



# AFRALO NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 | English

July 2022

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

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## 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 you all to our newsletter for the year 2022 (volume 9) which puts together Q1 and Q2 updates.

Our AFRALO Webinar series 2022 resumed in the year 2022 with the topic: "Privacy and Data Protection", with participation from members of our community. 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 2 face format incorporated. As earlier mentioned I encourage members of our community who would like to lead any of the upcoming webinar topics to contact the coordinators in person Tijani Ben Jemaa and Bram Fudzulani.

Earlier in the year we celebrated AFRALO @15 to celebrate 15 years that AFRALO has been formed. The anniversary, which was held virtually, featured various guest speakers and

pioneer members who shared their experience during the founding times of AFRALO. We had the honour of hearing from Vint Cerf who charged the RALO to continue to improve in her role of representing the interest of Internet End-users within ICANN and promotion of the Internet within the continent. I like to thank our guest speakers, staff and members who participated at the memorable event. Long live AFRALO!

In my communication to you in 2021, I highlighted the fact that we shall be launching a process this year to re-confirm all our ALS membership, this will now fall under the scope of one of our out-reach and engagement strategic objectives for fy23. This is as a result of the challenges we experienced with contacting members (ALSes) when we needed them to fulfill their responsibility with regards to approval of our updated operating principles.

As part of our AFRALO fy22 outreach and engagement strategy implementation, AFRALO in partnership with the Africa GSE team embarked on a Universal Acceptance (UA) capacity development effort where members took online course on UA and held UA training workshop series; the first phase held in May while the second phase will hold in the 3rd quarter of this year. Fy23 outreach and engagement strategy planning is underway; there is a need to improve AFRALO visibility within ICANN and also to improve our participation as well. The strategy will aim to consolidate on the efforts made during the fy22 but will also serve as strong preparation for our General Assembly which is planned to hold sometime in 2023.. Details about the strategy and the General Assembly will be communicated in due time.

Finally, I would like to thank the At-Large staff members, Africa GSE team lead by Pierre Dandjinou, our social media working group team lead by Bukola Fawole, all our AFRALO members and colleagues within the ICANN community for their continued support and participation.

Here is to wish us all a better second half of the year 2023.

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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 [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*



### GSE Africa collaborates with AFRALO to build capacity for members on Universal Acceptance

In this edition, the GSE Africa team would like to highlight an important activity we jointly executed in collaboration with the AFRALO members.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022, we held an online capacity building activity on Universal Acceptance (UA) of Domain Names. It was a joint initiative by AFRALO and two departments at ICANN org (the Global Stakeholder Engagement and the Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain names teams).

This activity was in line with recommendations from a discussion panel organized earlier on 15 February 2022. AFRALO was part of the ICANN community in that dialogue which discussed how UA issues impact the African community, how best to address these

issues, and highlight business opportunities by being UA-ready. Specifically, this event covered the following topics:

1. Introduction to IDNs and how ICANN Community Could Promote Multilingual Internet

2. · RZ-LGR5 and Africa language specific information
3. · Introduction to UA of Domain Names and email addresses

One of the Key observations from the session was that the event provided clarity on the concept of Universal acceptance which is not about multilingual content but more related to the diversity in the domain names spaces. We also noted that the ninety minutes was not sufficient for deeper discussions with the participants. As a result, we will actively work with AFRALO, the UA Ambassadors and other stakeholders to organize subsequent series of this capacity building on Universal Acceptance. In the meantime, we would like to extend and reinforce an invitation for more and more AFRALO members to enroll and take the course on Universal acceptance available on the ICANN online learning platform ([learn.icann.org](https://learn.icann.org)).

Thank you.

