Summary and analysis of public comments for:

TRAVEL SUPPORT

Comment period ended: 6th of July 2009.   Kept open to allow ALAC comments of 17 July 2009

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I. BACKGROUND

Participation in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model comes at a cost of time, energy, effort and often direct expense. It is entirely appropriate for ICANN revenue, derived from registrant fees, to offset some of this cost. For years, ICANN has had a practice of offsetting some costs of participation. For example, the ICANN Board and liaisons to the Board are reimbursed for ICANN travel expenses. Members of the Nominating Committee have also been reimbursed for travel expenses to their meetings, and the At-Large Advisory Committee has been reimbursed for their travel to ICANN meetings.

For some time, the community has called on ICANN to consider community travel support in various forms, and for clarity and transparency on travel support procedures. Furthermore, it is increasingly important that the approach to travel support be well considered, documented, and implemented in a transparent way.

Last year, ICANN created travel procedures to clarify which members of the ICANN community were to receive travel support for that fiscal year (2009). At the same time, it was announced that they would be reviewed after the first year of use.

A comment period on the travel procedures was provided. Based upon the community feedback, a draft of the Travel Guidelines was posted for community feedback and was incorporated into the Budget preparations.. This analysis summarizes that feedback and is intended to by synthesized into the Final FY10 Travel Guidelines to be posted shortly.

II. GENERAL COMMENTS and CONTRIBUTORS

As of the 17th of July 2009 informally extended deadline, a total of five submissions have been provided. One from ALAC and the rest from individuals as listed below:

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) submitted by ICANN At Large staff
Naveed-ul-haq (NUH)
Tracy Hackshaw (TH)
Avri Doria (AD)
Edward Diaz (ED)

III. SUMMARY & ANALYSIS

Comments submitted to this public forum tended to address specific levels of support and/or the level of reporting for support. Some comments acknowledged the appropriateness of the level and clarity of travel support as described.

- AV mentions that the reports are helpful and should include information on travel support for Board members
- NUH is encouraged by the support offered to GAC members and also wants to see more support for more remote participation
- TH expressed concerns regarding the administration of visas for travelers

- TH expressed concerns with the level of support for fellows including the seeming unfairness as compared to travelers from other groups
- ED expressed a desire for more transparency on Board members travel and that Board Liaisons should not have to be reimbursed at the same level.
- ALAC expressed a desire to have a combination of regional general assemblies and support for RALO leadership at ICANN meetings and not just one or the other.

IV. Next Steps

These comments have been factored in the final Travel Guidelines for FY10, and will be incorporated in future Travel Reports on the Travel Support webpage.
http://www.icann.org/en/topics/travel-support/