



AFRALO Hybrid GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) 2023
Outcomes Report

Held from 24-25 July in Accra, Ghana

Prepared By : Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong, AFRALO Secretary in collaboration and with the inputs of the GA Rapporteurs

With support of : AFRALO Leadership, Policy Staff in support of At-Large, GSE Africa and Volunteer Reporteurs of the GA Sessions



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1- Executive Summary

The African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) General Assembly (GA), which normally takes place every 4 years, brings together AFRALO members to discuss and advance the concerns of African Internet users inside the ICANN ecosystem. However, following the previous GA that was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June 2017, AFRALO was unable to hold another GA in person due to travel and meeting restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2022, with the return to in-person meetings, AFRALO leadership agreed during the [AFRALO At-Large Regional Policy Engagement Program \(ARPEP\) and FY23 Regional Plans Call](#) of 18 May 2022 to organize their fifth GA in July 2023 on the sidelines of the to African Engagement Forum (AEF) hosted by ICANN.

Following this call, the AFRALO leadership, Policy Staff in support of At-Large, and the GSE team for Africa worked together on the preliminary work until the AFRALO GA Organizing Committee was put in place.

The planning for the AFRALO GA 2023 commenced on Wednesday, 15 February 2023 (**First Call**) with the AFRALO GA Organizing Committee (OC). The [OC met approximately every two weeks through July 2023](#) to continue to plan the GA.

The AFRALO GA took place in Accra, Ghana on 24-25 July 2023. A Welcome Reception was held on 23 July 2023.

The GA was held in a hybrid format and was attended by representatives from all AFRALO members, including 71 ALS representatives and individual members, as well as ICANN org support staff and the AFRICA GSE team.

The theme of the GA was ***“Generating a strong and sustained AFRALO voice within ICANN”***.

The GA aimed to enhance AFRALO's participation within ICANN by educating and empowering the members to be more active and involved in ICANN processes. The GA OC worked jointly with the Policy staff in support of At-Large staff and the GSE

team for Africa on several aspects such as the logistics, timeline, attendance, promotional items and program, and more for the event.

2 - Acknowledgement

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Policy Staff in support of At-Large, GSE Africa, ALAC, OC Team, and AFRALO members for their support and engagement in organizing the AFRALO General Assembly in Accra, Ghana.

It was a successful event that showcased the achievements and challenges of our regional organization, as well as the opportunities and priorities for the future. We are proud of the work we have done together and the collaboration we have fostered among our diverse and dynamic stakeholders.

Thanks for all your dedication, commitment, and contribution to the development of the AFRALO.

3 - Purpose and Aims of GA

AFRALO held their hybrid General Assembly (GA) on 24-25 July 2023 on the sidelines of the ICANN-hosted second edition of African Engagement Forum (AEF) scheduled for 25-27 July 2023 in Accra, Ghana.

The AFRALO GA brought together the representatives of the African At-Large Structures (ALSes) and one representative of the AFRALO individual members to develop strategic plans related to policy advice development, outreach and engagement and operational issues.

Some of the topics covered during the AFRALO GA sessions included: *discussion on the review of the AFRALO Operating Principles, update on the AFRALO Policy Advice Development Process, the presentation of the AFRALO Outreach and Engagement Plan, the report on the AFRALO Individual Membership Implementation, and to recognise and/or reward some members of our RALO.*

The AFRALO GA sessions spanned 1 ½ days and were followed by a ½ day attendance at the AEF, where the AFRALO representatives had the opportunity to interact with other ICANN stakeholders from Africa and beyond, and to learn more about ICANN's initiatives and activities in the region.

4-Process of Organizing GA

There were various processes involved in planning the AFRALO GA, including:

- Determining the GA's goals, agenda, timelines, tasks and anticipated outcomes;
- Logistical support from ICANN and other partners, including the languages of interpretation to be offered;
- Deciding on the GA's host nation and location with support of GSE Africa Team;
- Sending out invitations and receiving confirmations for AFRALO members and guests from community to attend;
- Preparing and distributing background information (Pre-webinar) and reports for the GA;
- Conducting the GA sessions and activities in a participatory and inclusive manner;
- Recording and reporting the GA's findings and recommendations;
- Assessing the GA's influence and feedback through a post-GA survey.

