

Analysis of ALAC Comments 06 June 2009

Of the 39 Comments received from the ALAC 21 have been included within the Travel Policy and/or the latest draft of the FY2010 Operating Plan and Budget Framework

Comment Made by ALAC	Included (with page number Reference) or N/A if Not Included
<p>1. ALAC’s ability to function is significantly threatened if full funding of all its members, plus liaisons, is not continued to all ICANN International Meetings, due to the completely voluntary nature of its membership. If ICANN should follow-through on not funding travel for some ALAC members, it is virtually certain that most or all would not be able to attend ICANN meetings. This would significantly threaten the ability of ALAC to function, and would likely prompt at least some of the other members (including NCAs) to resign due to the lack of a critical mass at meetings. Moreover, it would be a false saving not to fund RALO leadership attendance at ICANN meetings. These are the key people in the regions who must motivate and act as liaisons to their ALSs. It is critical that these people be fully involved in the ICANN organization.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – pages 2, 7, and 9</p>
<p>2. Each of the five Regional At-Large Organisations (“RALOs”) needs an opportunity to meet face-to-face once per year, which cannot be sustained without ICANN funding.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – pages 2 and 7</p>
<p>3. It is suggested that one General Assembly per RALO (with an average of 15 ALSs each) be funded on a regular basis. These could be during ICANN meetings when the venue makes this possible for the region where the meeting is held, or otherwise shorter meetings held in-region.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – page 7</p>
<p>4. The need for making travel arrangements well in advance for both cost and visa reasons, and the need for developing working per-diem distribution mechanisms</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>5. We wish to emphasise that the process by which per-diems are paid needs to take into account that there are countries where it is impractical, or impossible, to receive incoming international wire transfers. We believe there should always be a way to receive cash at a meeting to cope with this situation. Additionally, there are participants who find it difficult to wait to receive per diems until after the meeting as this requires participants to go out-of-pocket and not all participants have the financial wherewithal to be able to do this. Per Diems should also be calculated or set by reference to some internationally recognized system, which is rechecked periodically and currency fluctuation need to be taken into account.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>6. Remote Participation Options. We wish to once again emphasise that remote participation at ICANN meetings is, frankly, completely broken. Even basic operations like providing telephonic remote access don’t work regularly Quality remote access is a prerequisite for allowing meaningful contribution by remote participants. Remote Participation at ICANN meetings needs much greater priority. Remote Participation mechanisms at ICANN meetings are inadequate and should be enhanced and run far more professionally than at present.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – pages 2 and 3 Framework – pages 12 and 34</p>

<p>7. ICANN should look seriously at holding regional meetings and not just International meetings. Regional face-to-face meetings of the community each year are essential. The participation of other ICANN communities at such meetings would be welcomed. ICANN should consider providing opportunities for the regional communities to work together on specific issues face-to-face and with regional groups on horizontal level, which can then feed back into the process on international level. This model would also allow more regular face-to-face meetings than would be possible with international meetings alone.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – pages 7 Framework – page 34</p>
<p>8. For international meetings, all members of Bylaw-recognised bodies should receive travel and expense support. What we mean is that the members of the GNSO Council, the At-Large Advisory Committee, the SSAC, etc. should receive ICANN funding for airfares, hotel, and a reasonable per-diem.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – page 7</p>
<p>9. Travel processes should start earlier to ease the burden of acquiring visas, especially for developing country participants.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>10. The tripartite nature of the At-Large community means that the leadership of the five RALOs need funding to attend ICANN International meetings. These meetings could be at the ICANN International Meetings in each region each year, and/or at other relevant meetings in the respective region during the year, as most useful.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – page 7</p>
<p>11. Travel Support management needs substantial improvements in many respects.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>12. Some flexibility with respect to upgradeable economy airfares is needed to ensure that volunteers arrive at meetings in the best condition to be effective.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>13. It is very important that ALAC members, at the very least, be housed in the same hotel used by the majority of other ICANN Supporting Organizations and Committees. The opportunities that this provides for interaction between ALAC members and the rest of the ICANN community cannot be overestimated and is felt to be crucial for ensuring that ALAC becomes a truly integrated part of the ICANN family.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>14. For long trips (perhaps over 15-18 hours) they be allowed to arrive sufficiently early so as to be awake and productive during their first meetings.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>15. The ALAC is very supportive of clear procedures and transparent exception processes allowing the use of reasonable economy airfares which maximize the volunteer traveler’s comfort and benefits.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>16. If regional meetings are going to be held for registrars and registries, as they are today, then they should be expanded to become accessible to all ICANN communities.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>17. ICANN should host meetings in the various regions – but it should choose locations that are affordable.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – page 3</p>
<p>18. We believe that travel arrangements should be made many months in advance in order to save on the cost.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

