AFRALO NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 | English

October 2022

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

[Visit our Website](#)

Chair's Remarks
Seun Ojedeji

Dear Colleagues,

I trust you are staying safe and maintaining all safety precautions during this period of pandemic. On behalf of the AFRALO Leadership (Myself, Aziz Hilali and Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong), I welcome us all to our final newsletter for the year 2022 (volume 10) which puts together Q3 and Q4 updates.

In my Q1 and Q2 Updates I reported about Our [AFRALO Webinar series 2022](#) that resumed in the year 2022 with the topic: "Privacy and Data Protection". This webinar was also an initial step into drafting the statement for the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting that was held during the ICANN74 Policy Forum which was the first ICANN meeting since 2019 that had a face-to-face format incorporated.

AFRALO thereafter organised a successful AFRALO-AfrICANN session at ICANN75 which was where we also paid tribute to two of our fallen heroes; Baudouin Schombe and Paul Muchene. We thank ICANN for creating the Paul Muchene fellowship award in his memory and congratulate Bendjedid Rachad Sanoussi as the first awardee of the [ICANN76 fellowship program](#).

As part of our outreach and engagement strategy which span from financial year (fy)22 to fy23, we launched the [AFRALO Universal Acceptance Project 2022](#). The "AFRALO UA Training Sessions" was a joint effort between AFRALO, ICANN, and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), designed to increase Universal Acceptance (UA) awareness across the African region.
This training program consisted of two sessions held in May and November 2022 covering key topics such as "Introduction to IDNs and how ICANN Community helped for multilingual Internet", "Introduction to UA of domain names and email addresses," work to be done to promote UA, encouraging volunteering, informing about how panels work. The Sessions included quiz interactive questions about IDNs/ Integration Panels / variants / security issues / etc. Over 50 participants from AFRALO and the African region participated in each of these training sessions.

AFRALO was the first RALO to fully implement the reviewed ALAC rules as it concerns ALSes and Individual members. We have witnessed an increase in our individual membership this year and I am happy to report that the individual members now have their representative as per the new AFRALO operating Principles. I mentioned in my previous publication that we shall be launching a process this year to re-confirm all our ALS membership; this will fall under the scope of one of our out-reach and engagement strategic objectives. That process could not commence this year but we plan to initiate it in 2023

Finally, I would like to thank the At-Large staff members, Africa GSE team led by Pierre Dandjinou, all our AFRALO members and colleagues within the ICANN community for your work and support through the year 2022. Here is to wish us all a fulfilled 2022 and a wonderful 2023 in advance!

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief: **Seun OJEDEJI**
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: **Aziz HILALI**
Managing Editor | Secretariat**:**
Abdeljalil Bachar BONG
Editor (English): **Remmy NWEKE**
Co-Editor (French): **Olévié KOUAMI**

CONTRIBUTORS
Pierre Dandjinou,
ICANN Regional Vice President, GSE Africa

ENGLISH
Brenda Namata
Bukola Oronti
Emmanuel Mfitumukiza
Foldestine Pay
Jules Nizeyimana
Mary Uduma
Mutegeki Cliff Agaba
Nomsa Mwayenga

FRENCH
Bakary Kouyaté
Michel Tchonang Linze
Olévié A. Kouami

Full list of team members

SUPPORT
ICANN At-Large Staff
staff@atlarge.icann.org

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 **69 ALSes** located in 32 countries and territories, as well as **16 Individual members** and 3 Observers.

To learn more about the ongoing work of AFRALO, you are welcome to check out the AFRALO **workspace**.

Regional GSE Update
Pierre Dandjinou,VP, Stakeholder Engagement - Africa

ICANN launches important initiatives in Africa

I am happy to share with you two important milestones that the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) for Africa team has worked on tirelessly and cross functionally within the ICANN.org to become a reality.

The first one was the deployment of the first ever ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS) in Africa. In November 15, 2022, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), in cooperation with its regional partners, deployed a new IMRS cluster in Nairobi, Kenya.

