



AFRALO NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 | June 2020

The latest news from the African At-Large Regional Organization (AFRALO)

Visit our Website

From the Chair's Desk



Seun Ojedeji, AFRALO Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I trust you are staying safe and maintaining all safety precautions during this period of pandemic which has impacted on us all in one way or another. On behalf of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) Leadership (myself, Aziz and Sarah), we wish you glad tidings and trust that we will remain strong as we battle this common enemy. It is a good thing, however, that amidst all these challenges, the Internet is growing stronger and as Internet end users this is good news. AFRALO has continued her activities during this quarter and here are some of the current and ongoing activities of the RALO.

In my new year statement, I informed you that we have reactivated our Operating Principles Review (RoP) Working Group which will be reviewing the Individual Membership section of our rules to determine and propose any required changes. While that work is ongoing, the leadership has also seen the need to review our operating principles in general and we shall be giving that task to the working group as phase 2 of their work. The scope and details of the phase 2 task will be communicated in due time.

During the quarter, we received the call for public comments on the draft [ICANN Africa Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2025](#) and we submitted [our response](#). Let me once again use this opportunity to commend ICANN Staff in the region, our members that participated and the entire team that worked on the development of the draft strategy, congratulations to us all! We have also conducted a survey within our members to take stock of the challenges that may be impacting their participation within ICANN processes during the pandemic and some of the feedback may also contribute to the AFRALO-AfriCANN statement drafting.

In line with the reality on the ground, we have reviewed and finalised our Outreach and Engagement Strategy for FY21. The activities we will be doing will largely be remote based and in-reach in nature due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the impossibility to run in-person events. The implementation details of the outreach plan will be done by a team which will be constituted by the leadership, we shall be making a call for volunteers accordingly.

This quarter is the election period and the following individuals were elected to their nominated positions, they will take their seats later in the year at the ICANN69 Annual General Meeting (AGM). I hereby congratulate the winners and all those that expressed interest.

- ALAC Voting Delegates to the NomCom: Hadia El Miniawi

- ALAC Member (AFRALO): Sarah Kiden
- AFRALO Secretariat: Abdeljalil Bachar Bong

ICANN68 will be held virtually. The first remote based ICANN meeting (ICANN67) was a success and we expect that lessons learned from the first trial will make ICANN68 better and I hope you will join us remotely. As usual, we will hold a Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting, and discussion on the topic will be circled around Internet community participation within ICANN in the face of calamities. The session will also provide us the opportunity to hear from our GSE team, ALAC leadership and ICANN Board members.

Have a great ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum!

See [At-Large 2020 Priorities](#)

Editorial Team

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Deputy Editor-in-Chief: **Aziz HILALI**
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[Full list of team members](#)

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About AFRALO

African Regional At-Large Organization: Engaging Africa for Development

AFRALO is the home of the individual Internet user community for the African region. It provides news, key resources and interactive information sharing tools for individuals and end-user groups in the African region who are interested in ICANN and in shaping the future of the Internet.

AFRALO aims to:

- Strengthen users' participation in ICANN decision-making structures
- Help ensure that its members will actively encourage more direct participation by end users
- Build Internet policy making capacity in the region
- Reach out to Internet users on the issues in the scope of ICANN
- Represent users' interests and defining public interest aspects of Internet governance with specific focus on the areas of **privacy, transparency, and accountability**
- Strengthen consumer protection in ICANN policies
- Identify social impacts of technical infrastructure design
- Take cultural diversity into account when formulating technical standards (e.g. IDN implementation)

AFRALO currently consist of **65 ALSes** located in 32 countries and territories, as well as **14 Individual members** and 3 Observers.

To learn more about the ongoing work of AFRALO, you are welcome to check out the AFRALO [workspace](#).



ALAC Update

The ALAC held their Monthly Calls over the past quarter, including the most recent monthly call on [26 May](#). The ALAC discussed the following:

- Updates on the ALAC/At-Large policy activities being undertaken by the CPWG and OFB-WG.
- A review of the ALS and Individual membership, with 2 new AFRALO ALSes. AFRALO now has 64 ALSes and 14 individual members.
- At-Large working group leaders gave updates on Post-ATLAS III activities and current At-Large 2020 Priorities in the areas of: Reporting (an analysis of the ATLAS III Survey results); Policy involvement (policy resource development); Capacity Building (ICANN Learn course development); Outreach and Engagement (with a focus on the new O&E virtual strategic plan); and Communication (items under the control of the ALAC Chair).
- Leon Sanchez, the At-Large appointed Board member and ICANN Board Vice Chair, then updated the ALAC on current decisions made by the Board.

