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

[Visit our Website](#)

Chair's Remarks
Hadia Elminiawi

Dear AFRALO members,

Welcome to the third edition of this year's Newsletter ! I am excited to share some important milestones and upcoming events.

First, we have made good progress with the Continuous Improvement Program (CIP), aimed at refining our processes and ensuring operational excellence. The CIP document "AFRALO and ICANN Continuous Improvement Program," has been approved by a consensus call and can be found here.

A special thanks to AFRALO representatives to the CIP Bram Fudzulani and Chokri Ben Romdhane and to everyone who has contributed to the first edition of AFRALO Continuous Improvement Program.

In addition, the AFRALO FY25 Outreach and Engagement Plan has been completed, setting a clear course for FY25. This plan outlines the goals and objectives for FY25 as well as the key events AFRALO plans to participate in. You can access the full strategy **here**.

As a reminder, the Community Regional Outreach Program (CROP) offers an excellent opportunity to participate in ICANN public meetings within our region, or in regional events identified in the AFRALO FY25 strategy. CROP can also be utilized to support community outreach efforts related to ICANN policy, technical or advisory work.

I am excited to share that event proposals are now being accepted for the third annual Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2025. UA celebrates efforts to achieve a more inclusive Internet through the use of Internationalized Domain Names and Email addresses, ensuring they are equally used by all Internet enabled applications, devices and systems. The deadline for submission is 11 October 2024. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of shaping the future of the Internet inclusivity.

Call to update AFRALO Universal Acceptance Strategies and Activities. Please take a moment to add your UA-related activities to the AFRALO UA activities sheet here. The AFRALO UA Strategies and Activities wiki page includes the AFRALO UA 2024 adoption strategy and we look forward to submitting an AFRALO UA adoption event for 2025.

To develop the new adoption strategy we will reflect on what has been achieved during 2024 and use that as the foundation for our collective strategy for 2025.

Volunteers needed: AFRALO Capacity Building Working Group: We are looking for a volunteer to lead the AFRALO capacity building working group. Additionally, I would like to remind everyone to contribute to the update of AFRALO Rules of Procedures (ROP), which we aim to complete and approve before ICANN81 in Istanbul.

With that, I would like to extend my gratitude to Remmy Nweke for all of his hard work on this newsletter. His efforts ensure that our community stays informed and engaged.

I wish you a pleasant reading, stay engaged and see you on our next monthly call!

Hadia Elminiawi
AFRALO Chair

Editorial Team	About AFRALO

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 consists of **75 ALSes** located in 33 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**.

ALAC Policy Updates

1) [At-Large Policy Sessions @ ICANN Meetings](#)

2) [At-Large and DNS Abuse](#)

3) [The Consensus Playbook](#)

4) [At-Large Capacity Building Workshop - An Introduction to Policy Development at ICANN](#)

5) [At-Large Community Policy Issues - Why End Users Should Care?](#)

6) [ICANN Public Comment Proceedings](#)

7) [Upcoming ICANN Public Comment Proceedings](#)

8) [Published ALAC Advice](#)

ICANN Updates

- **[gTLD IDN Tables Review Process When Reference LGR is not available](#)**

- **[IRP-IOT – Proposed updates to the IRP Supplementary Procedures](#)**

- **[Proposed Fundamental Bylaws Amendments Related to Grant Program](#)**

- **[Draft ICANN Strategic Plan and Operating Plan Framework for FY26-30](#)**

- **[Initial Report on the Transfer Policy Review](#)**

- **[Second Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of the Next Round Applicant Guidebook](#)**

- **[Additional Reference Label Generation Rules and Related Updates](#)**

- **[ICANN Publishes Fiscal Year 2024 Second Quarter Management Financial Results](#)**

- **[ICANN Announces Recipients of the ICANN80 Fellowship](#)**

- **[Middle East DNS Forum 2024: Shaping the Future of Digital Infrastructure](#)**

- **[Request for Proposal: ICANN Support Applicant Review Panel](#)**

- **[ICANN79 Schedule Now Available](#)**

NomCom Report

NomCom releases 2024 selection results
Seun Ojedeji, NomCom Rep

On the 5th of August 2024, NOMCOM through its Chair published a final update on 2024 selection results to various leadership positions. This year a seat each was filled by Judith Hellerstein and Natálie Terčová for NARALO and EURALO respectively.