19. For regional meetings, all members of Bylaw-recognised bodies from that region should receive travel and expense support on the same basis and to the same extent as at International Meetings.	Travel Policy – page 7
20. ALAC member and representative from ALS's are often placed in lower quality hotels remote from the main conference hotel/venue means isolation from the main events and less opportunity for At Large to contribute.	N/A
21. Members of communities who are active in ICANN, and local to the meeting in question, and who will otherwise likely be unable to attend the meeting, should receive travel support for at least a representative number of participants in respect of airfare, hotel, and a reasonable per-diem. Conversely, groups such as registrars and registries, who have a commercial interest in attending the meeting and have companies funding them should not receive funding.	N/A
22. The UN per-diem rates, exclusive of the lodging portion since ICANN would be paying for lodging, should be used as the standard for determining the appropriate level of per-diem.	N/A
23. Hotel charges paid by ICANN should include the cost of Internet access, if it is not complimentary.	N/A
24. ALAC requests ICANN travel funding at roughly the level that it was prior to FY09. Specifically: 15 ALAC members at each ICANN meeting; 2 Bylaw-mandated Liaisons; 8 RALO leadership positions at each ICANN meeting (recent changes in the European RALO imply that they will now have 2 leadership positions instead of 1); 5 regional General Assemblies per year (1 per region), to be held during an ICANN meeting if appropriate. Airfares will be lower due the regional nature, and non-ICANN meetings will be much shorter.	Travel Policy – pages 2 and 7 Framework – pages 22 and 23
25. International Meeting venues are being chosen in a way that excludes many participants because of the high price of accommodation. Future meetings should have the criterion of affordability as an essential element.	Travel Policy – page 3
26. Tying activities and their results to the costs associated with them is important.	Framework – pages 42, 44, and 45
27. A major awareness and education campaign across the existing At-Large community should be undertaken directly in order to improve awareness of ICANN issues and their relevance to Internet end users.	Framework – pages 23, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 36
28. Funding of an adequate and timely education campaign for Internet end users related to IDNs should be included in the next budget and involve existing At-Large Structures integrally.	Framework – page 36
29. Advance communications initiatives preceding each International Meeting should be put in place in collaboration with the region's At-Large community to increase awareness of ICANN meetings and their importance.	N/A
30. ALSes efforts to reach the grassroots communities in their areas should be supported by ICANN.	N/A

<p>31. More translations are essential – without them ICANN’s legitimacy is in question. Multilingual transcriptions and translations of ICANN's documents are crucial for the international community. We believe that optimization of translations is desirable. We therefore suggest that a mechanism allowing the ALSes to be actively involved in the process of translation of documents that are important to be displayed in other languages (the UN official languages) be collaboratively developed. ALSes with their capacities and skills in ICANN matters could be considered as a possible translating resource, and to have the opportunity to step into the translation cycle with all the responsibilities of a third party translator. RALOs could help in identifying the documents which need to be translated and process this information to ICANN.</p>	<p>Framework – pages 12, 24, 34, and 35</p>
<p>32. ICANN’s processes need to respect cultural as well as linguistic diversity. This requires a more globally distributed staff, organs, and activities of the organisation. More activities should be managed from outside of the USA.</p>	<p>Framework – page 12</p>
<p>33. The At-Large Community identifies several areas where transparency should be further improved. To date, ICANN has not been able to provide financial information about the costs of each ICANN entity, including ALAC itself, or for specific At-Large projects. Consequently ALAC has not been able to undertake its own cost-benefit analysis and budgetary planning. Indeed, At-Large is not yet included explicitly in the ICANN’s FY2010 Operating Plan and Budget.</p>	<p>Framework – pages 11, 42, 44, and 45</p>
<p>34. Create budgetary allocation for expenditure by ALAC and its constituent RALOs, for agreed activities, including accountability. Account for expenditures made by, or on behalf of, ALAC and its constituent members.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>35. The responsibilities of each person in charge of an area of ICANN should be clearly stated and the effectiveness of each should be the subject of periodic public evaluation.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>36. External audits of the efficacy of compliance activities should be undertaken. ICANN should instigate a study of how the implementation of DNSSec might harm some network implementations, such as WiFi hotspots. ICANN should support industry more in accommodating DNSSec more securely.</p>	<p>Framework – pages 11, 13, 18, and 37</p>
<p>37. ALAC believes that the introduction of IDNs is a major step in the evolution of the Internet. As such, it deserves from ICANN a focused public awareness information campaign</p>	<p>Framework – pages 11, 30, and 36</p>
<p>38. The funding of an adequate and timely public information campaign in collaboration with At-Large Structures should be included in the next budget. In order to execute an efficient information campaign, ICANN should consult regional ALSes for the most effective ways to reach communities and end users.</p>	<p>Framework – pages 35 and 36</p>
<p>39. In order to guarantee effective results, we wish to insist once more upon the need for a face-to-face At-Large meeting in each region once a year.</p>	<p>Travel Policy – pages 2 and 7</p>