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## AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### ALAC Statement on the ICANN Consolidated Meetings Strategy Proposal

#### Introduction

By the Staff of ICANN

Tijani Ben Jemaa, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) member from the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and ALAC Executive Committee member, composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 5 October 2012, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large ICANN Consolidated Meetings Strategy Proposal Workspace](#).

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of ALAC to send a call for comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the [ALAC-Announce mailing list](#).

On 16 November 2012, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned [At-Large ICANN Consolidated Meetings Strategy Proposal Workspace](#).

On 19 November 2012, the Chair requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification on the Statement.

On 24 November 2012, Staff confirmed that the online 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://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=2759sWziWNEdNquzkWHsuZqk>

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]

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 Consolidated Meetings Strategy Proposal**

The At-Large Advisory Committee understands the difficulties that the meeting staff encounters to find the right venue for the ICANN International meetings in some regions, especially because these meetings have been growing in size and scope. It welcomes the effort to review the current selection system.

As ICANN is a global organization and it is making huge efforts to become more international, the main objective to be considered in the review should be the inclusiveness: except for particular security cases, the ICANN meetings should be fully accessible to the whole Internet community from all countries of the world. Any new strategy that does not fulfill this requirement couldn't be considered as an improvement of the system.

Therefore, the ALAC believes that easy VISA procurement to citizens of all countries should be the first criterion of the new strategy. The experience of refused Visas for Toronto was very painful for the ICANN community, especially those from the south. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) appears to have found ways to engage with host country candidates to accept special Visa arrangements for the IGF participants. As a global organization and through its relationship with governments, ICANN can do this as well.

The second very important element for the review is the quality of logistics in general, which includes the venue quality, accessibility, and closeness to various standing hotels and other facilities, as well as the safety and security of the venue.

Finally, the cost is to be considered for ICANN and its community: airfare, accommodation cost, and all other expenses should be reasonable. Multi-year contract with meeting facilities, such as hotel chains and other service providers may indeed reduce the overall cost.

The ALAC thinks that the new strategy should strive to keep the concept of holding meetings in the 5 regions as equally as possible, which demonstrate the ICANN commitment to diversity and its serious willing to attain the global outreach. Nevertheless, it does not consider harmful an unbalanced approach when it is justified on a case-by-case basis when the above criteria cannot be satisfied.

The At-Large Advisory Committee therefore strongly believes that the review should be based on the 3 mentioned criteria to result in a consolidated strategy that is in line with the new management objectives of internationalization and inclusiveness.