The rest of the open positions were filled as shown below:

ICANN Board of Directors

Name	Region
Amitabh Singhal	Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands
Miriam Sapiro	North America
Tripti Sinha	North America

At-Large Advisory Committee

Name	Region
Natálie Terčová	Europe
Judith Hellerstein	North America

Country Code Names Supporting Organization Council

Name	Region
Jaijit Bhattacharyya	Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands

Generic Names Supporting Organization Council

Name	Region
Anne Aikman-Scalese	North America

Those selected will begin their terms at the conclusion of the ICANN81 Annual General Meeting in November 2024.
Source:
https://www.icann.org/en/announcements/details/icanns-2024-nominating-committee-announces-leadership-selections-05-08-2024-en

Kindly note that with this, it will be my last update as ALAC delegate to NOMCOM24 from AFRALO to the AFRALO Newsletter, while my term will officially end at the upcoming ICANN82 in Istanbul. I like to thank the AFRALO and At-Large community for giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity and I also like to once again congratulate Dave Kissoondoyal who is the NOMCOM25 Delegate from AFRALO.

e-Health
… in memory of Olivie Kouami

Warning signs of a mini-stroke!

By Remmy Nweke

A few days ago, I went into the computer village to buy a few items for my office use from a known seller, Semaj. Ordinarily, I had called to inform him that I was coming but as I could not get him on the phone, I decided to visit the village anyways.

On getting to his shop and was asking after him, a young man who resembled him, whom I learnt later is the younger brother, summoned the courage to tell me in a very low tone that Semaj had passed on and I retorted what happened and when? "Semaj died of a stroke, few months ago and has been buried," he said.

For many Africans, especially the men, they rarely have health checks whereas the women could be checked during children visits to hospitals or antenatal care.

An associate professor of medicine and a consultant neurologist, Dr. Kolawole Wasiu Wahab, in The burden of strokes in Nigeria, published in the National Library of Medicine, noted that the current

prevalence of stroke in Nigeria, for instance, is 1.14 per 1,000 while the 30-day case fatality rate is as high as 40 per cent. The management of the disease is largely conservative while there is little or no funding for high-quality research. Primary prevention, the expert said, is the key to reducing the burden of the disease in a country with such poor resources, which is seen across the continent.

Signs of a mini-stroke:

Experts have said that there are about 7-day signs before a stroke takes effect, including headache, difficulty speaking or understanding, difficulty walking, one-sided arm or leg weakness, dizziness, double vision or other vision problems, confusion, blurred vision, nausea and vomiting.If you have any of these, the best is to see your doctor ASAP.

Cause of a stroke:

Also, as said by experts, estimated 87 percent of strokes are ischemic, which is caused by the blockage in the brain, usually caused by a piece of plaque or a blood clot. If the blockage occurs locally in the brain, the condition is called thrombosis. If the blood clot travels from somewhere else in the body, it is called an embolism.

Can strokes be cured?

The answer is yes. Experts at California-based FlintRehab, affirmed that stroke could be cured, mostly using two stages. "First, doctors administer specific treatment to restore normal blood flow in the brain and stop further damage. Then, the patient participates in rehabilitation to cure the secondary effects that result from the stroke."

For them, a stroke is considered a "brain attack." Stroke, thus, occurs when the blood supply in the brain is compromised by either an obstructed artery known medically as ischemic stroke or burst artery also known as hemorrhagic stroke.

Prevention better than cure:

Knowledgeable experts on stroke treatment from the National Health System(NHS) emphasised that the best way to help prevent a stroke is to eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, and avoid smoking and drinking too much alcohol.

These lifestyle changes, they posited, can reduce your risk of problems like arteries becoming clogged with fatty substances known as atherosclerosis, in other word, high blood pressure.

They recommended that even if one has already had a stroke, making these changes can help reduce risk of having another one in the future.

Equally a recovery plan if one is already diagnosed with a condition known to increase your risk of stroke, by ensuring the condition is well controlled is also important for helping prevent strokes.