There was a review and discussion on ICANN68 review of the At Large schedule and Pre-ICANN68 webinars. There was then a discussion on the At-Large review implementation and next steps and a brief discussion on the upcoming ALAC elections, and results of RALO elections thus far.

ALAC / At-Large Policy Comments & Advice

All of AFRALO and the At-Large community are invited to contribute to ICANN public comment proceedings. For more information, please visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact [At-Large staff](#).

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) is currently developing (3) responses to public comment proceedings:

Vote [LACRALO Statement Latin America and Caribbean \(LAC\) Regional Strategic Plan for FY2021-2025](#) 14 July 2020

Comment [Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team \(ATRT3\) Final Report](#) 31 July 2020

Drafting [Enhancing the Effectiveness of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model – Next Steps](#) 02 August 2020

In addition, there are an ongoing workspaces regarding [CPWG SubPro Comment](#) and [PDP 3.0](#).

Have your say! To contribute to ALAC public comment, please comment on the wiki space or volunteer as penholder, and join the weekly [At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#) meetings.

The ALAC submitted (6) policy comments since the last AFRALO Newsletter:

ccNSO PDP3: Initial Proposals for Process to Retire ccTLDs

As a whole, the ALAC supports the ccNSO PDP3. From an end user perspective, the ALAC suggested two points to be considered: 1) As a user of the Internet, the removal of a TLD will mean less likelihood for confusion as usually a ccTLD would be removed to make way for a new one. This enhances Trust in the domain name identifiers; 2) As a domain name registrant, the retirement of the ccTLD could pose a problem when correspondents are accustomed to use the "old" address using the obsolete ccTLD. Some companies have built a brand around the "old" ccTLD.

Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP) Study 1: Proposed Final Report

The ALAC strongly supports the SSAC in proceeding with Studies 2 and 3, and it also strongly urges the ICANN Board and ICANN Org/OCTO to take the necessary action to facilitate the conduct and funding of the NCAP Studies 2 and 3 in a manner agreeable by the SSAC.

Draft PTI FY21-24 Strategic Plan

The ALAC supports the five strategic objectives of the Draft PTI Strategic Plan, and strategies to achieve those objectives. The ALAC particularly supported the following elements: Awareness of PTI's mandate and remit, alignment of ICANN and PTI's Strategic and Financial Plans, and input into the development of ICANN policies.

AFRALO Statement: ICANN Africa Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025

The AFRALO statement was in response to the ICANN Africa Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025. As all AFRALO countries fall under the Africa Regional Plan, a drafting team from the region provided feedback on strategy topics such as security, ICANN governance, unique identifiers system, geopolitics, and financials.

Note: Ratified by the AFRALO Leadership Team and the ALAC.

Addendum to the Initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team – Phase 2

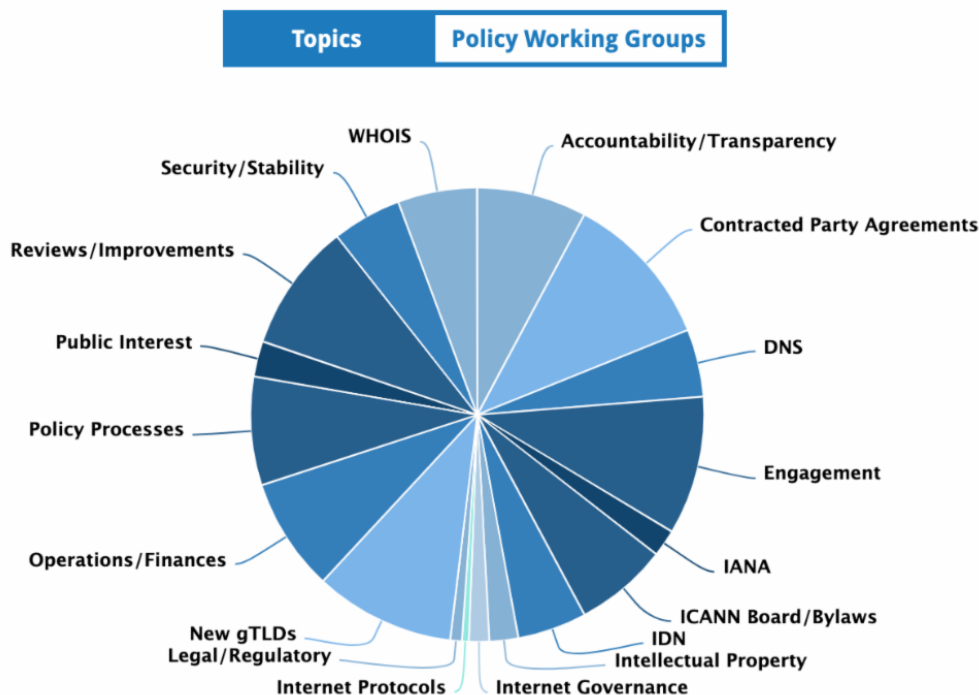
The ALAC commented on the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team – Phase 2, via a comprehensive Public Comment Google form. The ALAC provided feedback on related issues such as display of information, legal versus natural persons, privacy, et al. For all recommendations not listed in the ALAC statement, the ALAC noted that they they "Support as written".

