



At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Proposal to ICANN Chief Operating Officer: The pooling of FY12 Budget resources for an AFRALO General Assembly

20 July 2011

Following ICANN's 41st Public Meeting in Singapore, the members of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) met to discuss issues pertaining to the FY12 Budget.

The ALAC is appreciative of the endeavors of ICANN's Financial Department, in that it incorporated into the Budget travel that would allow six members of each of three regions – Africa (AFRALO), Europe (EURALO) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRALO) – to attend a General Assembly. In doing so, the Finance Department has acknowledged the significance of General Assemblies. It is our wish that this dialogue continues when future Operational Plans and Budgets are developed.

In solidarity with AFRALO's members, the ALAC regional leaders are in favor of pooling the budgetary resources that ICANN has allocated for travel for six members from each of the three regions in FY12, so that the AFRALO event can take place in October during ICANN's Public Meeting in Dakar, Senegal. This AFRALO event would consist of capacity-building work, an outreach program and a General Assembly.

It is worth noting that all regions should be able to hold their General Assemblies during future ICANN Public Meetings – something that budgetary constraints have previously prevented from materializing.

Hence, the ALAC is submitting this proposal in solidarity with all At-Large regions for the sake of overall regional advancement.

However, the ALAC wishes to state that we see ourselves as the weakest link in the chain of ICANN's financial clout. It is for this reason, and for the sake of fostering equal opportunity, that we offer this proposal (with its demonstration of solidarity) as an instance of good faith but also as a one-time occurrence. This is an exception, not to be seen as a valid precedent, and not to become a rule in terms of budgetary allocations for regional face-to-face events, such as General Assemblies.

Once again, our statement here brings to the fore the fact that RALO General Assemblies are necessary if the different regions are to contribute to ICANN.