This would ensure that Internet queries could be answered within the region, which limits its dependence on networks and servers in other parts of the world. The IMRS cluster also boosts national and regional resiliency by helping root server traffic stay local. This project is the result of years of collaboration between the local and regional technical community. Please see the detailed announcement here.

The second milestone, I am proud to share with our AFRALO community was the official launch of the Coalition for Digital Africa on December 1, 2022, in the sidelines of the Global IGF in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

The Coalition is an initiative aimed at expanding the Internet in Africa. Conceived by ICANN, the Coalition is an alliance of like-minded organizations committed to building a robust and secure Internet infrastructure to bring more Africans online. The Coalition will further promote innovation aimed at building technical capacity and encourage entrepreneurship by enabling people to access the Internet using their own languages and scripts.

Some of the initiatives already scoped out to be implemented under the coalition include:

- ICANN Managed Root Server Clusters
- UA and EAI Readiness in Academic Institutions
- DNS Security Extension Roadshow and
- Capacity development for Country Code Top-Level Domains among others

I want to invite all of you to visit and review our dedicated website for the coalition for details on each of these initiatives, their objectives, and status on implementation.

I also want to thank our immediate past-President and CEO, Mr. Goran Marby; for his leadership including finding time to travel to both Nairobi and Addis-Ababa to personally preside over the launch of these important milestones and projects for the continent.

Thank you and I do wish you happy holidays. milestones and projects for the continent.

ALAC Updates

- **Initial Report on the Second CSC Effectiveness Review**
- **Registration Data Consensus Policy for gTLDs**
- **Proposed Updates to the GNSO Operating Procedures**
- **Draft IANA and PTI FY24 Operating Plan and Budgets**
- **Universal Acceptance Roadmap for Domain Name Registry and Registrar Systems**

ICANN Updates

Göran Marby Steps Down as ICANN President and CEO

ICANN and UA Steering Group Announce Inaugural UA Day and Call for Proposals

ICANN Request for Proposal: Software Engineering Staff Augmentation

ICANN Draft FY24–28 Operating & Financial Plan and FY24 Operating Plan & Budget

[ICANN Launches Root Zone Management System Upgrade](#)

[ICANN Delivers Operational Design Assessment of SubPro Recommendations to Board](#)

[ICANN76 Community Childcare Grants Pilot Program Application Now Open](#)

[Join the ICANN for Beginners Virtual Program Webinar on Universal Acceptance](#)

[ICANN Announces NextGen@ICANN76 Participants](#)

[Added Session: ICANN Grant Program Implementation Update Webinar](#)

[ICANN Holds Webinar on Updating the Root Zone Management System (RZMS)](#)

[ICANN Publishes New TMCH-CA Certificate](#)

[ICANN Publishes FY23 Q1 Unaudited Financial Results](#)

[Last Call: Nominations for ICANN's Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building](#)

ALAC Updates

MONTHLY MEETINGS: As matter of update, ALAC held its monthly meetings for five consecutive months since the beginning of the year, while the last meeting was held on December 20, 2022.

Next AFRALO monthly call:

The next **AFRALO Monthly Call** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, 04 January 2023 at 18:30 UTC.**

