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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the ICANN Draft FY13 Operating Plan and Budget

Introduction

By the Staff of ICANN

Tijani Ben Jemaa, ALAC member from the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and ALAC Executive Committee Member, composed an initial draft of this Statement, including input from the ALAC Sub-Committee on Finance and Budget, after discussion of the topic within At-Large.

On 24 May 2012 this Statement was posted on the [At-Large ICANN Draft FY13 Operating Plan and Budget Workspace](#).

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested At-Large Staff to send a reminder for comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 5 June 2012, a second version of the Statement incorporating the comments expressed both by email and on the aforementioned workspace was drafted.

On 6 June 2012, the Chair of the ALAC requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification vote on the Statement. The Chair also requested that the Statement be transmitted to the public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this public comment topic, along with a note saying that the document was currently undergoing ALAC ratification with a vote to start shortly.

[End of Introduction]

The original version of this document is the English text available at <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 Statement on the ICANN Draft FY13 Operating Plan and Budget

The ALAC welcomes the continuous improvement in the Operating Plan and Budget establishment with more consultation with the community and a new evaluation model for the community additional request for funding.

The ALAC further recognizes that the level of detail in the budget presentation is now enhanced, and the explanations provided allow for a deeper analysis and discussion. The separation of the stakeholder projects from the new gTLD readiness, the policy support, the community support and the global engagement activities represents one example of those enhancements.

Regarding the IDN program, the ALAC find it important to make use as much as possible of the expertise of community members who bring linguistic source knowledge, which would minimize hiring external experts. The variant studies done by the six voluntary community member groups showed how useful the contribution of the community members can be. Use of this resource may decrease drastically the program cost.

The ALAC believes that being inherent parts of the new gTLD application process, the TAS, the Digital Archery and the other system security of the new gTLD should not be counted in the core operation and project component of the budget, but in the new gTLD budget.

The ALAC welcomes the improvement in the interaction with the constituencies regarding the community additional requests. Nevertheless, the rejection of the projects planned in a non-ICANN event seems to be arbitrary. Instead, this could be considered as an outreach and communication operation since it would showcase the ICANN community work in the wider Internet ecosystem.

The ALAC notices with great satisfaction that ICANN will participate in the upcoming IGF differently and more effectively, making use of its community initiatives. The community workshops during the IGF directly involving ICANN communities give ICANN a significant visibility that has a great impact on its image. Workshops at IGF provide a substantial input to IGF proceedings. The ALAC therefore believes that the coordination between ICANN management and the concerned constituencies for the preparation of the ICANN participation in such an event is of great importance.

Building on the successful experiences of AFRALO and LACRALO capacity building programs held in Dakar and San José respectively, the planned programs for Toronto and Asia Pacific (TBD) in FY 2013 show the receptivity and reactivity of the ICANN management to those fruitful activities led by the At-Large community. The ALAC expresses its satisfaction and its commitment to make the budgeted programs successful and fruitful for the community and for ICANN as well.

On the other hand, the ALAC finds it abnormal that the global revenue of the Ombudsman increases by more than 28% because of an additional administrative cost for renting an office and the associated expenses.

The ALAC reiterates its concern about the huge disparity in the registry fees. They do not follow any rule and show an arbitrary way of charging the 18 existing gTLDs registries: some do not pay the fixed fees, others do not pay the per-transaction fees, and the amount of the fixed and the per-transaction fees changes from a registry to another. We can notice that dot com does not pay the per-transaction fees while the dot cat (community TLD) pays the per-transaction fees at one of the highest rate (\$ 1 per transaction) as well as the fixed fees.

Now that new gTLDs will be accredited, the ALAC advises that the community not for profit TLDs should be charged at a minimum rate while the rest of all TLDs should be charged uniformly according to well-defined rules.

On the subject of ICANN offices, the ALAC notices that they are mainly located in North America. The ALAC believes that if a Regional Office network is required to effectively serve a global community and the strategic objectives and activities of ICANN, then a plan for such (inclusive of a review of and rationalization for location and operation/staffing of existing offices and requirements such as outreach and the work of Global Partnership and the ACs and SOs), should be undertaken to ensure an effective, efficient, appropriate, regionally balanced and properly resourced and costed global offices network and we assume supported by the ICANN community and stakeholders.