## ICANN Updates

[Register for the FY24 IANA Functions and PTI Planning Webinar](#)

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

[ICANN76 Fellowship Application Round Now Open](#)

[ICANN Announces NextGen@ICANN75 Participants](#)

[ICANN Announces 2023 Nominating Committee Chair and Chair-Elect](#)

[Registration for ICANN75 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is Now Open](#)

[ICANN Advisory: Chinese Privacy Law's Impact on Data Disclosure Complaints](#)

[Nomination Period Opens for Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building](#)

[ICANN Request for Proposal \(RFP\): Africa Domain Name System Study 2022](#)

[ICANN Announces Recipients of the ICANN75 Fellowship](#)

[ICANN and EURid Partner to Promote a Multilingual and Inclusive Internet](#)

[ICANN Public Comment: Initial Report on Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1\(a\)](#)

[ICANN74 Governmental Advisory Committee Communiqué Now Available](#)

[ICANN Community Excellence Award 2022 Honors Vanda Scartezini](#)

[ICANN78 Annual General Meeting to Be Held in Hamburg, Germany](#)

[ICANN Board Adopts FY23–27 Operating/Financial Plan, FY23 Operating Plan/Budget](#)

## ALAC Updates



### Jonathan Zuck emerges new ALAC

Mr. Jonathan Zuck has emerged the new chairman of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) with effect of the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in September.

The AGM has been scheduled to hold between 17-22 September 2022 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) .

ICANN's staff also confirmed this, saying that Zuck's emergence followed up on the call for nominations for the ALAC Chair on 27 June 2022, the extended deadline of 15 July 2022 has now passed.

Also gathered was that Jonathan Zuck was the only candidate nominated and he accepted the nomination on 18 July 2022.

“Therefore, in accordance with the ALAC RoP 16.3\*, as the only candidate, Jonathan has been declared the winner by acclamation,” ICANN staff said.

*They equally stated that “16.3 If, following the close of the acceptance period or after all nominations have been accepted, there is only one candidate for a given position, or if as the process continues one or more candidates withdraw leaving only one remaining candidate, the sole candidate will be declared the winner by acclamation without the need for a decision of the ALAC.”*

Further, Zuck term will begin at the close of the 2022 ICANN AGM and will end at the 2023 AGM.

“The term is extendable for one additional year if Jonathan is an ALAC Member and is willing to continue to serve,” ICANN At-Large staff revealed.

AFRALO wishes him a successful tenure.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** As matter of update, ALAC held its monthly meetings for five consecutive months since the beginning of the year, namely January 25, March 1, April 20, May 24, and July 26, while the August meeting has been scheduled for the 30th.

**Next AFRALO monthly call:**

The next **AFRALO Monthly Call** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, 03 August 2022 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

