



# AFRALO NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 | English

May 2023

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

[Visit our Website](#)

## Chair's Remarks

Seun OJEDEJI



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the AFRALO Leadership (myself, Aziz Hilali and Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong), I welcome us all to our first newsletter for the year 2023 (Volume 11).

AFRALO participated in the first ICANN public meeting for the year, ICANN76, as usual we held the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Session on the topic "Best practices for DNS operations in Africa". This time AFRALO had new members volunteer as pen holders for the statement drafting and I would like to thank them all for contributing their part while I look forward to more members taking up more responsibilities in future. The session witnessed various guest speakers from ICANN Org, Board, and we also had the pleasure of welcoming Jonathan Zuck to his first AFRALO-AfrICANN session as ALAC Chair.

As part of our outreach and engagement strategy which spanned from FY22 to FY23, we launched the AFRALO Universal Acceptance Project 2022. This year AFRALO members participated in the global Universal Acceptance Day, where over 10 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and members across our Regional

At-Large Organisation (RALO) participated in organising various events to mark the UA Day.

I had the opportunity to attend some of the events and I would like to congratulate everyone that contributed to the success of the various events. I also commend the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) Steering committee for coordinating events across the globe.

AFRALO will continue her efforts to improve Universal Acceptance awareness within our region.

I am happy to inform you that preparations are now ongoing to hold our General Assembly (GA) this year. The event is planned to be held between 24th and 25th of July 2023 in Accra, Ghana. The event will be held prior to the Africa Forum slated for the same location.

The general assembly will be a hybrid event which will be an opportunity for our members to meet again since Durban, South Africa at ICANN59 when we last had an AFRALO GA. I mentioned in my previous publication that we shall be launching a process this year to re-confirm all our ALS membership. We have achieved this through the survey that we sent to all ALSes in preparation for the GA. We received responses from over 55 ALSes who will be physically represented while some will be participating remotely. I look forward to welcoming you to our General Assembly.

Finally, AFRALO will be participating in the upcoming ICANN77 in Washington DC and we shall be organising the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN session as usual, more information about this will be provided in due time. I look forward to a rewarding 2023 as we continue to perform our role with At-Large and ICANN ecosystem.

## 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**

**Contributing Editor:**  
**Pierre Dandjinou,**  
*ICANN Regional Vice President,  
Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE)  
Africa*

### [FULL LIST OF TEAM MEMBERS:](#)

#### **SUPPORT**

ICANN At-Large Staff  
[staff@atlarge.icann.org](mailto: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 define public interest aspects of Internet governance with specific focus on the areas of **privacy, transparency, and accountability.**
- Strengthening 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,  
Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement – Africa*



## The Coalition for Digital Africa

We launched officially the Coalition for Digital Africa during the Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) on December 01, 2022, in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.

One of the expectations was to see more and more projects start under the CDA and contribute to a meaningful accessibility to the Internet for the African communities.

We are pleased to announce the launch of two other projects which are the “Internet Exchange Point Initiative” and the “Universal Acceptance readiness for Higher Education.”

The launch of the Internet Exchange Point project happened by a public webinar organized on 30 January 2023. The guest speakers Sally Costerton, Interim President & CEO, ICANN and Andrew Sullivan, President & CEO, Internet Society (ISOC); expressed their support to the collaboration between the two organizations so that development of the Internet Exchange points on the continent could contribute not only to the infrastructure but also to local content development and hosting.

More information on this is [available online](#).

The Secretariat of the Association of African Universities (AAU) hosted the official launch of the Universal Acceptance readiness for Higher Education institutions in Africa on 13 April 2023 in Accra (Ghana). This project aims to support the academia in Universal Acceptance readiness assessment and technical capacity development on UA understanding and remediation solutions. The ICANN Interim CEO/President, the Secretary General of the Association of African Universities and representatives from Ghanaian Ministers of Education and Communication congratulated all the partners who have contributed to start the implementation of this project. They believe that this could enable Higher Education institutions and research networks to communicate within their members and also with partners whatever domain names they are using and not only in ASCII characters.

About 50 participants from AAU member universities benefited also from a technical workshop organized by ICANN Org on 14 April 2023. Participants learned the general principles of Universal Acceptance of Domain Names, Email address internationalization and considerations on Universal Acceptance for Programmers.

The position of the Secretariat of the Coalition for Digital Africa was also announced, and we hope to have it filled before the end of this fiscal year 2023.