For other times: https://tinyurl.com/yckkm2e3

The agenda (to be updated) and call details are available at : https://community.icann.org/x/fgBpD
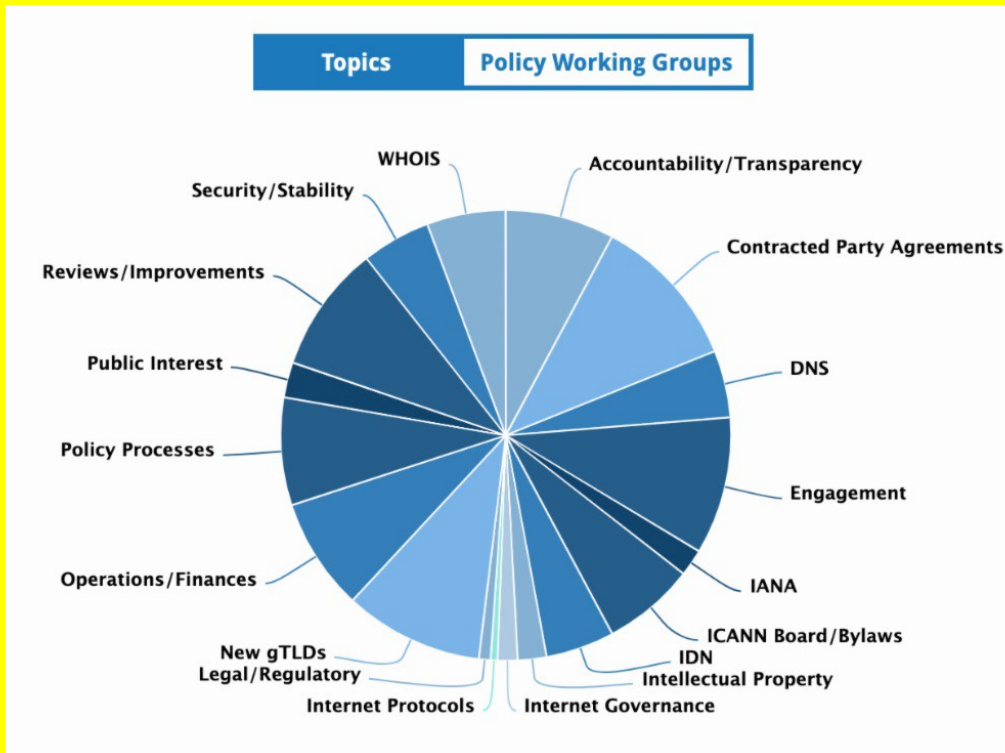
 Do well to join

ALAC Policy Comments & Advice

Some members of AFRALO and the At-Large Community were 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.

This enabled them to have their say. To contribute to ALAC policy activities, always look out for such calls and comment on the At-Large workspace or volunteer as pen-holder, and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

For more information, please contact At-Large Staff.

Mapping At-Large Policy Issues

Topics	Policy Working Groups

ALS' Activities

2022 ITREALMS E-Waste Dialogue: Stakeholders charge end-users

Stakeholders at the 2022 ITREALMS E-Waste Dialogue have charged all end-users of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools to join forces in pushing up the narrative about the dangers of electronic waste in Africa and Nigeria particularly.

The dialogue which took place on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at the Welcome Centre Hotels, International Airport Road, Oshodi, Lagos, and had as its theme, *"E-Waste: Recycling it all no matter how small,"* was held in collaboration with DigitalSENSE Africa, an ICANN At-Large Structure (ALS).

Figure 1: From left: Convener and Editor-in-Chief, ITREALMS Media group,Mr. Remmy Nweke, Vice president, South, Guild of Corporate Online Publishers(GOCOP), Mr. Ken Ugbechie; Representative of Director General, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Mrs. Ezinwanyi Amarachi Udechukwu; Director, E-Waste Management Department, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), Mrs. Adedayo Adebayo; Executive Secretary, E-Waste Producers Responsibility Organizational of Nigeria (EPRON) Mrs. Ibukun Faluyi, at the ITREALMS E-Waste Dialogue on the theme: E-Waste Recycling it all no Matter how Small in Lagos.

The 3rd in the series since inception, the ITREALMS e-Waste Dialogue aligns with the International Telecommunication Union-organised 'Internet Waste Dialogue,' in commemoration of the International E-waste Day (IeWD), held annually to ensure appropriate disposal of end-of-life electronic products.

Group Executive Editor, ITREALMS Media, the organiser of the dialogue, Sir Remmy Nweke, said that the objective of the e-Waste dialogue is to scrutinize the challenges and opportunities of end-of-life of electrical and electronics equipment that enable connectivity, especially on mobile computing devices;

In addition, he said, the event brought together various manufacturing and recycling companies, regulatory agencies as well as service providers to elaborate on waste management challenges and prospects in responsible recycling as data centres, 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) demand increases.

ITREALMS e-Waste Dialogue, Nweke equally noted, targets stakeholders involved in the management of business-to-business (B2B) infrastructure WEEE, especially from industry, international organisations, academic networks, subscriber groups, and telecom media etc.