Phase 1 Initial Report of the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Policy Development Process

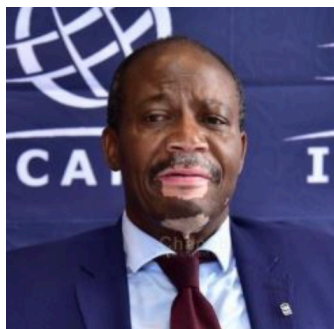
The ALAC commented on the Phase 1 Initial Report, via a comprehensive Public Comment Google form. The ALAC provided feedback on related issues such as URS recommendations, TMCH preliminary recommendations, sunrise recommendations, et al.

See: [At-Large Website Policy Comments & Advice](#)
See: [Executive Summaries: ALAC Policy Comments & Advice](#)
See: [Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#)

ALAC/At-Large Policy Issues



Note from GSE Africa



Pierre Dandjinou, VP, Stakeholder Engagement - Africa

In the last few months, the world has witnessed a massive and devastating disruption caused by the raging COVID-19 pandemic that has affected all facets of our lives and community. We, in the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) Africa team fully realise that most of you have been affected in one way or the other including at personal and business levels. And therefore as a result, our overall approach to engagement activities have been adjusted as was posted by Sally Costerton [here](#).

More importantly, our GSE Africa team has worked closely with you, the community to deploy a different mix of tools to ensure that together, the work being done can continue with minimal disruption. To this end, we have already held a number of both informational and capacity building webinars on topical issues with more planned in future. Some highlights include:

- Africa Regional Readout for ICANN67. This readout was both an opportunity for the Africa community to reflect on their overall experience of the virtual meeting, seek their high-level feedback as well as receive a debrief from the various Supporting Organization and Advisory Committee (SO/AC) leaders on the various priorities and outcomes of their sessions. Here are the call [recordings and the presentations](#) in case you missed the session.
- Universal Acceptance and Local Initiatives. The objective of the webinar was to underscore the fundamental importance of Universal Acceptance as a priority area to ICANN org, and as a foundational requirement for a truly multilingual Internet, one in which users around the world can navigate entirely in local languages. Here are the call [recordings](#) and the presentations in case you missed the session.
- Webinar on ICANN's Open Data Platform (ODP). This webinar was organized as a joint GSE Middle East and GSE Africa event and streamed in English with both Arabic and French interpretation. The webinar explained ICANN's [Open Data Program](#), as was launched recently during ICANN67. You can find the details of the call recording and presentations [here](#) in case you missed the session.

Meanwhile, as you may already know, Paul Muchene (Kenya) and Yazid Akanho (Benin) have recently joined our Africa team, under our Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) department and they will

reinforce and support our technical engagement work in the region. I also want to take this opportunity to notify you that organizing partners of the Africa DNS Forum have made a decision to hold this year's edition virtually. So, I invite you in advance and urge you to look out for further details as will be published in various mailing lists.

Finally, the Internet continues to keep the world connected and united even in this trying time. Our motto - *One world, One Internet* – has never been more appropriate. Your work is even more critical today and as a team, we shall keep exploring ways to keep our engagements with you alive.

Thank you and keep safe!

At-Large Capacity Building Working Group Hosts Monthly Webinars



Hadia El Minaiwi, AFRALO ALAC Member

Every first Monday of the month, the At-Large Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) webinar team now hosts the At-Large and ICANN community, with focus on capacity building, ICANN hot topics and policies under development.

The aims of the webinars include to engage more people in the community, expanding their knowledge and encourage involvement in ICANN's policy development processes.