Finally, I would like to announce that the Africa Engagement Forum 2023 will be held in Accra on 24-27 July 2023. We are pleased that the AFRALO General Assembly will take place back-to-back with this important annual event. Our engagement team will support as usual this General Assembly of the African At-Large Structure. We expect the registration information to be posted online in the upcoming months with the hope to see many participants attend and interact during the Africa Engagement Forum.

## ALAC Policy Updates

- [ALAC Statement on Request for Early Input on GNSO-TPR PDP Phase 2 Topics](#)
- [Draft FY24–28 Operating & Financial Plan and Draft FY24 Operating Plan & Budget](#)
- [Initial Report on the ccNSO PDP Review Mechanism](#)
- [BC/IPC/ALAC to the ICANN Board: Improvements to 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement \(RAA\) and Current Registry Agreement \(RA\)](#)

## ICANN Updates

- [ICANN Announces NextGen@ICANN77 Participants](#)
- [SAVE THE DATE: ICANN to Host Middle East DNS Forum 2023](#)
- [ICANN Seeks Input on the Proposed Renewal of the .NET Registry Agreement](#)

- [ICANN Request for Information: The Grant Program](#)
- [ICANN Calls for Volunteers for the New gTLD Program Next Round Implementation Review Team](#)
- [Initial Report on the RZERC Charter Review](#)
- [ICANN 2023 Nominating Committee \(NomCom\) Deadline Extended](#)
- [Join the Second Iteration of ICANN for Beginners: An Introduction Webinar](#)
- [Last Call: Nominations for the ICANN Community Excellence Award](#)
- [ICANN Request for Proposal: ICANN-Designated Agent for Registrar Data Escrow \(RDE\) Services](#)
- [ICANN76 Governmental Advisory Committee Communiqué Now Available](#)
- [ICANN Board Moves to Begin Preparations for the Next Round of New gTLDs](#)
- [IANA Naming Function Review Bylaws Changes](#)

## ALAC Meeting Updates

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** ALAC held its last monthly meeting on **Tuesday, 25 April 2023** from **19:00 – 20:00 UTC**.

The agenda and call details are available at: <https://community.icann.org/x/KwA5Dg>

### Next AFRALO monthly call:

The next **AFRALO Monthly Call** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, 03 May 2023** at **18:30 UTC**.

The agenda and call details are available at : <https://community.icann.org/x/blZXDg>

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

Do well to join!

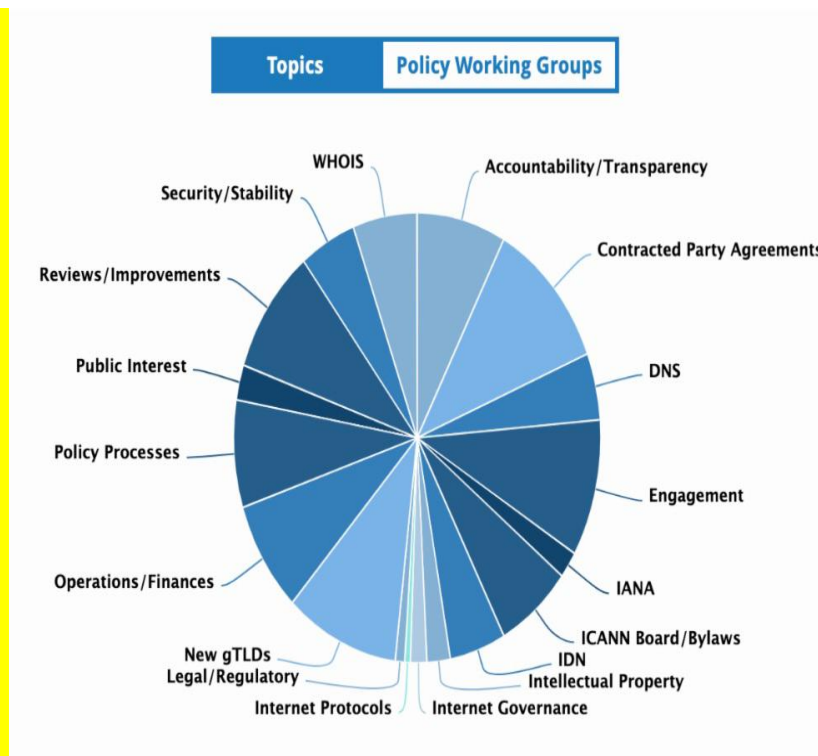
## ALAC Policy Comments & Advice

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 comments on the At-Large workspace or **volunteer** as **penholder** and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

For more information, please contact At-Large Staff or visit [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#)

## Mapping At-Large Policy Issues



## ALS' Activities

### ALSes warm-up for 2023 AFRALO General Assembly @Ghana

By Remmy Nweke

The leadership of the African Regional At-Large Organisation (AFRALO) led by Seun Ojedeji has announced there will be a general assembly to be hosted in the city of Accra, Ghana between July 24 and 25, 2023.



