AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the FY14 Community Travel Support Guidelines

Introduction
By the Staff of ICANN

An initial draft of this Statement was composed by Tijani Ben Jemaa, ALAC Executive Committee (ExCom) member and ALAC member from the Africa Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the mailing lists.

On 2 April 2013, this Statement was posted on the At-Large FY14 Community Travel Support Guidelines Workspace.

On 26 April 2013, a call for comments on the draft Statement was sent to At-Large members via the ALAC Announce mailing list.

On 11 April 2013, this Statement was discussed in the ALAC & Regional Leadership Wrap-up Meeting.

During that meeting, the draft Statement was discussed by all present At-Large members, as well as those participating via Remote Participation.

The Chair of the ALAC then requested that a ratification vote be held on the Statement.

Staff then confirmed that the vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 14 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

You may review the result independently under: https://community.icann.org/x/GQV-Ag.

The Chair then requested that the Statement be transmitted to the Public Comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this Public Comment topic.

[End of Introduction]

ALAC Statement on the FY14 Community Travel Support Guidelines

The ALAC welcomes the consolidation of information regarding travel support in the most efficient way where they can be easily found.

The ALAC supported travelers are the 15 ALAC members plus 2 regional leaders per RALO (2X5=10) plus 2 bylaw-mandated Liaisons (to GNSO and ccNSO), as well as additional nights for the SSAC Liaison when he/she is already travelling to an ICANN meeting through funding elsewhere. The total number of the ALAC supported travelers is: 27 (15+10+2) plus an option, and not 25 as mentioned in the proposed Guidelines.

Regarding the proposed modifications to the travel support policy, the ALAC thinks that it is a positive measure to fix firm deadlines for the supported travelers to reply to the mails concerning their participation and the itinerary to be booked. It will make the meeting planning easier and more accurate.

Nevertheless, the ALAC believes that all the wire transfer fees should be reimbursable whatever their value is. $50 may not be an important amount to ICANN, but it is to many volunteer travelers as this sometimes corresponds to the majority of a day's per diem.

Also, the ALAC considers that the community members should have normal circumstances for working during their stay. The approved arrival date should be one day before their first working day with sufficient time for rest before starting the work, and their approved departure date should be the day after their last working day. It should be clearly mentioned in the community travel support guidelines that the approved travel dates must be defined according to each constituency schedule and in close coordination with the constituency officers and the related staff.

While the ALAC recognizes that securing visas is the responsibility of the supported traveler, it strongly believes that ICANN should take all necessary actions to facilitate the granting of visas for all the community members. ICANN should negotiate with the host country the modalities for visa procurement for the ICANN community that makes it easy for the traveler to apply and to obtain the visa.