The first of these CBWG webinars was in April 2020, and the topic presented was on the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification of the generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registration Data. The speakers were At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) representatives to the EPDP: Alan Greenberg from North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and Hadia El Miniawi from African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO). The presenters discussed the background and rationale for the EPDP, the privacy legislation and the outcomes of the EPDP Phase 1, the concept of a Standardized System for Access and Disclosure (SSAD), the proposal for an SSAD as well as some open issues like the differentiation between the registration data of legal and natural persons and the accuracy of the registration data.

The second webinar was held on the first Monday of May 2020 and was about Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse from an End User Perspective. The presenters were Jonathan Zuck from NARALO and ALAC Vice Chair, Dr. Aziz Hilali and Drew Bagley from the Secure Domain Foundation. The speakers provided an overview of the different types of DNS Abuse and some of the efforts by ICANN and At-Large to combat it. In addition, recent surge in DNS Abuse related to the COVID-19 pandemic and how to protect yourself against it was discussed. The presentation included a questions and answer session and a survey was presented to the participants at the end of the webinar.

The third webinar was held on Monday, 1 June 2020 on Geopolitics and Cybersecurity. Joanna Kulesza from the European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO) and ALAC Vice Chair were the webinar-lead and the speakers were Leon Sanchez, ICANN Board Vice Chair, Veni Markovski ICANN Vice President for UN engagement and Javier Rua Jovet ALAC NARALO representative. The webinar included an update about the UN processes potentially affecting ICANN's mission and a review about ICANN Board's progress and further plans to ensure due representation of the ICANN community in the current geopolitical trends.

To get involved with CBWG, [click here](#).

In the News

An extract from the Interview by Emily Taylor for IDN 2020 World Report with YAZID AKANHO on: How Universal Acceptance of Internationalized IDNs can enhance digital inclusion in Africa.

What Universal Acceptance means to Africa says Yazid Akanho



The principle of Universal Acceptance (UA) of the Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) has been described as an object for Africa's digital inclusion. The Beninese Universal Acceptance Ambassador, Mr. Yazid Akanho said this recently in a chat with Emily Taylor of the [IDN 2020 World Report](#).

According to him, the African continent has a big number of people who cannot read and write in the official languages using the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) characters. ASCII is a character encoding standard for electronic communication, which represents text in computers, telecommunications equipment, and other devices. In Africa, he said, many are literate in languages that use non-Latin scripts or special characters.

Akanho said that UA empowers these people to use the Internet in their own languages and preserve their respective cultural identities. "The next billion Internet users will come from this category of people," he said, stressing that at the moment, some 40 percent of Africa is currently connected to the Internet, that's only 10 percent of the online population.

Also, Akanho said, the greatest potential for new users is to be found in Africa and IDNs are a means of getting them there, stressing it availed domain names and email addresses in Zulu, Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa and others. "So UA and IDNs are opportunities to achieve the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), improving digital inclusion for Africans," Akanho submitted.

For more on this chat, [click here](#).

African Regional Organizations AF* Update



DigitalSENSE partners ITREALMS on IPv6 webinar *Remmy Nweke*

Leading certified At-Large Structure (ALS) in Nigeria, the DigitalSENSE Africa Media partnered with ITREALMS for a webinar on the Internet Protocol version Six (IPv6) on Saturday, June 6, 2020 in commemoration of this year's World IPv6 Day.

Disclosing this, the Executive Director, DigitalSENSE Africa (DSA) Media, Mrs. Nkem Nweke, said the decision to partner with ITREALMS, an international new media entity and take the Nigeria IPv6 Roundtable resonates with the objective of DSA to continuously innovate with prevailing time, especially in delivering education and enlightenment on Internet Governance for Development (IG4D) related subjects. This, she also said, is in tandem with ITREALMS digital rights series, which harps on digital education and outreach.

According to Mrs. Nkem Nweke, this year's theme focused on "Role of IP in 5G v COVID-19 Debate" with some subthemes, for the webinar slated for Saturday, June 6, at 10am Universal Time 11am Nigeria time at Zoom Webinar with meeting ID: 748 9663 7846.

DSA, she recalled has been on forefront of championing and rallying industry stakeholders on the efficacy and benefits of technologies, especially IPv6 under the aegis of the Nigeria IPv6 Roundtable to promote the adoption of IPv6 for the products and services as well as create awareness, especially in Nigeria.