Making the lifestyle changes described above could help control these conditions to a large degree, but you may also need to take regular medicine with professional attendance.

ALAC Meeting Updates

MONTHLY MEETINGS: ALAC held its last monthly meeting on Tuesday**, 24 September 2024 from 16:00 – 17:00 UTC**.

(For the time in various time zones click here)

The agenda and call details are available at: https://community.icann.org/x/V4IvEQ

ALAC Policy Comments & Advice «

- **Executive Summaries: ALAC Policy Comments & Advice**
- **At-Large Workspace: GNSO EPDP on Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data**
- **At-Large Policy Platform**

ICANN81 Planning Committee

https://community.icann.org/display/atlarge/ICANN81+Planning+Committee

AFRALO monthly call:

The last **AFRALO Monthly Call was** on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 18:30 UTC**.**

The agenda and call details are available at : https://community.icann.org/x/bIZXDg
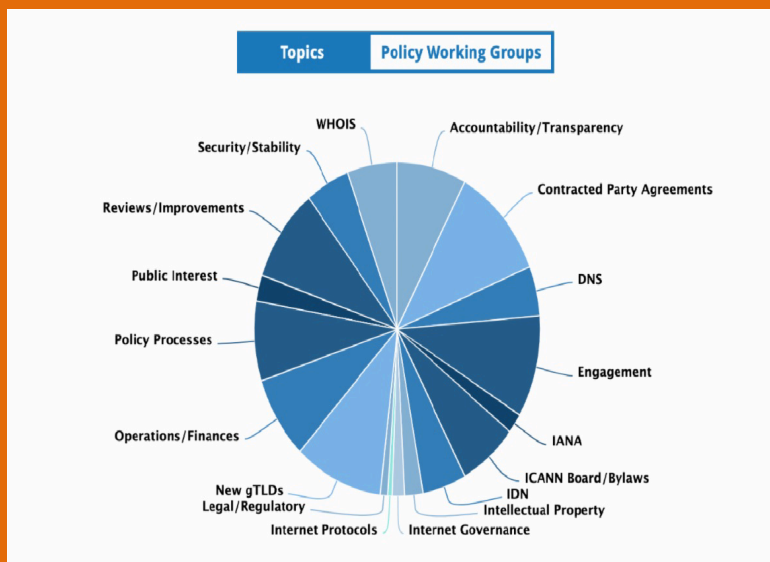
Do well to join!

ALAC Policy Comments & Advice

As usual, 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

GhanaSIG@5: Making impacts in Internet Governance
By: Edna Ovulley, 2024 GhanaSIG Fellow

The fifth anniversary edition of Ghana School on Internet Governance (GhanaSIG) fellowship was recently concluded, marking a significant milestone in empowering African youth in e-governance and Internet governance.

This year's programme saw 5 weeks of intensive online courses, culminating in a face-to-face session in Ghana from July 2nd to 4th, 2024. Participants came from the USA, Benin and Ivory Coast which added to the diversity of the fellowship programme.

Through competitive weekly presentations, participants sharpened their knowledge on crucial topics such as Cybersecurity, History of the Internet, DNS, E-Governance and Internet Governance. Teamwork and collaboration were fostered, preparing the next generation of Internet leaders.

Organised annually by the E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA), GhanaSIG's success is attributed to the dedication of the organisers.

In his opening remark, EGIGFA's founder and president, Raymond Mamattah acknowledged all partners and sponsors and thanked them for their immense support over the years. GhanaSIG fellowship is a demonstration of the power of collective effort in shaping the future of Internet governance in Africa.

As we celebrate GhanaSIG's fifth anniversary, we recognize the impact of this initiative in building capacity and promoting inclusivity in Internet governance. The forty-seven (47) 2024 GhanaSIG Fellows together with team EGIGFA expressed thanks to the fellowship representatives, Maureen Owusu-Addae and Abdul-Rafiu Fuseini for volunteering, and look forward to the continued growth and success of GhanaSIG Fellows in shaping the Internet's future.

Elminiawi invites ALSes to update universal acceptance wiki pages

Remmy Nweke

The chairman of the Africa Regional At-Large Organisation (AFRALO), Hadia Elminiawi has call on members to update their wiki pages, especially on Universal Acceptance of Domain Names (UADN) activities.

