



AT-LARGE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
NON-COMMERCIAL  
STAKEHOLDER GROUP

EN

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**ALAC-NCSG Statement**

On Transparency of Staff Documents

**Introduction**

By the Staff of ICANN

The attached document was drafted by Adam Peake, member of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and Avri Doria, member of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) of the Generic Names Supporting Organisation (GNSO). The initial draft was prepared by Avri and Robin Gross from the NCSG, and Adam and Evan Leibovitch from the At-Large community. Avri and Adam presented the draft Statement to ALAC at the ICANN conference in Nairobi where it was further discussed among the members of the ALAC and the NCSG.

The first revision of the statement (the attached document) incorporates comments received on the initial draft.

The Chair of the NCSG Executive Committee has confirmed that this statement was endorsed on the NCSG/NCUC Discussion list on 11 March 2010 by the membership of the NCSG/NCUC.

During the [ALAC teleconference on April 27th 2010](#), the ALAC endorsed the ALAC-NCSG Statement unanimously.

The Statement was submitted to the ICANN Board on May 20th 2010 on behalf of the ALAC and the NCSG.

[End of Introduction]

The original version of this document is the English text available at [www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence](http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence). Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail

## **ALAC-NCSG Statement on Transparency of Staff Documents**

ICANN's transparency commitment demands the adoption of a principle of default openness for all Board communications except in those specific instances where it is overridden, in writing, by the principle of personal privacy or an explicit requirement for confidentiality.

It is especially critical that policy matters and the contributions of supporting organizations and advisory committees be presented to the Board accurately and completely. While we appreciate the need for staff to summarize matters that are often complex, we must stress the importance of ensuring that these summaries accurately report the relevant facts and positions. Openness and public review will minimize inaccuracies, facilitating the role of staff while enhancing public confidence in the Board's decision-making process.

We request that the Board change its policy so that all briefing documents are made publicly accessible in advance of presentation, except for those specific instances where an explicit legitimate reason is given in writing for the requirement of confidentiality.