ARCEP, ITIC, others train trainers on Internet Governance *Minata ZONG-NABA*

In collaboration with the Electronic Communications and Posting Regulatory Authority (ARCEP) of Burkina Faso, the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Association French Internet Naming Cooperation (AFNIC) and many other partners, each year, the ICT Initiative for Citizens -ITIC- organizes the training of trainers on [Internet Governance and other Information Systems](#) (FFGI).



Specifically this training should enable:

- Strengthening the strategic capacities of French-speaking African countries in the establishment of digital ecosystems;
- Making available to the French-speaking world a strong expertise in Internet governance;
- Upgrading French-speaking players in the digital sector where rapid changes documented in language;
- Encouraging greater participation by Francophones in forums where the future of Internet management is decided.

Given the health situation due to Coronavirus, the 6th edition of the FFGI is scheduled to be held exclusively online from August 24 to 28, 2020. The Pre-registration phase of future FFGI trainees, which started on June 1, 2020, will end on July 15, 2020.

Please submit your application by filling out the form via this site: <http://www.ffgi.iticc.bf/>.

Internet Society Benin Chapter

Harold ADJAHO, General Secretary ISOC Benin Chapter

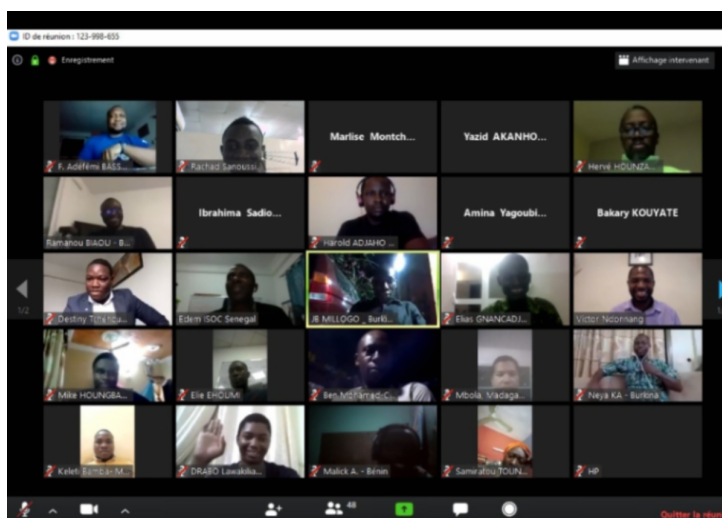
The Internet Society Benin Chapter (ISOC Benin) organized two major activities included in its 2020 action plan using an online tool: Zoom platform. And it was a success!



1. Internet10

Scheduled in the Internet Society Benin Chapter 2020 action plan, Internet10 is a webinar between 10 Chapters around the world (Benin, Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Quebec, Senegal, Chad, Togo, Tunisia) to discuss, exchange and share the various local, regional and international challenges related to the accessibility of the Internet, its neutrality, the governance models and impacts of

policy. Around 139 members from 17 chapters participated in this large e-conference that took place on Saturday 28th March 2020 on Zoom. By doing this, the Internet Society Benin Chapter as leader of the project is working to strengthen inter-Chapter cooperation, generate interactions and future collaborations between the participating chapters.



2. MembreForce Online : How to identify fake news

The Internet has become an indispensable tool in our lives. However, we must be very cautious because people are encouraging the proliferation of fake news on the Internet. Unfortunately, it is very frequent to see wrong information characterized as "Fake News" published at an impressive and uncontrolled speed on the Internet through channels such as social media, thus sowing a psychosis within the citizens, transforming Internet users in privileged relays of fake news. The issue of fake news in this very sensitive crisis period of COVID-19 pandemic, is an important topic to fight against. This was why Internet Society Benin Chapter organized on Saturday April 11, 2020 a webinar training on: "How to Identify Fake News so as not to be a relay". Two speakers hosted the webinar: Franck KOUYAMI, Past President FGI Benin and Mathias HOUNGBO, President IGBANET shared with around thirty participants on the zoom platform, the different methods and tools to recognize and verify information

The videos of the two activities are available on: <https://isoc.bj/internet10> and <https://isoc.bj/membreforce>

Internet Society Ghana elects new executives

Raymond Selorm Mamattah

The Internet Society (ISOC) Ghana Chapter, one of the At-Large Structures (ALS) in Ghana has elected new executives to steer the affairs for the years 2020-2021.

The newly elected officers are Mr. Francis Acquah Amaning – President; Mrs. Maud Ashong Elliot – Vice President; Ms. Patricia Adafienu – Financial Controller; and Mr. Derrick Nii Kpakpo Addo – General-Secretary.

