

## **Applicant Information**

**First Name:** Poncelet

**Last Name:** Ileleji

**Gender:** Male

**Country of Residence:** The Gambia

**Stakeholder Group/Constituency Affiliation:** NCSG / NPOC

## **Questions**

### **1. Current employer and position. Please describe the type of work you perform:**

The Gambia YMCAs Computer Training Centre, I have served as the Coordinator / CEO since 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1996 when I set up the Centre which is a Non governmental Organization registered in the Gambia. Our focus which manages focuses mainly on ICT Capacity building programs, coding, Hub space, Internet Technologies, Project Management, Digital Media, Internet Governance and use of ICT4D.

In my role I manage a staff of approximately 25 persons, lead curriculum development, project management, Training, Budgeting, mentoring of new staff, and in sit on the Board of the centre. I also oversee our International partnership, Strategic planning committee to name a few.

### **2. Education:**

**Poncelet O. Ileleji** is a computer Scientist by Profession with 23 years in the field; he has been involved with the use of ICT as a tool for sustainable development both as a lecturer, researcher and consultant for the Gambia YMCAs, where he is the coordinator of the computer training centre and digital studio. He has also served as consultant for several projects in Africa covering ICT for D, Learning, Technologies and Education, Internet Governance and Health Informatics. He served also as an International Coordinator for the International YMCA of New York, International Camp Counselor Program. Poncelet served as the country coordinator for the World Links program in the Gambia during the program life cycle in The Gambia from 2001 to 2005, The program was funded and initiated by the World Bank and it adopted a constructivist approach to teaching with ICT that emphasized a shift away from teacher centered lecture-based instruction towards student-centered, project-based learning during the program life cycle from 2001 to 2005 in the Gambia. Some of his research work carried out including include Consultant Research 4 Life Ghana Assignment for WHO <https://www.research4life.org> and research for affordable Internet in 5 West African countries [www.a4ai.org](http://www.a4ai.org) He is the Lead for Jokkolabs Banjul located at its centre premises at the Gambia YMCAs Computer Training Centre and Digital Studio.

He is a member of the British Computer Society, and also a fellow of Mirandanet ([www.mirandanet.ac.uk](http://www.mirandanet.ac.uk)) and an active member of the Association for Progressive Communication [www.apc.org](http://www.apc.org) He is a founding member of the Information Technology

Association of the Gambia and was elected president of the Association in March 2010 is term ended in April 2014 ([www.itag.gm](http://www.itag.gm) ). He is also the national resource person for the West African Internet Governance Forum [www.waigf.org](http://www.waigf.org) the Gambian Chapter and former board member of Africa ICT alliance [www.aficta.org](http://www.aficta.org) and he is a member of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) NPOC Constituency [www.npoc.org](http://www.npoc.org) served as Policy Chair and representing NPOC on the Policy Committee of the Non Commercial Stakeholders Group (NCSG) of ICANN he has also serves on various ICANN working groups and presently co chair of the Standing Selection Committee of ICANN GNSO. He is an adviser to Ministry of Information Communication and Infrastructure, The Gambia on the Gambian membership of the Governmental Advisory Committee of ICANN [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org) . He also served on the Working Group for WG 3 – Privacy and Transparency Online for Freedom Coalition, <https://www.freedomonlinecoalition.com/how-wework/working-groups/working-group-3/> and also represents is organization in the Open Data Charter as a Steward on the implementation committee, <http://opendatacharter.net/> . He was a fellow on digital integrity with the open technology fund and country Director of Signara Global Solutions Inc in The Gambia and representative of Computer Frontiers Inc in the Gambia. He leads is organization partnership with the [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](http://www.data4sdgs.org/partner/gambia-ymcas-computer-training-centre-and-digital-studio) <http://www.data4sdgs.org/partner/gambia-ymcas-computer-training-centre-and-digital-studio> He is also an advisory member SDGs 16 for DataShift a program of civicus organisation <http://civicus.org/thedatashift/> and a Board member of the San Francisco, USA based Technology not for profit Net Freedom Pioneers [www.netfreedompioneers.org](http://www.netfreedompioneers.org)

He holds Bachelors (Bsc) and Masters (Msc) Degree in Computer Science Met University, Manchester, United Kingdom (1990, 1994) and a Second Masters in Health Informatics, from University of Plymouth, United Kingdom.

**3. Please identify any GNSO Working Groups and/or chartered teams in which you are participating:**

Served in the Meeting Strategic Working Group, served in the Standing Selection Committee, served as a rep for EXCOM on NCSG EXCOM, chaired policy committee of NPOC

Member of New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Working Group

Member ICANN Academy Working Group

UA Comms Working Group

Member Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all gTLDs PDP working group

Part of NCSG Policy Discuss on mailing list and Conference Calls

**4. Please describe any past involvement in the ICANN Fellowship Program, if applicable. For example, have you previously been a fellow or served as a program mentor?**

I have never been a fellow since my organization joined ICANN in 2011 after the ICANN meeting as a member organization of NPOC, I have talked to and advised new fellows that attend our NPOC constituency day during the period I was on the NPOC ECOM. I have also mentored acted as referee, guided a number of young

Africans in my region of Africa on applying for the ICANN fellowship and supported them as they understand the various layers of ICANN multistakeholder process.

As the national focal resource person for the West African Internet Governance Forum Gambia chapter ([www.waigf.org](http://www.waigf.org)) I fully take part in supporting young professionals trying to understand the IG space and ICANN during ICANN sessions at our various regional IGFs in my region of West Africa.