Participants at the event were of the consensus on the need for deliberate and consistent efforts of all stakeholders to ensure that the burgeoning eWaste stream is collected and recycled using sound environmental management approaches.

Earlier, there was a welcome address by the Group Editor-in-Chief of ITREALMS Media Group (organisers of the event), Sir Remmy Nweke to the Keynote Address by the Director General of the National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Prof. Aliyu Jauro, as well as a number of goodwill messages from individuals, corporate bodies and industry groups.

Speaking through Ezenwanyi Amarachi Udechukwu, the NESREA DG noted that the concern about eWaste arises from the fact that it contains about 1000 hazardous substances, dioxins and furans known as carcinogens which are released into the environment from the prevalent crude recycling practices where cables are burnt openly.

"These substances in the environment interfere with the body functional processes increasing risks of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, acute and chronic respiratory diseases, including asthma and many other health problems. High mortality rates are being recorded from the inhalation of these noxious and toxic emissions from informal recycling of eWaste.

"The focus on Small e-waste equipment which include small computer peripherals, mobile phones, tools, toys, and kitchen and bathroom appliances among others has become necessary as they also have attendant effects. And the drive to recycle it all, no matter how small is focused on promoting the recycling of small eWaste items. This would help to determine the lifespan or resident time for small EEE in homes of people," Prof. Jauro said.

He noted further that Small e-Waste in Nigeria does not have to do with only illegal imports, but also on better management of domestically generated eWaste through proper collection, storage transportation, and recycling given e-waste's socio-economic impacts.

He identified some of the challenges facing the sector to include lack of awareness on waste handling, lack of capacity for the waste handlers and lack of willingness of the Producers to take responsibility for their product at end-of-life and advised that there was the need to critically address these challenges to achieve the desired result of better small eWaste management.

ISOC Ghana hosts homecoming dinner, awards night

By Maud Adjeley Ashong Elliot

Internet Society Ghana Chapter (ISOC Ghana) is a chartered Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) which is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 to provide leadership in Internet related standards, education, and policy.

On Friday December 9, 2022, ISOC Ghana held its first homecoming Dinner and Awards Night at the Airport View Hotel in Accra, Ghana.

The goal of the ceremony was to improve ties between the Internet Society and its different partners. Also, the ceremony served as a platform to recognize individuals and organizations that share in the vision Internet Society.

Amidst giving an opportunity to attendees to leverage on a fun-filled networking event, the evening was devoted to honoring our heroes.

Twenty-five individuals and organizations were awarded in various categories; ranging from the Most Outstanding Volunteers, Immediate Past Executives, Outstanding Committee Chair, Past Presidents, Supportive Administrator, and Supportive Organizational Partners.

The chapter also rewarded Prof. Nii Narku Qauynor as an outstanding patron of the ISOC Ghana Chapter in awe of his unflinching support.

The opening remark was given by the chapter vice president madam Maud Adjeley Ashong Elliot. She spoke on how most people gathered at the event have contributed to the chapter in various forms and hence the need to appreciate their work.

