

## AFRALO Monthly Report - March 2013

AFRALO's main activities of March 2013 are following:

### 1. Active participation in the Multi-Stakeholder Internet Governance Events (MIGworks) In Middle East and Africa.

- The Middle East MIGworks Event took place in Dubai from 5 to 6 March 2013. It brought together about a hundred people representing various stakeholders of the Arab region Internet Community. The main objective of the event was to discuss Internet governance related issues and priorities of the Middle East region. To achieve this objective, a draft strategy linked to the region was presented highlighting the overall objectives and strategic areas, with specific objectives and proposed actions in each area. Participants agreed that the stimulation of innovation and entrepreneurship is key to success of the development of the Domain Names Industry in the region. For its part, ICANN reaffirmed its commitment to work with Internet key players of the region and confirmed that the issues related to the DNS and IDN industry will have priority in ICANN strategy for the Middle East.

More info on: (<http://blog.icann.org/2013/03/arab-multi-stakeholder-internet-governance-meeting-wraps-up-in-dubai/>).

- The Africa MIGworks Event took place in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia from 4 to 8 March 2013. The Event started with a two-day workshop on how to develop the Domain Names Market in Africa. It was followed by a 2-day multi-stakeholder meeting on how to transform the African ICANN strategy into action with projects. During the meeting, Fadi Chehadé announced major expansion in Africa as follow:
  - ✓ Six additional ICANN staff members will be hired during 2013 to support the ICANN Africa Vice-President. They will be posted in each six sub-regions of Africa: North, South, East, West, Central and Indian Ocean and will report directly to the Africa VP;
  - ✓ ICANN will put mechanisms in place to help increase the number of ICANN Accredited Registrars in African continent.

During the Event, the implementation of the African strategy was discussed in detail, for better engagement of Africa in the ICANN Ecosystem. This strategy was developed by representatives of the African community last summer and announced at the ICANN meeting in Toronto in October 2012.

More info on: <http://africanncommunity.org/index.php/events/mig-addis/report-for-addis-mig-works> .

### 2. Joint AFRALO - AfrICANN Meeting at ICANN46 in Beijing, China.

After an online discussion of the African ICANN community, it was decided to continue with the theme that was chosen for the Toronto joint meeting on the establishment of an Internet Development Fund for developing countries. A group composed of AFRALO and AfrICANN communities members prepared a draft statement that was posted on the AFRALO-AfrICANN list for comments. The draft statement was discussed during Beijing joint meeting and new inputs were added. The meeting ended with an agreement on the

final draft statement to be finalized by the AFRALO secretary and sent to various stakeholders.

### **3. Activities scheduled for ICANN47 meeting in Durban, South Africa**

Like the previous ICANN meetings that took place in Africa, AFRALO plans to organize some events during the week of the ICANN meeting to be held in Durban from 14 to 18 July 2013. A call of proposals had been sent to AFRALO members.

As a reminder, AFRALO organized during ICANN42 in Dakar capacity building sessions for all African ALSes. It also organized its General assembly and a joint meeting involving all African ICANN community.

### **4. Participation in the work of the At-Large New gTLD Review Group**

The At-Large New gTLD Review Group finished its work and invited RALOs to give their opinions to ALAC draft objection statements against 5 applicants.

After consultation, AFRALO ALSes voted YES to each of four objection statements against applicant "dot Health Limited" for the ".HEALTH" string (<https://community.icann.org/x/xYxwAg>) and NOT to the objection statement against applicant for .HEALTH in IDN.

(<https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/40930513/Dot+Healthy+Statement.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1362004053000>).

### **5. Virtual Capacity Building Program for African ALSes**

After consultation with the participants in the Dakar Training sessions, AFRALO received seven contributions. From those contributions, It appears that they are interested to learn more about the following topics (by order of priority):

- Mission ICANN structure and component,
- ICANN's role in the infrastructure of the Internet,
- ICANN's policies (with very detailed case study),
- New gTLDs,
- The Internationalized domain names (IDN),
- Participation in ICANN and Communication,
- Capacity Building Program