ICANN

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other.

ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet.

ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers.

ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.

At-Large

A mechanism for participation in ICANN by individual Internet users (called "At-Large") was created for people who want to be involved in issues that affect individual's use of the Internet's domain name system.

ICANN At-Large provides crucial contributions to ICANN's work on such matters as guidance on how internationalized domain names ("local language" domain names) are implemented, and how additional new top-level domains (i.e. .info, .name, .museum, etc.) are introduced -- to name just two issues of importance in which At-Large is involved to support the Internet's end-users.

At-Large also is a leading voice for ICANN stakeholders on Internet Governance and issues related to Word Summit for Information Society "WSIS" and Internet Governance issues, and help raise awareness of key Internet resource issues that affect ICT development.

What is are At-Large Structures?

Any group that supports individuals' or internet users' ability to share their views on ICANN issues, and that meets the few simple criteria, can register to be an At-Large Structure. Types of groups that have registered (or have expressed interest in registering) as At-Large Structures include:

- ✓ Professional societies (e.g. engineers, attorneys, etc.)
- ✓ Academic and research organizations
- ✓ Community networking groups
- ✓ Consumer advocacy groups
- ✓ Internet Society chapters
- ✓ Computer user organizations
- ✓ Internet civil society groups

These groups will be members of regional At-Large organizations like Africa's AfRALO, Europe's "EuRALO", Asia-Pacific's "ApRALO", Latin America and the Pacific Island's "LacRALO" and North America's "NaRALO".

What is ALAC ?

ALAC is ICANN's Board At-Large Advisory Committee which consists of three members from each of ICANN's five geographic regions (Africa, Asia/Aust./Pacific, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean, North America) represent the At-Large community as members of the At-Large Advisory Committee ("ALAC").

Why Join Us?

Internet is part of your life. You want to be in control and not let it control you. ICANN is the place to be to understand how it works, how it is technically ruled to serve your needs. You want to be part of this community that thinks. You want to be proactive and participate in the policy development process in our internet naming space, it's your internet your world..

Groups interested in participating in ICANN At-Large are encouraged to send an email to staff@atlarge.icann.org

Need more information?

For more information visit the bellow Links:
AfRALO : www.atlarge.icann.org/afralo
A-Large : atlarge.icann.org
ICANN : www.icann.org

AfRALO "Africa Regional At-Large Organization"

Africa's Internet Users Voice

AfRALO is the home of the At-Large (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.

The African Regional At-Large organization aims to:

- ✓ 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)
- ✓ Represent user's interests and defining public interest aspects of Internet governance with specific focus on the areas of:
  - ○ Privacy
  - ○ Free Speech
  - ○ Open Access
  - ○ Transparency
  - ○ Accountability

- ✓ Strengthen user's 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

AfRALO currently consist of more than 20 African organizational members.

Policy Development Discussions

AfRALO is engaged in many policy development discussions in ICANN and At-Large Community, among the important issues are :

Internationalized Domain Names "IDN"

The introduction of new internationalized domain names in non-ASCII characters is considered the biggest change in internet history. AfRALO is involved in setting IDN policies with the At-Large community.

Africa has several languages which will be introduced to the domain names space, like the Arabic and Amharic languages.

New Generic Domain Names

ICANN will be opening a new round of generic internet domain applications, called the new gTLD process .

The new applications will bring more options to the generic name space, which currently consists of 21 top level domains such as .com, .net, .org etc.) .

WHOIS Policy :

Domain Name owners ('registrants') contact details and information privacy when using Whois service is an important issue that effects all domain name owners.

Future Structure, Accountability and Transparency of ICANN

AfRALO is working within ICANN to ensure Africa is represented and our voice is heard. It is important that we participate in the discussions on how to have a more accountable, transparent and international ICANN .

Discuss Africa Internet Challenges

Join our members – more than 20+ African Internet and ICT related organizations - to discuss the different issues that we are facing in Africa related to enhancing and promoting internet services.

AfRALO is a good forum to exchange experiences and best practices with other African organizations...

"Within AfRALO, Africa is united to make its concerns heard in concentration with the other regions in a friendly and efficient way. Join us to enrich the debates and have an African civil society and internet users voices in the management of internet name space! You will learn a lot too!!!

Fatimatta Seye Sylla, AfRALO chairperson.
At-Large structure :Bokk Jang Bokk Jef
Country : Senegal