Again, she shared her experience of how she was mentored in the IT space and how that encouraged her to continue to mentor young girls in the Internet ecosystem.
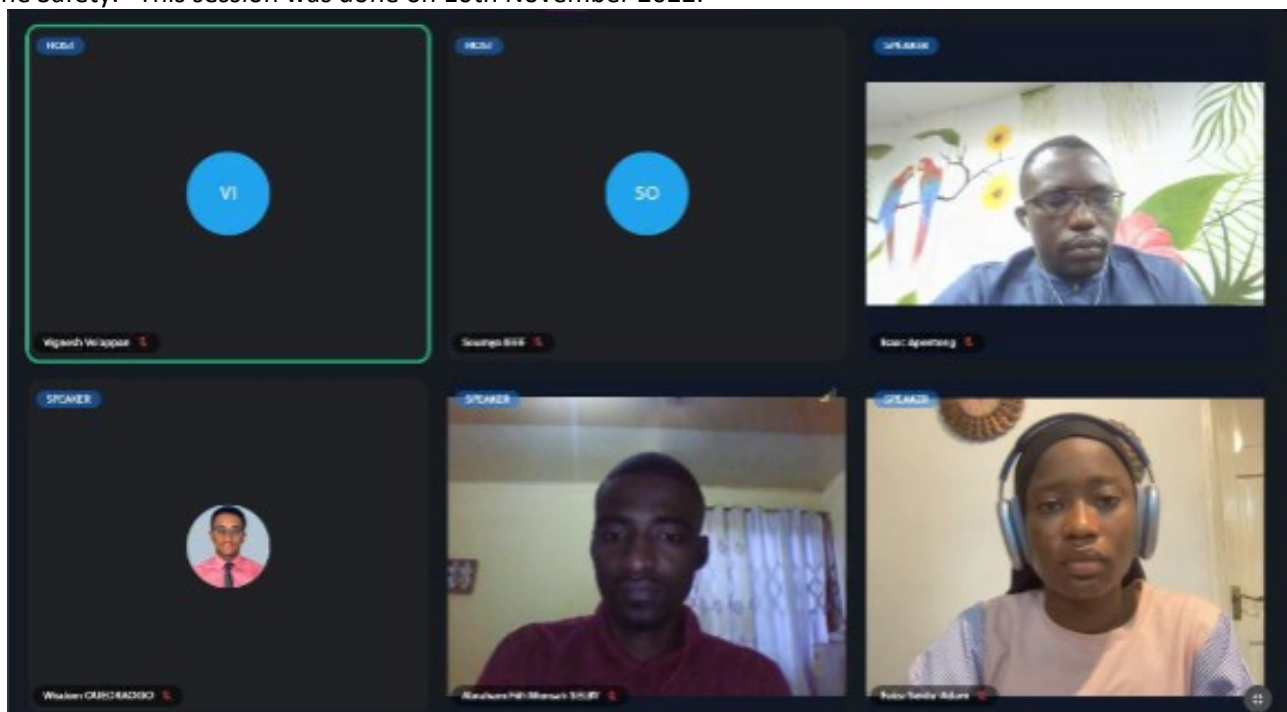
The Chapter president, Mr. Francis Acquah Amaning also spoke about the need to promote the chapter and expressed his appreciation to the various institutions that have supported the Ghana chapter's work so far.

The climax of the event saw some awardees sharing their experience on how happy they felt that their efforts have been appreciated, more so, pledging to do more.

Cybersecurity: EGIGFA hosts two virtual confabs

By: Faiza Seidu-Adam, GhanaSIG Fellow & Carine L. Malor, Programme and Research Officer - EGIGFA

As part of the IEEE International Symposium on Technology and Society 2022 virtual conference in Hong Kong, the E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA) organised a webinar titled "The Role of the Youth in Online Safety." This session was done on 10th November 2022.

The purpose of the session was to raise awareness to internet end-users about the threats that come with the use of the internet and how they can stay safe online.

Mr. Isaac Apenteng, an Information Security Manager moderated the session with a three-member panel namely Wisdom OUEDRAOGO, an Information Security Officer, Faiza Seidu-Adam, an Information Security Auditor and Abraham Fifi Selby, an Information Technology specialist and digital analyst. All actors for the session were GhanaSIG Fellows.

Participants were encouraged to be security conscious while online since cybercriminals always attempt to steal personal information, identity and indirectly money. Setting up robust cybersecurity measures help prevent incidents such as identity theft, password compromise, etc.

The session also included discussion on digital footprints and its importance. Participants were encouraged to sanitise their digital interactions and limit the kind of information they share online since online lifestyle leaves a digital footprint either intentionally or unintentionally, which could turn to affect them in the future.

Team EGIGFA thanks Dr. T V Gopal, Anna University, India for facilitating our participation in this conference.

Meanwhile, recall that globally, the month of October is celebrated as a cybersecurity awareness month, hence EGIGFA had earlier organised a webinar as part of activities to create awareness of cybersecurity. The webinar, titled "The Role of the Youth in Online Safety", attracted over ninety participants worldwide. The webinar was opened with a welcome message from the Programme and Research Officer of EGIGFA, Mrs. Carine Malor.