The election was done electronically in March this year and was coordinated by a six member Election Committee chaired by Mr. Godfred Ofori-Som. International observers were Mr. Wainaina Mungai and Mr. Solomon Hopewell Kembo, from ISOC Kenya and ISOC Zimbabwe respectively. Mr. Victor Ndonngang, ISOC's, Community Engagement – Africa Manager provided technical support for the election.

Induction ceremony for the newly elected officers was done on Thursday 28th May 2020 at the ISOC Ghana office in Accra, and was chaired by Prof. Nii Quaynor. This year's induction, unlike in the past where all members were invited to witness the event, was done with a limited number of people in attendance not exceeding 25 people. This was done to comply with the Government of Ghana's directive on restrictive gathering in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the event was broadcast live, the full induction ceremony can be [watched here](#).

The immediate past executives were Mr. Marcus Adomey – President; Mrs. Vera Akumiah – Vice President; Ms. Patricia Adafienu – Financial Controller; Mr. Francis Acquah Amaning – General Secretary. The rest were Mrs. Maud Ashong Elliot – Education Committee Chair; Madam

Vanessa Issah – Technical and Projects Committee Chair; Mr. Yusif Amadu – Membership Committee Chair; Mr. Charles Ayiku – Communications & Programs Chair.



In this picture are - from left to right: Mr. Yusif Amadu, Mr. Marcus Adomey, Prof. Nii Quaynor, Mr. Francis Acquah Amaning, Mrs. Maud Ashong Elliot, Mr. Derrick Nii Kpakpo Addo, Ms. Patricia Adafienu and Mrs. Vera Akumiah.

ISOC, VUM, IGF-MALI take on education for digital citizenship

Bakary Kouyate

On May 29th 2020, the Famib Group, the Virtual University of Mali (VUM), the Malian Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC MALI) and the Internet Governance Forum in Mali (FGI MALI) organized a webinar on the topic: Education for digital citizenship: What impacts on society?

The purpose of this webinar was to raise awareness among the national and international community of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) users on issues related to digital citizenship. The experts discussed, among other things, the problems linked to the use made of the Internet today, the opportunities and dangers of the Internet for users, aspects related to the issue of regulation (law in Mali), the digital divide and others.

It was chaired by Mr. Bakary KOUYATE (President of ISOC MALI), Mr. Alioune Badra TRAORE (Member of the board of the Malian Telecommunications / ICT Regulatory Authority and President of the IGF MALI) and Mr. Daly Hamady Diallo, Managing Director of FamibLabs and President of the Malian Association for Digital Citizenship E-CIT.

WEBINAIRE

VENDREDI 29 Mai 2020
16h (GMT)

THEME

**Éducation à la citoyenneté numérique :
Quels impacts sur la société ?**

Modératrice

AHOUA IDRISSE LY

Digital Marketing Specialist - Chief
Marketing Officer - FAMIB GROUP/
UVMALI

Panélistes

DALY HAMADY DIALLO

Directeur d'Etudes de UVMALI, Directeur Général
de Famib Labs, Président de l'association
pour la promotion de la citoyenneté numérique
Secrétaire Général Adjoint de FGI Mali

Alioune Badra TRAORE

Conseiller TIC de l'AMITIP
Président du Forum malien
sur la gouvernance
de l'Internet FGI Mali

BAKARY KOUYATÉ

Président du chapitre malien
d'Internet Society ISOC

Internet Society Morocco discusses Blockchain

Aziz Hilali

The Morocco chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) has concluded plans to hold a webinar on Blockchain and its Applications in the era of deconfinement, with Huawei as official partner, on Thursday, June 18, 2020 by 5pm.

Blockchain is a technology for storing and transmitting information without a control body and secured by encryption software. These are distributed databases whose information sent by users and internal links are checked and grouped at regular time intervals in blocks, thus forming a chain.

In Morocco as elsewhere, the private sector has become aware of the potential of this technology which today embodies a real revolution in the way in which organizations and individuals exchange and store value.

The Misoc Association of Internet Users in Morocco held a national webinar dedicated to this important topic in order to respond to the technological developments and the immense potential of Blockchain, especially in this Post Covid-19 period.