**5. Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience and expertise address the criteria listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.**

- **Active participant in GNSO structures and policy development processes with a track record of engagement**
- **Previous experience serving as a mentor, teacher, or learning facilitator is a plus**
- **Strong written and verbal communication skills**
- **Project management and coordination skills**
- **Networking skills**

I have participated effectively in Policy development at the GNSO level not only active during intercessional meetings when I was one of those who represented the NPOC, but been fully active in structures that guide ICANN PDP processes. Example been active on our NCSG policy group when I was a member, fully engaged in the Standing Selection Committee of GNSO when I served same at the meeting strategic working group.

I have lectured in all my 23 years experiences, I presently lecture as a visiting lecturer at the Business University in Senegal on Internet Technologies. Link is [www.bem.sn](http://www.bem.sn) I constantly mentor visiting undergraduate students from the University of Washington, Tacoma who spend their winter semester with me on International Development. Am a faculty of our West African Internet Governance School which had 2<sup>nd</sup> edition this summer in the Gambia, teaching the history of Internet to young professionals of the school. I was also a facilitator for the Afrilabs (Afrilabs is a network of 174 innovation centres around Africa [www.afrilabs.com](http://www.afrilabs.com)) learning week in March and June this year on Communication. I mentor interns from Canada through the [www.yci.org](http://www.yci.org)

As a leader of my organization my written and verbal communication is very strong with a positive note to it in working especially with young professionals who I guide in their careers in the various aspects of ICT we work in. I have also engaged in regular programs on Internet technologies in my country online and on various TV and FM radio stations. Within my NPOC constituency I am one of the most active voices in communicating my thoughts within our NCSG and NPOC mailing list

As a leader of my organization I lead several projects that require project management and coordination skills. I have lead projects that range from World Bank funded projects on ICT and Education, to those that deal with Digital security as one I recently managed early this year funded by HIVOS. Yearly I currently have 5 to 8 projects in my organization I directly project manage or supervise staff that do. I manage a core team of 15 staff, 5 at senior management level that report directly to me and are part of my core management team.

Am a networker, my community outreach and networking skills make it possible for me to collaborate with various kind of partners and communities especially within my passion of ICTs especially the Internet as an enabler in changing lives. I belong to various initiatives like the Internet Freedom Festival that take place in Valencia yearly, as a member of the Association for Progressive Communication which is a well networked organization in what we they do in regards to the Internet, it gives me a good array of professionals to seek advise from that we in the same

organizational membership . Am a diplo foundation alumni all these network contribute to what I do in supporting mentees these are networks that are very relevant to what I do within the ICANN community of which I am part of the NPOC constituency.

**6. Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience & personality meet the desired attributes listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.**

- **Member of a GNSO Stakeholder Group and/or Constituency**

I am a member of NPOC and one of the initial founding member organization of that constituency, I have held leadership positions within the constituency and the only active initial member organization of NPOC that is still totally involved with NPOC and have sold institutional memory and knowledge of my constituency from the early days of inception to present.

- **Understanding of the ICANN's mission, structure, and multistakeholder model**

Having been involved with IGF since the beginning and understanding the multi stakeholder process of ICANN was very straight forward for me as it had the same strong focus on bottom top inclusivity and equity in its processes of engagement, dialogue etc. ICANN's mission and structures are quite clear to me especially on its core mandate of a community "working together to promote the stability and integrity of the Internet".

- **Willingness to devote the necessary time a resources prior to and during the ICANN meeting**

I have done that and ready to do that again with groups like the Meeting Strategic Working group and Standing Selection Committee I gave my all in the time required for completing task that I will bring to this program, I do not volunteer to take a role if I can't commit to it hence my commitment to this program is 100%.

- **Ability to create a supportive atmosphere for mentees by being open, accessible, and approachable**

Having spent 23 years involved in lecturing, project management, research and mentorship I am very conversant with the needed support that is required for such mentorship scheme. Openness and accessibility that mentees need to understand the entire ICANN ecosystem and how its various structures work out are part and parcel of it including that one to one personal touch in exemplifying and coaching mentees.

- **Robust network within the ICANN community and ability to leverage and share that network**

I have a good network within ICANN constituency colleagues I have interacted with at intersessionals and constituencies like At large that have also supported by understanding of the ICANN processes; I will also tap on that, as knowledge and learning processes are continuous.

- **Ability to present information in a manner that is simple and easy to understand**

My writing and explanatory notes are always simple for clear understanding with small FAQs placed if I need to do so for example FAQs like acronyms and other terms that might be unique to only ICANN community when used. It's been my style since when I lecture regularly and I will keep it for this mentorship scheme also.

- **Ability to establish weekly projects and deliverables for mentees using a clear and consistent learning approach**

It's important to give a detailed schedule to mentees in a clear and concise format especially giving them documentations on a policy development process to analysis certain comments and so on. A schedule on what areas mentees need to familiarize themselves with especially in ICANN Policy Development areas, with clear deliverables

will be something I will focus my agenda on working with the mentees on a one to one basis when developing such schedule in doing that you make the mentees also claim ownership of their learning process with me the mentor as a guide.

**7. Please explain your interest in serving as a mentor and what you will bring to the Fellowship Program if selected.**

My interest in serving as a mentor comes from my professional life where mentorship has always been part of my work in what I do working with young people either as a lecturer or mentoring them in an internship program within my organization. The internship programmes are designed specifically for undergraduates and post graduates from Europe or North American I run and manage it. When my organization joined ICANN as a member of ICANN NPOC constituency as one of the early NPOC members, I had the opportunity to be also mentored by the late Alain Berranger who guided me through my leadership positions at NPOC and made me feel comfortable it's that type of style of guidance I want to give your professionals as a mentor I got from Alain, it makes you totally well grounded in understanding ICANN Processes especially the Policy Development Processes which are a necessity for mentees to understand. I plan giving my best in mentorship within this ICANN program it's something I love doing and passionate about.