

Statement of the African ICANN community participating in the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting in Buenos Aires

Wednesday, 20 November 2013

We, members of the African community attending the AFRALO-AfrICANN joint meeting held on Wednesday, 20 November 2013 in Buenos Aires (Argentina) within the 48th ICANN International Public meeting, extensively debated the issue of ICANN meeting strategy,

We understand very well the challenges faced by the ICANN meeting staff due to the increasingly huge number of participants that makes the availability of adequate venue in some regions very critical and also, the growing number of sessions resulting in several overlapping meetings.

We notice with satisfaction the staff effort to find solutions to the problems that arose during the last few meetings, and to propose a new meeting strategy.

We encourage ICANN through its Meeting Strategy Working Group to continue its effort to find an alternative meeting strategy that overcomes the challenges faced, and that takes into consideration the community concerns such as:

- Keeping the rotation between the 5 ICANN regions to maintain the inclusive and international character of ICANN;
- Adopting the principle of a hub per region to serve as an alternative solution in case another venue couldn't be found within the same region;
- Making sure that especially hubs, and also all other venues should be chosen inter alia according to the will of the governments to make the adequate arrangements for visa delivery to all ICANN community members. This will be to avoid the repeated experience of some of the African community members missing the meeting in spite of their important role;
- Reorganizing the meetings in a way to separate the cross constituency works from the intra-constituency works, and assign separate days for each to avoid conflicting sessions.

We believe that with due consideration of those issues, ICANN will find a good and sustainable meeting strategy that will accommodate the communities' needs and aspirations, worldwide and overcome the challenges faced by the staff