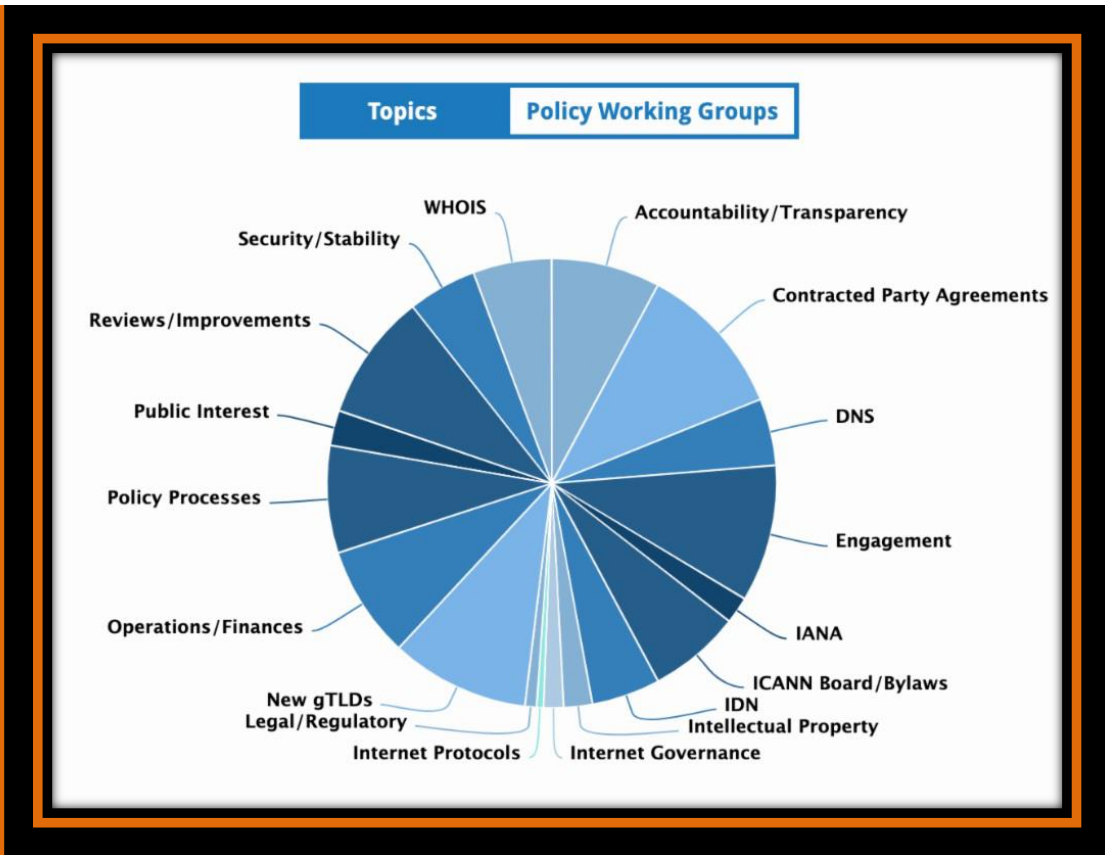
Some members of AFRALO and the At-Large Community were invited to contribute to ICANN Public Comment proceedings. For more information, please visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact At-Large Staff.

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 penholder, and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) submitted (8) statements and advice to the ICANN Board, ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and cross-community solicitations for comment since the last AFRALO Newsletter.

For more information, please contact At-Large Staff.

