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**AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**ALAC Statement on the Framework for the FY 13 Budget**

**Introduction**

By the Staff of ICANN

Tijani Ben Jemaa, ALAC member from the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large

On 16 February 2012, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large Framework for the FY13 Budget Workspace](#) and a request for input was made in the ALAC Finance and Budget Sub-Committee.

On 21 February 2012, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested At-Large Staff to send a two-day call for comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 23 February 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 Framework for the FY 13 Budget**

The ALAC welcomes several improvements in the FY13 Operating Plan and Budget Framework development, especially its timing, allowing its publication for comments sufficiently early to give the community enough time to comment on it and provide its input.

The ALAC also appreciates very much the framework presentation undertaken by the CFO himself, which allowed a better dialog with the community. We fully support the process of early engagement and agree that it will enhance accountability and transparency.

Nevertheless, the FY13 Operating Plan and Budget Framework is presented at too high a level, similarly as FY12 was done, and in our view, does not go into sufficient detail at this stage. The ALAC notes that the FY11 framework provided more information which was useful for analysis.

As presented, the current document can be commented on in a general manner only. For the future Operating Plan and Budget Framework, the ALAC recommends that the format returns to a full text format (with at least as much detail as the FY11 document and preferably more) rather than Powerpoint presentation. Only then would it be possible to analyze the framework keeping in mind the interest of Internet users.

We appreciated that without consideration of the new gTLD program, the expenses for the FY13 will exceed the revenues by \$113,000 (0.15%) only, which means that the deficit decreased significantly compared to the FY12's one.

However, the ALAC notices with regret that the funds allocated to the community additional requests for activities and services have been reduced for FY13 by around 20% over FY12, while one of the ICANN priorities for FY13 is to effectively support increased activities from Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs). The ALAC was instead expecting a growth in these funds to allow our community to implement its projects for a better participation of the Internet end-users.

The ALAC wishes that for its additional request for activities and services, ICANN Finance Staff interact with the applicants before submitting the final Budget to the Board for adoption.

The ALAC re-iterates that several of the ALAC requests are considered crucial for the At-Large work and development, and that most of them have been submitted in the previous fiscal years.

Looking at the IDN Variant Management, the ALAC expresses its concern that the Framework shows a significant surge in the predicted Cost of the related further studies and implementation phase. The already done IDN Variants studies were undertaken by 6 groups composed of voluntary community members. We find the \$2.8m figure overestimated and are concerned that some of the work might duplicate work already undertaken by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). We are also concerned about the reduced levels of transparency associated with contracting out services that might be better served by staff. External growth based on consultants needs to be kept in check and under control especially given the anticipated deficit situation.

Finally, the ALAC welcomes the provision made for inter-sessional meetings to be held by non-contracted community members. Since we find the amount currently allocated to this item rudimentary, we believe that it should be increased to satisfy the need of all the non-contracted community members and we believe that the inter-sessional meetings match perfectly with our need for regional gatherings out of ICANN meetings for in-reach, outreach and learning purposes that we expressed several times over the few previous years. It is only through such involvement outside of ICANN meetings that the overall ICANN

Profile would be increased globally as being a key party in the Global Internet Ecosystem with a highly evolved and inclusive Multi-Stakeholder model. Currently, this is an area that is severely lacking.