A message from the ICANN staff on behalf of the leadership informed members that the General Assembly would hold on the sidelines of the ICANN hosted African Engagement Forum (AEF) scheduled for 25-26 July 2023 in Accra, Ghana.

ICANN said it would support one representative from each ALS to attend the event as part of its practice, normally the At-Large Structure (ALS) primary contact or his/her appointee.

AFRALO leadership also pointed out that nevertheless, the event is open to all members as it will be held in a hybrid format.

"... So, members who are unable to be physically present will be able to participate remotely," Ojedeji said.

Equally, he revealed that the organizing committee has been formed and has started work in coordination with ICANN staff.

"The Committee will continue to hold teleconferences periodically. The planning of the GA will include pre and post activities hence the committee may invite other members of the community to assist on various tasks as applicable and I would like to count on your support when this happens," he enjoined.

Further, the AFRALO chair revealed that a survey was sent to primary contact of AFRALO ALSes on March 10 which was opened until March 20th to assist the leadership to determine members interest and availability to participate in the GA.

See more details in the wiki page <https://community.icann.org/x/SAejDQ>

### ISOC Uganda hosts Universal Acceptance Day 2023, ICANN76 readout

By Esther Nyapendi and Mutegeki Cliff Agaba

The Internet Society (ISOC) chapter in Uganda recently hosted two events in the first quarter of 2023, namely, the celebration of the Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2023 and ICANN76 Readout.

The chapter had on March 27 and 28, 2023 joined the International Business, Science and Technology (ISBAT) University to host a 2-day hybrid event, to commemorate Universal Acceptance Day 2023, with the theme: **Demystifying Universal**



## Acceptance in Uganda.



The event convened 44 onsite and remote participants from 15 institutions, mostly academic institutions in Uganda.

The primary focus of the event was to create awareness about Universal Acceptance (UA), Email Address Internationalization (EAI), activities of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), benefits of being UA-ready, and steps to becoming UA-ready, which is one of ICANN's goals for achieving a multilingual and inclusive Internet.

Participants had group discussions where they made calls to action on how to advance the UA agenda in Uganda.

Some of which included advocacy, working with developers to develop Domain Name System (DNS) language translators, using multilingual encoders, promoting caching of frequently accessed information, using domain flaggers and working with policy makers to push companies and businesses to be UA-ready.

Meanwhile the ICANN76 Readout for ISOC Uganda took place virtually on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 14:00 - 16:00 EAT.

The readout summarised the events from ICANN76 meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

Also, speakers at the session made the topics discussed at ICANN76 friendly for newcomers.

These speakers included Sarah Kiden of At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC); Gloria Katuuku of Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC); Norman Angel, member ALAC; and Vallarie Yiega, ICANN76 fellow.

This session was moderated by Mutegeki Cliff Agaba.

**ICANN76 Readout**

**21st April, 2023**

**2:00-4:00pm**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82388088466?pwd=UEEIV2RrcjFzSjZONiR5M1NobUwvUT09>

**HOST**

Internet Society Uganda Chapter

ICANN

**Mr. Mutegeki Cliff Agaba**  
Moderator

**Gloria Katuuku**  
GAC Representative  
Speaker

**Sarah Kiden**  
ALAC Representative

**Ms. Vallarie Yiega**  
ICANN 76 Fellow  
Speaker

**Norman Angel**  
Member of Capacity Building  
working Group-ICANN Atlarge  
Technology Program  
Associate

## Morocco NTRA collaborates for Universal Acceptance Day'23

By Aziz Hilali

The Universal Acceptance (UA) Day in Morocco was held in collaboration with the National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency on March 21, 2023.

The event took place at the National Institute of Posts and Telecommunications in Rabat.



The main objective of this day was to increase awareness of UA in general, promote its adoption among key stakeholders in Morocco, and address challenges while providing technical solutions, such as internationalized email addresses (EAI).