## At-Large Policy Issues



## ALS' Activities

### EGIGFA, ISOC complete four-week Internet Governance training

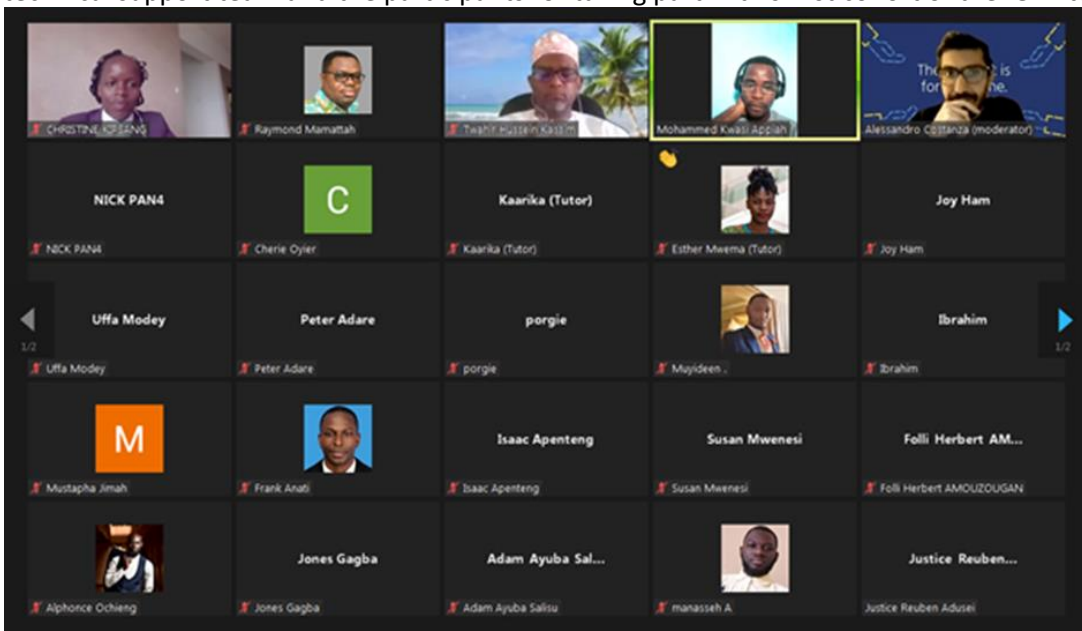
By Raymond Selorm Mamattah

The E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA) in collaboration with the Internet Society, have completed a four-week Internet Governance (IG) training with 150 participants from across 13 African countries. Essential topics covered included definitions of internet governance, various stakeholders to name a few. There were also weekly live discussions between the course tutors which were provided by the Internet Society with the participants.

The climax was the mock Internet Governance Forum (IGF) with the following participants played leading roles: Ibrahim Oduor (Kenya) - UN Secretary General; Joy Ham (Kenya) - Time Keeper; Christine Kipsang (Kenya) – Moderator; Twahir Hussein Kassim (Kenya) - President of host country; Cherie Oyier (Kenya) – panelist; Mohamed Kwasi Appiah (Ghana) – panelist; George Masatu (Kenya) – panelist; and Nickson Akech (Tanzania) – panelist.

Christine Kipsang, who is a Kenyan lawyer earlier on took up the task of organising the various speakers and also moderated the event. While Twahir Hussein Kassim in his speech as the host country president stressed on the need for everyone to play a role in internet governance activities.

Raymond Mamattah, the Founder and President of EGIGFA who also participated in the training expressed appreciation to the Internet Society for their support and partnership through which this programme was done. He also applauded the tutors, the technical support team and the participants for taking part in this first cohort of the IG virtual training.



*\*Preview of the virtual IG training session*

## DigitalSENSE2022: NCC's Danbatta tops speakers faculty as Nnamani presides dual event

By Nkem Nweke

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Nigeria DigitalSENSE Forum (NDSF) series on Internet Governance for Development (IG4D) and public presentation of a book "Sagacity of a digital revolution" authored by Remmy Nweke was held on Thursday, June 9, at Welcome Centre Hotels, International Airport Road, Lagos.

This came as the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta led speakers' faculty at NDSF'22, with the theme '5G: Enthroning Internet Governance for Digital Economy.'

The organisers of NDSF'22 through its Lead Consulting Strategist and Group Executive Editor, ITREALMS Media inc, Mr. Remmy Nweke, said that NCC's boss addressed participants on "5G Enthronement in Nigeria's Telecoms Sector."

