staff confirmed the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with 15 out of 15 votes in favor. 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. Please note 100 % of ALAC members participated in the poll. The ALAC members who participated in the poll are Adebunmi Akinbo, Aftab Siddiqui, Aziz Hilali, Claire Craig, Eunice Alejandra Perez Coello, Emilia Zalewska-Czajczynska, Hannah Frank, Jonathan Zuck, Judith Hellerstein, Justine Chew, Kathleen Scoggin, Natalie Tercova, Pari Esfandiari, Raihanath Gbadamassi, Satish Babu. You may view the results here:

The ALAC has been asked to vote on the ALAC Statement on the Proposed GNSO Process for ICANN Board to Reverse Adoption of GNSO Policy Recs. Do you agree with this Statement?			
Total Voters:15			
Choice 🗳️	View Raw Votes 🔍	Votes	Percentage 🗳️
Yes		15	100.00%
No		0	0.00%
Abstain		0	0.00%

ALAC and At-Large Community Comments

The ALAC and At-Large community welcome the opportunity to comment on the Proposed GNSO Process for ICANN Board to Reverse Adoption of GNSO Policy Recommendations.

We acknowledge the ICANN Board does not currently have a documented ability to reverse its adoption of GNSO policy recommendations, and that this lacuna needs to be addressed. We therefore generally welcome the proposed amendments to the PDP and GGP Manuals to address this gap in the processes.

We also offer two recommendations which we believe are necessary additions:-

1. Explicit involvement of the community in solution development

In considering GNSO policy recommendation, the ICANN Board also examines community input in the form of submissions to public comment proceedings called by the Board, and advice from any of the Advisory Committees. Since the PDP and GGP are GNSO processes that invite community participation beyond the GNSO to produce consensus policy recommendations, any process for revising and/or adapting those recommendations (i.e the Supplemental Recommendation process) must similarly involve community participation, in order to establish community input in order to foster buy-in for disturbing earlier achieved consensus. We therefore recommend that this be done by default, and especially where former members of the relevant PDP or GGP are not available or where it would be inexpedient to reconstitute the relevant PDP or GGP. The GNSO Council SubPro Small Team and SubPro Small Team Plus are strong past examples of ICANN community members coming together to solve challenges in developing supplemental recommendations.

2. Delay in implementation is not a good ground for reversal

We recognize that, at times, the passage of time may cause an adopted policy recommendation to lose some of its efficacy, and therefore, unwarranted delays in the implementation of policy recommendations ought to be avoided. We recommend that the GNSO Council establish a way to urge timely implementation of Board-adopted GNSO policy recommendations so as to limit the occasion(s) that the ICANN Board may seek to reverse adopt GNSO policy recommendations. In other words, such attempts for reversal should be veritably necessary and should not be the result of unjustifiable deferral in implementation and/or simply by allowing the passage of time to manifest the circumstances warranting reversal.