

ALAC Statement on the Nairobi ICANN Meeting – 18 February 2010

The decision to reconsider the Nairobi ICANN meeting is indeed onerous, and the ALAC provides the following comments to the Board through the ALAC Liaison

1. The Board must of course take all issues into account. At-Large has made abundantly clear that most or all of the planned meeting attendees still intend to go.
2. If the Board's decides that the meeting will be held as scheduled, then the community needs to be made aware of as much detail as is feasibly possible and practical regarding security planning and other logistical issues such as land transport planning etc.

However, the fact that cancellation has even been considered will impact potential attendee's plans and decisions. In an effort to compensate, ICANN must take additional steps to ensure that all attendees, and particularly those who are funded by ICANN, have access to more than minimal security precautions. At a minimum, this must include the option of being met at the airport by car/driver, and a commitment to provide venue/hotel shuttles on a VERY frequent basis (ICANN has failed at this in the past and it is not a given that it will be done well this time).

Moreover, it will be ESSENTIAL to enhance remote participation. If remote "satellite" sites are created, it should be a one-time occurrence – we have enough silos in ICANN as it is.

3. If the meeting is NOT held in Nairobi then a meeting **MUST** be held at some other venue on or around the dates planned for the current meeting #37 to facilitate the essential inter- and intra-AC/SO work we all have planned and need to do.
4. In the interest of transparency and confidence in ICANN, the rationale for any decision should be made clear. We wish to ensure that the Board is very clear when announcing the outcomes of their meeting on Friday, that any cancellation decision is in no way a reflection on our community's willingness and keenness to engage with and give aid to the required capacity building needed in the African Region to better ensure greater participation in ICANN specific and more general Internet Ecosystem activities and policy development. If the meeting is NOT held in Nairobi then it is essential that the RIGHT message is sent to developing economies and regions regarding the rationale. The Board is strongly advised to work with those who understand the local cultural issues to ensure that the best possible impression is left.