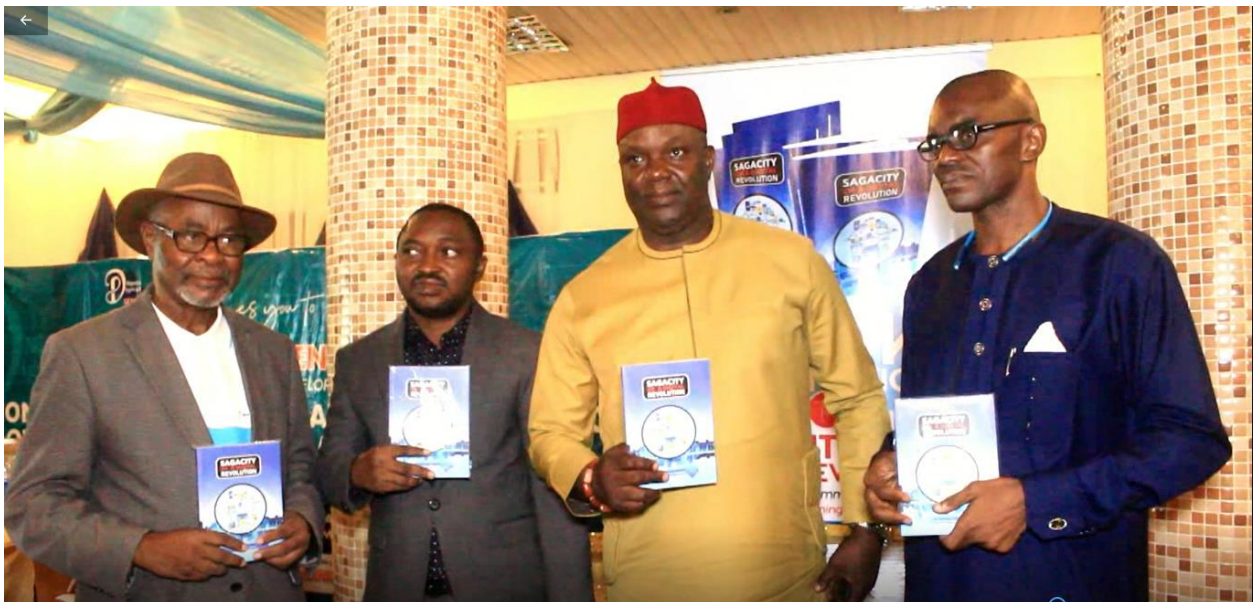
Nweke, who is an author and online personality of repute, confirmed the public presentation of his latest book: 'Sagacity Of A Digital Revolution' held as sideline event of NDSF'22 under the chairmanship of President of Medallion Data Centre Limited, Engr. Ikechukwu Nnamani who doubles as the President, Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON).

As said by him, the chairman of the Association of Licensed Telecommunications of Nigeria (ALTON), Engr Gbenga Adebayo reviewed the book, whereas the President, Mandilas International Trade Centre (MITC), Lagos Trade Fair Complex, and the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Amano Investments West Africa Limited, Chief Anthony Amechi Okeke, was the chief unveiler of the book 'Sagacity Of A Digital Revolution.'

DigitalSENSE Africa, a project of ITREALMS Media group is made up of internationally reputed and award-winning Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry analysts and perception managers; professionally affiliated to African Regional At-Large Organisation (AFRALO) for shaping the future of the Internet.

Additionally, DigitalSENSE Africa is a certified At-Large Structure (ALS) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which coordinates the maintenance and procedures of several databases related to the name spaces and numerical spaces of the Internet, by ensuring the network's stability and secured operation.

Locally, ITREALMS is a member of the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA), the managers of Nigeria's country code Top Level Domain (.NG).



**UNVEILING @NDSF2022:** From left: Pharmaceutical doyen, Mazi Udo Chijioke; representative of the chairman of the day, Engr Ike Nnamani, Mr. Olatunji Suleiman; Chief Unveiler of the Book: Sagacity of a digital revolution and CEO of Amano Investment WA Ltd, Chief Anthony Amechi Okeke and the author, Lead Consulting Strategist, DigitalSENSE Africa/Group Executive Editor, ITREALMS Media, Remmy Nweke, at the unveiling co-hosted with the 2022 Nigeria DigitalSENSE Forum on Internet Governance for Development at Welcome Centre Hotels, Lagos.



## INTIC4DEV celebrates 2022 Safer Internet Day

By Olévié A. A. KOUAMI

The Institute of ICT for Development (INTIC4DEV) recently celebrated the 'Safer Internet Day (SID)' 2022 in Popenguine, Senegal.

Participants on SID2022 were drawn from members of INTIC4DEV as the local Internet users (ALS), in addition to an association founded in Senegal in April 2020, and called "Club ISOC de la commune de Popenguine-Ndayane."

Two activities were carried out including information and awareness-raising outreach to two secondary schools in the municipality of Popenguine-Ndayane. The first took place at the Lycée de Popenguine, on February 28, 2022, then the second came at International School of Popenguine (EIP), on April 15, 2022.