The day featured an engaging and informative workshop that provided valuable insights into UA and its application in projects involving domain names with non-ASCII characters, especially those in the Arabic alphabet.

The workshop emphasized the importance of complying with UA standards to ensure seamless communication on the internet. Failure to adhere to these standards in computer codes used in hardware and software systems can lead to communication issues in certain cases.

## ISOC Benin collaborates IDEMI Africa for 2 days

By Hervé HOUNZANDJI

The Benin Chapter of the Internet Society in collaboration with IDEMI Africa with the support of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), organized a two-day workshop.



The workshop was aimed at raising awareness within the local community about universal acceptance in the context of a multilingual and inclusive internet.

The first day saw the presentation of key concepts related to universal acceptance and its importance for African languages.

The second day focused on the best practices and configurations for email internationalization, involving different attendees' profiles.

The workshop brought together over 100 participants, and the Benin Chapter of the Internet Society plans to continue its commitment to UA ready systems and applications.



## **NCC, AFRALO celebrate UA Day in Nigeria**

*By Bukola Oronti*

The Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) in collaboration with the Africa Regional At-Large Organisation (AFRALO) recently celebrated the Universal Acceptance (UA) day in the country.

The occasion, a hybrid event was held in Abuja and attended by members of the community representing government, private sector, civil society, technical community, and academia.



The webinar also showcased the importance of UA of domain names with a presentation made by the UA ambassador in Nigeria, Abdulkareem Oloyede.

Dwelling on the theme, Oloyede harped on what UA is all about, its benefit to the Internet growth, stakeholder roles, importance of having UA ready devices and systems.

He also emphasized the role NCC must play as a country regulator in ensuring UA compliance.

There was also a Q&A session and resolutions were read out to the attendees.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Commissioner Technical Service at NCC, Engr. Ubale Maska, acknowledged the increasing growth of Internet in the country and the limitation of having local content majorly in the three major languages, namely Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa; which is not good enough for a country of over 500 indigenous languages.

Thus, NCC reiterated commitment to universal access of services in the country which is believed to be the bedrock for UA readiness in Nigeria.

The AFRALO Chair, Seun Ojedeji in his closing remarks expressed gratitude to the co-organizers and ICANN for the success of the event and encouraged the participants to stay updated with the UA activities via the UASG website.

## **Senegalese ISOC leverages 'Small Grant Beyond the Net'**

*By Olivier Kouami*

The Senegalese chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC) has obtained a "Small Grant Beyond the Net," funding from the ISOC Foundation to support the activities carried out by the chapter's club in Popenguin-Ndayane.





This club, the first of its kind in Senegal, has been under preparation for two years to lavishly celebrate the 20th edition of the "Safer Internet Day" or International Day of Safe Internet in the town located in the Thies region, about 60 kilometers from the capital Dakar.

Over 100 participants from various stakeholders in the local Internet community were invited to participate in the four activities carried out during the months of February and March 2023 with the theme "Together for a better Internet (The dangers of the Internet and how to protect yourself on social networks)."

In addition to awareness campaigns against the dangers of the Internet, the participants were also trained to better protect themselves on the Internet and on social networks.



Resource persons encouraged participants before and during the activities on how best to navigate on the Internet positively.

T-shirts made for the event and about 20 educational tablets were offered by the organizers of this event to various participants in addition to the support of local administrative authorities.

Further, this event was supported by three French-speaking ALSes, namely INTIC4DEV, the Senegalese chapter of ISOC and the Bokk Jang Bokk Jeff association.

Facebook: <https://bit.ly/3lkRtLw> | Twitter: <https://bit.ly/3Yc5gm2> | LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/318oxzj> | Website: [www.isoc.sn](http://www.isoc.sn)

## ISOC Nigeria hosts fireside chat to celebrate UA day

By Bukola Oronti

The Internet Society (ISOC) Nigeria chapter had a fireside chat in celebration of the Universal Acceptance Day.

The session was moderated by the Secretary General, Adebunmi Akinbo while the speaker for the chat was the Vice President, Mr. James Olorundare.

He introduced the community to what UA is about and the need for the UA day and its celebration.

Earlier, the fireside chat was opened with a welcome remark from the President, Internet society Nigeria chapter, Mr. Caleb Ogundele.

The conversation concluded with the moderator introducing the community to how to join the Internet Society Nigeria Chapter.



Stay Connected

[At-Large on Twitter](#) | [At-Large on Facebook](#) | [AFRALO Website](#) | [Mailing List](#)