The event was hosted by Mr Isaac Apenteng (Information Security Manager) with Ms. Faiza Seidu-Adam (Information Security Auditor), Mr. Fiifi Mensah Selby (Information Technology Analyst) and Mr. Wisdom Ouedraogo (Information Security Officer) as speakers.

EGIGFA is proud that all actors for this important event are GhanaSIG Fellows.

Obituary

In memory of late Paul Muchene, we hereby rerun his last interview with AFRALO team.

In August 2022, Mr. Paul Muchene passed on to the great beyond. He was a very hardworking and friendly member and associate of AFRALO community.

Described severally as an active participant in the Internet community in his native Kenya and throughout Africa, Muchene frequently volunteered his time and technical expertise to local and regional initiatives.

In his memory, we hereby reproduce his last interview with AFRALO Newsletter team. Excerpts.

"1. Congratulations on your new job, kindly introduce yourself briefly
My name is Paul Muchene and I work for the ICANN office of the CTO (OCTO) as the technical engagement specialist for the Middle East and Africa (MEA). I'm currently based in Nairobi, Kenya.

In an earlier life, I was a computer systems engineer enjoying technical troubleshooting and helping people resolve system failures. Yet even today, I still relish tweaking and playing with operating systems and security, cloud computing, DevOps, and most definitely the DNS.

2. How did you get here as a Technical Engagement Specialist for ICANN MEA?
While in grad school, I stumbled across a job post at the ICANN careers page that had an opening at their Nairobi office.

The job ad required someone who possessed not only technical expertise in DNS operations and DNSSEC but who could also conduct outreach activities to ICANN stakeholders in the MEA region via technical trainings and face to face meetings.

I dove right in and applied for the position.

3. What does your job entail?
Primarily my job entails planning and coordinating webinars and hands-on DNS/DNSSEC trainings that target ICANN community members and stakeholders in the MEA region.

The Covid-19 pandemic added another angle to my role; because traditional face-to-face meetings were barred, it was incumbent upon my team to devise webinars and a cloud based DNS lab to deliver online. Developing the DNS cloud lab was an exciting challenge and the lab has proved to be an effective tool for delivering hands-on technical exercises.

Other than trainings, on a day-to-day basis I work on course materials for the ICANN Learn website, review technical documents, and hold regular updates with both my OCTO colleagues and the global stakeholder engagement (GSE) teams both in Africa and the Middle East respectively.

4. As far as AfrICANN is concerned, how does this position you as one of the ambassadors in the ICANN ecosystem?
The ICANN Africa Regional Plan for fiscal years 2021-2025 outlines five strategic objectives.

Two of these objectives namely Security and Unique Identifiers System are closely aligned with the work we do at OCTO.

At ICANN OCTO we have a compelling interest to strengthen the security of the global DNS and the Root Server System. In particular. encouraging the adoption of DNSSEC in African ccTLDs and providing technical trainings on DNS operations and security will keep me on my toes for the foreseeable future.

As part of fulfilling the strategic objective for the Unique Identifiers System, my team will be working with both the ICANN Universal Acceptance (UA) program manager and the Africa GSE team to promote UA and Email Address Internationalization (EAI) in the region.

5. What does the future hold with regards to technical development in the Internet ecosystem?
The Internet landscape in Africa has grown and changed very rapidly as seen by the increasing connectivity and access in the continent fueled predominantly by mobile phone penetration.

With this growth, two overarching and incredibly challenging issues have appeared that will continue into the foreseeable future to be on the radar of both technical and policy discussions; Security and Data Privacy.

Be it end-to-end encryption, data breaches or data protection people are becoming aware on why these issues matter; Security and Data Privacy have a direct impact on the safety and trust of the Internet and hence the need for solutions to address them."

Paul Muchene would be greatly missed, especially AFRALO community.

Finally, rest eternally Paul!

Stay Connected

At-Large on Twitter | **At-Large on Facebook** | **AFRALO Website** | **Mailing List**