Contact : hilali@inpt.ac.ma

Speakers:



Jorge Sebastiao
IT Technology Expert,
Blockchain, Huawei
Technologies
United Arab Emirates



Mohamed Horani
Chairman & CEO at
HPS
Morocco



Hanane Boujemi
Executive Director Tech Policy
Tank, OECD Blockchain Expert
Policy Advisory Board,
United Kingdom

ISOC Nigeria takes MANRS to webinar

Bukola Oronti

The Nigeria chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) on June 2, took the issues Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS) to the webinar for its membership, entitled “Global Routing Security: Using Internet Routing Registry (IRR), Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) and PeeringDB.

The webinar whose presenter was Adewale Oronti, a member of ISOC Nigeria, was part of the ISOC global volunteer training program 2020; on MANRS project held a webinar program on the title Global Routing Security: Using Internet Routing Registry (IRR), Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) and PeeringDB.

Members from the Chapter and outside the African region were in attendance.

The webinar which lasted for an hour and forty minutes, saw the presenter stressing the importance of cleaning up the Internet for us to have a stronger, stable and trustworthy Internet connection. He explained some of the probable causes of Internet outages and prefix hijacks, he also proposed working solutions to these and technical modalities to resolve it. The participants were also made to understand how they can join the Internet Society in cleaning up the Internet through MANRS. Among the attendees were network engineers, system and network administrators, Information Technology (IT) support specialists and security and compliance specialists.

Also in attendance was the President of ISOC Nigeria chapter, who gave the opening address and the Secretary General who also gave the closing address. The Chapter’s financial secretary was also on the call and the program officer was the moderator for the webinar. A total of forty-six people were in attendance.

Webinar: ISOC Uganda tackles Internet connectivity in times of pandemics

Lillian Achom, Founding Partner, AccessPlus & Co-Chair, Program Committee, Africa Community Network Summit; Mutegeki Cliff Agaba, Internet Society Uganda Chapter / Director, Internet Week

On Thursday, 28 May 2020, the Internet Society Uganda Chapter hosted a webinar: Importance of Internet Connectivity in Times of Pandemics: Case of Community Networks in Uganda. [The webinar](#), which was also [live streamed](#), sought to explore the importance of rural broadband connectivity in times of pandemics and how community networks can play a role in connecting the unconnected.

Noted was that many parents are using the Internet and printing services at the Community Network Centers established by BOSCO Uganda, to access and print the school curriculum and notes for their children during this time when schools are closed due to COVID-19. The Webinar explored policy solutions needed to strengthen community networks as alternatives to rural connectivity.

With over 50 participants, the panelists were: Eng. Irene Kaggwa Sewankambo, Executive Director, Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Steve Song, Founder, Village Telco, Carlos Rey-Moreno, Local Access Policy and Regulation Coordinator, Community Networks Project, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Josephine Miliza, Africa Regional Coordinator, Community Networks Project, APC, Solomon Okot Nono, Technical Manager, BOSCO Uganda, and Lillian Achom, Founding Partner, AccessPlus.

The webinar was an initiative by Lillian Achom, a beneficiary of the [Internet Society \(ISOC\) Global Volunteer Training](#), a program aimed at developing new community leaders.

Appreciation goes to the leadership team of the Internet Society Uganda chapter: Mutegeki Cliff Agaba, Lillian Nalwoga, Sarah Kiden, Moses Serugo and the other officials, for their support.

Internet Society
Uganda Chapter

Webinar series 01

Importance of Internet Connectivity in Times of Pandemic:
Case for Community Networks in Uganda

Thursday, May 28th 2020
12 -13:30 (EAT)

Moderator
Lillian Nanyoga
President,
Internet Society Uganda Chapter
@lillian

Masumbane Stathi
Regional Technical Advisor
Europe, Internet Society
@masumbane

Irene Kagame
Ssewankambo
Ag. Executive Director
Uganda Communications
Commission
@UCCLD

Steve Song
Founder, Mvago Taka
@mvago

Carlos Ray-Moreno
Local access policy and
regulation coordinator,
Community Networks
Project, APC
@CrayM

Josephine Mlika
Africa regional coordinator,
Community Networks
Project, APC
@MlikaJ

Solomon Ochi Nene
Technical Manager
BOSCO Uganda
@solomonene

Lillian Achom
Founding Partner
AccessPlus
@lillian_achom

#ConnectingtheUnconnected | #CommunityNetworks | #Internetforall | #StaySafe

Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://isoc.zoom.us/j/92610130615?pwd=VFhOUkVWZmZkdDhucENHNV2dDmlyQTQ9>
Meeting ID: 926 1013 0615 | Password: MoreCN2020

@ISOCUG
www.isoc.ug

KICTANet works on Technology Solutions to COVID-19 Pandemic

Liz Orembo

The current pandemic has brought a stark reminder that Internet access should remain at the top of Africa's Internet Policy agenda. During such time, more information is needed for participatory solutions and for continuity of different sectors of the economy. KICTANet has been working on a number of programs in response to COVID-19.