Even though the general theme of the year was: "Together for a better Internet", INTIC4DEV chose to deliver messages to students in the second (2nd) classes, in particular, and to their teachers, on the following sub-theme: "How to master your digital life on social networks: dopamine and social networks."

The target audience were also informed about the Domain Name System (DNS), which is one of the essential infrastructures of the global Internet network. The role and operation of the ICANN organization were therefore explained to the participants, in addition to the security and prevention measures to be taken when using social networks such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook and Tik-Tok, among others, from an early age.

Insights were offered on the effective production by the hormone called 'dopamine'; a key neurotransmitter in the brain which affects the motivation, productivity and concentration of all human beings and which developers of computer applications know how to stimulate in the design and implementation of IT solutions. Students were equally enriched on the role of an Internet Protocol (IP) address and Internet domain names in the overall functioning of the Internet.

The participants, who were brought together face-to-face, also asked a lot of questions about the functioning of the Internet in general and social networks in particular and wished to deepen their knowledge in the future.

Due to lack of financial support, participants were not offered refreshment other than some T-shirts donated by the Senegalese chapter of ISOC; primarily made for the National Internet Governance Forum organized by NIC-SENEGAL (Network Information Center) and CURI (University Center for Research and training in Internet technologies), a brand new body created within the Cheick Anta Diop University of Dakar.

We should also note that we were assisted by Mrs. Maryvonne Devay, of French nationality, member of INTIC4DEV and founding member of the ISOC Club of the municipality of Popenguine.

Finally, our thanks also go to our colleague and friend, Professor Alex Corentin, ex-CEO of the AfTLD (Africans Top Level Domain Association) and founding member of the Senegalese chapter of ISOC, an ALS (At-Large Structure) from the country.

Photo credit 1: Activity at Popenguine High School

## Obituary

### Exit of Baudouin Schombe, AFRALO mourns



The eternal exit of Baudouin Schombe, an active member of the African Regional At Large Organisation (AFRALO) has thrown the body into mourning. Disclosing this, the chairman, AFRALO, Seun Ojedeji announced Schombe passage in a message to the membership on July 23, 2022.

According to him, "I have just received the sad news of the exit of one of our own within AFRALO.

"Baudouin Schombe was one of the early contributors to AFRALO, At-Large, ICANN and the Internet Governance (IG) space as a whole.

"Death is an inevitable debt that we all will have to pay at some point. On behalf of AFRALO, I express our condolences to his family, the internet society community in DRC and entire IG community.

"May his soul rest in peace" he said.

Equally reacting, the Vice President, Global stakeholder engagement in Africa at ICANN, Mr. Pierre Dandjinou said that

indeed, Baudouin's passing is a big loss for the Africa Internet community, his country and family!

"Baudouin has contributed with his goodwill and restless efforts to have DRC part of the digital transformation on the one hand, and the Africa continent a participant to Internet governance on the other hand," he declared and prayed for his soul to rest in peace and extended the community "most heartfelt condolences to his family!"

Until his death, Baudouin Schombe was the founder and cashier of TICAFRICA ([www.ticafrika.net](http://www.ticafrika.net)) and served as a coordinator of CAFEC, the Centre Africain D'Echange Culturel.

From 2007 to 2009 he worked at ICANN as an ICT Consultant. Schombe has a B.A. (1977) in French and African Culture, and another B.A. (1979) in History. His areas of interests include executive management, public relations, the internet, information technology, multimedia, and transportation logistics.

Worthy of note is that he participated in the very first study on the DNS market in Africa as a local Consultant. Baudouin was also a member and close friend to the FOSSFA (Free and Open Source Software Foundation for Africa and African Civil Society on the Information Society (ACSIS) among others.

He would be greatly missed, especially AFRALO community.

Farewell dear Baudouin!

## Stay Connected

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