**Statement of the African ICANN community**

**participating in the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting in Buenos Aires**

Wednesday, 20 November 2013

We, members of the African community attending the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting held on Wednesday, 20 November 2013 in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on the fringe of the 48th ICANN Public International meeting, debated extensively the issue of ICANN meeting strategy,

We understand very well the challenges that the ICANN meeting staff is facing for the management of the increasingly huge number of participants and meeting sessions often overlapping with each other, making the availability of adequate venue in some regions very critical.

We notice with satisfaction staff effort to find solutions to the problems that arose during the last few meetings, and to propose a new meeting strategy.

We encourage ICANN to continue its effort to find an alternative meeting strategy that overcomes the challenges faced, and that takes into consideration the community concerns such as:

* Keeping the rotation between the 5 ICANN regions to maintain the inclusive and international character of ICANN
* Adopting the principle of a hub per region to serve as an alternative solution in case another venue couldn’t be found
* Making sure that especially hubs, but also all other venues should be chosen inter alias according to the will of the governments to make the adequate arrangements for visa delivery to all ICANN community to avoid the repeated experience of some of the African community members missing the meeting in spite of their important role

* Reorganizing the meeting in a way to separate the cross constituency works from the intra-constituency works, and assign separate days for each to avoid the conflicting sessions

We believe that with due consideration of those remarks, ICANN will find a good and sustainable meeting strategy that will accommodate the communities needs and aspirations, worldwide