1. At the start of policy responses for the pandemic, the network [submitted a memorandum to the senate](#) calling for affordable Internet access. Specifically, it called for the government to consider reducing internet tax for both home and mobile broadband. The submission further recommended the promotion of local content to influence behaviour change at community levels.
2. As the judiciary moved its proceedings online, KICTANet also [developed a guide](#) for the judiciary to deal with the challenges rising from online meetings.
3. Also, the network conducted a [public zoom meeting to talk about 5G](#) policy development in the country and to dispel the myths going round on Social media of its possibility to cause covid19 infection and lower the body immunity system.
4. Finally, we continue to put up a series of blogs in light of the issues that arise on the Kenyan online platforms. Here are opinion pieces on [human rights](#) and [cyberbullying](#) during the pandemic. More on can be found on <https://www.kictanet.or.ke/>

KICTANet is a multistakeholder Think Tank for people interested and involved in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) policy and regulation. The network strives to ensure that policy making in the ICT sector adopts an open, accessible, human rights-based approach that is characterized by multi-stakeholder participation. In order for policy and law making to be inclusive, the processes must be open and accessible to all stakeholders, include a diverse representation of stakeholders, be collaborative, consensus driven, evidence-based and lastly transparent and accountable.

Universal Acceptance

2020 Country-based website evaluation for email addresses acceptance concluded Report UASG027

A survey of 1,000 websites was undertaken to test how well they accepted email addresses outside of the legacy TLDs or with non-American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) characters. This is a follow-up to testing done in 2017 and 2019.

The 2017 and 2019 versions tested the 1,000 most popular websites in the world and provided an informative global overview of UA readiness. For this latest round of testing (conducted in late 2019 and early 2020) and referred to as “2020 Testing” in this document, the UASG wanted to ascertain the acceptance rates of email addresses by websites in different countries. To do this, approximately 50 popular websites in 20 different countries were tested (direct comparisons with previous testing studies should be done with caution).

The 2020 testing provides us with overall acceptance rates of different types of email addresses for the 20 countries, and allows us to compare results between countries. It should be noted that this testing was limited to whether a website accepts a particular email address. It does not cover whether the website can store the email address or respond to it.

Countries in Africa that were part of the survey and acceptance rates:

Country Code Rate

Benin BJ 100%
 Egypt EG 96.0%
 Ghana GH 100.0%
 Kenya KE 100.0%
 Nigeria NG 100%

More information [here](#).

Universal Acceptance, Healthcare Medical System, Egypt

Abdalmonen Galila

While the Internet has cultivated massive transformation, many applications are still based on Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) developed 20+ years ago. Hence, the connection between businesses, organizations and people has been curbed.

We are a group of graduates from Faculty of Computer and Information Science, Ain-Shams University (FCIS), Egypt who selected a project that is affected by Universal Acceptance (UA) issues which could be used in the future allowing the use of local languages for people to benefit from the online services, hence reducing the Internet language monopolism. It will open doors for various fields such as education and civil registration.

It was our first time to acquaint ourselves about Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) and Email Address Internationalization (EAI). Accordingly, we gathered a lot of data from the Internet to create the project’s backbone and we tried to make it a model of open-source modules and APIs that are UA ready like Web (Google Django, Python 3.7, etc) and E-Mail (MySQL, Round-Cube, SQLite3, etc).

COVID-19 was a wakeup call to constantly monitor our health remotely. Anyone could use the UA healthcare medical system to follow up his/her condition. Moreover, the system is able to detect valid signed-up email addresses, send activation mails using the same signed-up email language and offer users the ability to book/cancel appointments, rate his/her doctor, allow the system to remind him of any upcoming vaccination and many more features in a language of preference.

The project was supervised by UA Ambassador, Abdalmonem Galila who believes Africa needs to replicate this initiative. He was supported by some students from *Ain-Shams University (FCIS)* including Menna Hossam, Karim Ehab, Karim Tarek, Fady Ayman, Maha Sayed, and Ahmed Youssef.



Students of Ain-Shams University (FCIS) and Abdalmonem Galila, Universal Acceptance Ambassador

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