UADN experts ensure that all domain names, including new top-level domains (TLDs), Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), and email addresses are treated equally.

Elminiawi made this call in a letter to the members, saying that the AFRALO members' Universal Acceptance (UA) activities table is now available on AFRALO Universal Acceptance Strategy and Activities wiki page.

She therefore urged members to take a moment to update the UA activities table with any UA- related events their At-Large Structure (ALS) may have undertaken throughout the year.

"Many thanks to those who have already done so. Please add as well, activities such as UA-related material that you have developed or made available to the community."

She also advised that the sheet could be located here: https://community.icann.org/display/AFRALO/AFRALO+UNIVERSAL+ACCEPTANCE+STRATEGY+AND+ACTIVITIES.

Recalling that the Universal Acceptance of Domain Names (UADN) is the state where all valid domain names and email addresses are accepted, validated, stored, processed and displayed correctly and consistently by all Internet-enabled applications, devices and systems.

Just as ICANN has a quick guide on Universal Acceptance of Domain Names.

ISOC Kenya partners KICTANET for 2024 national IGF

The Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET) played host to the country Internet Governance Forum (IGF) on August 1, 2024 as coordinated by the Multistakeholders Advisory Group (MAG), with the Internet Society (ISOC) of Kenya.

Joel Okomoli of the Internet Society Kenya Chapter, reported that they were key participants with many of their members in attendance, including the pre-events namely the Youth IGF and session calls.

He also said that the East African IGF was scheduled for Kampala on the 11ᵗʰ to 12ᵗʰ September 2024. The link for details is shared here.

This is coming as ISOC Kenya revealed it has submitted two proposals for setting up and managing an Internet exchange Point and data centre in the Western town of Bungoma that lies on the digital highway to Uganda and beyond.

The first proposal, he said, was in response to the ICANN Grant Call which covers the cost of half of the equipment required including servers and power unit, staff salaries for one year and connection fees.

Okomoli equally said, the second proposal was submitted in response to the Resiliency Grant Call by ISOC Foundation. It covers the remaining half of the equipment, staff salaries for another year as well as Internet Connection.

As said by him, both projects will run concurrently although the resiliency grant if awarded commences earlier in September 2024.

The project, therefore, aims to host the third instance of ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS) in Kenya and strategically located in the Western Region. This, industry observer said, will be a great opportunity to tap into the Internet traffic from Uganda, Rwanda among other Central African countries, whilst reducing latency and train a specialized skill-set to help in growing the Internet in the region.

EGIGFA, GDNR, AAU collaborate to host Ghana UAD workshop
By: Benedict Obirim Sagoe (GDNR, ISOC Ghana) and Nellie Okunor (GhanaSIG Fellow)

The E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA) in collaboration with the Ghana Domain Name Registry (GDNR), and Association of African Universities (AAU) have hosted a Universal Acceptance (UA) Day technical workshop in Accra.

Dr. Oloyede Abdulkarim, a UA Ambassador from Nigeria was the lead trainer, which enhanced the understanding and technical skills of the participants on Universal Acceptance for global internet inclusivity.

The workshop included sessions on the importance of UA, technical configurations to support non-Latin scripts and strategies to overcome implementation challenges. Participants engaged in hands-on and discussions, gaining insights into best practices and successful case studies.

Key outcomes included increased awareness, improved technical capacity, and opportunities for collaboration among stakeholders. The workshop concluded with recommendations for continued education and further workshops to advance UA adoption in Ghana and Africa.

Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini, Director of ICT Services, Communications & Knowledge Management at AAU delivered the welcome address. Mr. Raymond Mamattah, Founder and President of EGIGFA, and Nana Kofi Asafu-Aidoo, Executive Director of GDNR gave the opening remarks. Mr. Benedict Obirim Sagoe of GDNR gave the closing remarks.

The training was attended by over 70 Systems administrators, DNS administrators, Email administrators, developers, and webmasters from academic institutions, financial institutions, government agencies, civil societies, and the technical community.

The recording is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU8GpNfM2vo while the photos are here: https://photos.app.goo.gl/9DGeS3Whset95jbf6

Stay Connected

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