Under Agenda item - Issues and directions, please add:

Participation in NARALO and particularly in ICANN/ALAC’s At-Large Summit II (ATLAS II)

Background…

Gary was TC’s “primary contact” in the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO), one of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) that make up ICANN’s At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). ALAC is the name for the community of individual Internet users who participate in the policy development work of ICANN. ALAC formally recognized TC as an At-Large Structure (ALS) in 2007. Gary also served as NARALO’s representative to the ALAC, October 2009 to October 2011, and as such had participated in several of ICANN’s international meetings.

A while ago, Gary reminded me I was registered somewhere as TC’s “secondary contact” for participation in NARALO. Because he felt, correctly as it turned out, that his deteriorating health would make it unlikely he could attend, he asked me to begin following ALAC/NARALO activity, in particular the At-Large Summit II (ATLAS II), the second At-Large Summit, scheduled at the June 2014 ICANN Meeting, 22-­‐26 June 2014 in London.

< <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=39420675>>

I have been doing so. But, if TC wants me or someone else to continue as our NARALO representative, and to take the next steps this role requires, we need to discuss this and decide. Participation in NARALO/ALAC/ICANN requires that TC overall be aware of certain expectations and obligations.

ICANN is supporting the costs of “selected” ALS delegates to attend the Summit. ALAC used a survey of ALS capacity to contribute to ICANN/ALAC’s policy development work to make the selection. The survey was intended to help ALAC understand ALS concerns, ideas and expectations for the Summit. Completion of the survey was a pre-condition for application. I filled it out on our behalf so TC is on the list of ALSs qualified for support.

<https://community.icann.org/display/atlarge/At-Large+Capacity+Building+WG+Survey+Group+Workspace>

There are 4 stated purposes for holding ATLAS II:

* Strengthen the bottom up structure of the At-­‐Large community by building capacity and awareness of At-­‐Large policies and process of the 150+ ALSs;
* Further develop the At-­‐Large Community’s capacity for engagement in ICANN by increasing its knowledge and understanding of the key issues confronting ICANN and ICANN’s roles and responsibilities;
* Plan for the next stage of the ALAC/At-­‐Large community’s development;
* Allow ICANN to showcase a key component of its bottom-­‐up multi-­‐stakeholder environment to  the rest of the world at a time pivotal to ICANN and to the Internet multi-­‐stakeholder model.

The schedule for ATLAS II is approximately as follows:

* June 20: Representatives of At-large Structures (ALSs) arrive in London
* Saturday, 21 and Sunday, 22 June: plenaries for all ALS representatives
* June 23 -25: The Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) and At-­‐Large Working Groups hold meetings Monday through Wednesday
* Thursday, morning of 26 June: a final ATLAS II meeting
* Friday, 27 June 2014, morning: as part of the regular ALAC schedule, the ALAC holds a planning meeting, and afternoon - ALAC ExCom meeting

As you can see, the “community” < <https://community.icann.org/category/atlarge>> that ALAC/ICANN seeks to foster is internal to ICANN. It is imagined differently from the way that TC approaches community, even in terms of Internet Governance. I see that TC needs to broadly emphasize the future of the Internet in the places where people live, rather than the narrow internal focus on policies for sustaining the integrity of the DNS. That is, of course, ICANN’s mandate. But within their mandate there are serious ICANN organization-wide efforts underway to develop and support a comprehensive outreach strategy. ICANN is intensely sensitive to the global pressure for some form of global “oversight” of the performance of their mission. As a strategy, they see the enhanced role of “communities” within ICANN as proof that much of the oversight actually exists already.

The key benefits ICANN wants to achieve through a programmed approach to global outreach include:

1) Building local/regional awareness and recruitment of new community members;

2) Engaging more effectively with current members and/or “reactivating” previously engaged ICANN community members; and

3) Communicating ICANN’s mission and objectives to new audiences.

The Summit is intended to achieve those objectives in the ALAC context. Participation thus includes an expectation that TC’s role in communication ICANN’s mission will be sustained.