AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the Public Comment Solicitation for FY13 Community Travel Support Guidelines

Introduction
By the Staff of ICANN

Alan Greenberg, ALAC Liaison to the GNSO and At-Large member from the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large.

On 20 June 2012, this Statement was posted on the At-Large Public Comment Solicitation for FY13 Community Travel Support Guidelines Workspace.

On that same day, a call for comments on the draft Statement was sent to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 28 June 2012, 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. A second draft was produced after incorporating the comments and suggestions of all members.

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 13 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

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]

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On behalf of the ALAC and At-Large, we would like to thank ICANN for the continued travel support, as it is essential for At-Large to carry out its mandate. We do, however, have several comments regarding the section on At-Large travel support.

1. The concept of re-purposing the funding allocated to 10 regional leaders towards regional assemblies has repeatedly been rejected by the ALAC for very well documented reasons. Having regional leaders present at all ICANN meetings is absolutely necessary for the At-Large to be effective. Moreover, it is incorrect to state that this is how the regional participation in Dakar and Costa Rica were funded. In both cases, separate funds were made available. These obsolete references in both section 3 and 5 should be removed.

2. Regarding how regional assemblies or summits should be funded, the ALAC is in on-going dialogue with senior ICANN financial management. This is documented in section 6 on Special Requests.

3. Regarding the concept of At-Large only requiring support during its "startup", it has always been clear to all of those actually involved in At-large that to withdraw travel support would effectively kill the any semblance of At-Large and ALAC effectiveness. It is true that some have proposed lower or no funding, but that concept has never been implemented, nor should it be if ICANN wants to have the input of the world's Internet user community.