The planning for the AFRALO GA 2023 commenced in Wednesday, 15 February 2023 (**First Call**) with a [GA Organizing Committee](#) composed by led by:

Bukola Oronti	Social Media Chair
Seun Ojedeji	AFRALO Chair

Aziz Hilali	AFRALO Vice-Chair
Abdeljalil Bachar Bong	AFRALO Secrétariat
Raymond Mamattah	ALAC member
Bram Fudzulani	Outreach and Engagement Chair
Remmy Nweke	AFRALO Newsletter team representative

Staff created a dedicated Skype group (AFRALO GA 2023) for the AFRALO GA Organizing Committee for more discussion and the OC held 16 calls including a Pre GA - webinar. This was a great way to connect, share ideas and feedback. The Skype group was lively and engaging, with many questions and comments. Professor Aziz Hilali volunteered to lead the [GA Program Development Sub-Committee](#) which held two calls

- [20 April 2023](#)
- [06 April 2023](#)

5 - Pre-webinar GA

An [AFRALO Pre-GA webinar](#) was held on 19 July 2023 for 90 minutes. The goal of the webinar was to prepare members towards our upcoming General Assembly and it was mandatory.

Pre-General Assembly(GA) Webinar: Purpose of the Webinar

- To inform members about status of the GA preparations
- To Present current GA program

- Provide background information of some items on the GA agenda (AFRALO RoP, Presentation of the AFRALO member performance metrics, GSE role and expectation for the GA/the Engagement Forum, Practical Workshop on Universal Acceptance Domain names & E-mail addresses)
- To build capacity of our members in preparation towards the GA.
- To address any outstanding logistical matters.

More info visit :

<https://community.icann.org/display/AFRALO/2023-07-19+AFRALO+Pre+GA+Webinar+Call>

6 - Pre-Event Communication

The AFRALO Social Media Team led by Bukola Oronti, did a great job by disseminating the information of the GA on social media : FaceBook and X (formerly known as Twitter) and doing the visual conception .

Examples of social media activities are below.

- <https://www.facebook.com/icann.afralo>
- <https://twitter.com/AfricanAtLarge/status/1681283734664781827?s=20>
- <https://twitter.com/AfricanAtLarge/status/1681283734664781827?s=20>
- <https://twitter.com/AfricanAtLarge/status/1681293518289993731?s=20>





7- Participants

A total of 55 member representatives from 32 African Countries participated in-person and online in the AFRALO GA in Accra, Ghana and some of them online. Interpretation was offered in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.

See the [AFRALO General Assembly \(hybrid\) 2023 Attendance](#).

8 - Deliverables of the GA

The GA aimed to review the achievements and challenges of AFRALO and focused on the sessions that would allow for greater understanding of key policy issues, strategic planning, and key deliverables. The sessions covered the following: .

- Discussion of the strategic priorities and action plans of AFRALO for the next year, as well as the opportunities and threats for the African Internet users in the evolving domain name system.
- Presentations from ICANN staff, AFRALO leaders, and invited speakers from other stakeholder groups.
- Interactive sessions, such as polls, and Q&A, to foster dialogue and collaboration among the participants.
- The production of deliverables, such as a report, a [draft resolution on the AFRINIC](#) issue that reflected the outcomes and recommendations of the event.
- **The GA provided 26 presentations + 8 communication made by Guests**

[For more information see :](#)

- [AFRALO General Assembly 2023 Workspace](#)
- [Zoom recording of the two daily sessions](#)

9 - Day 1 summary report

Day 1: we have 4 sessions listed bellow

- [Session 1-AFRALO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING SESSION](#)

Had 4 communication by Guest and 2 Presentations ;

a- **Welcome Remarks by AFRALO Chair:** opening speech of the AFRALO Chair, Seun Ojedeji, at the 5th AFRALO General Assembly, who paid tribute to Pierre Ouedraogo, a pioneer of the internet in Africa who died recently. He also thanked the various partners and stakeholders of ICANN for their support to the event, which aims to strengthen the voice of AFRALO within ICANN. He presented the objectives

of the General Assembly, which focus on evaluating the performance of AFRALO members, strengthening the ties among them, understanding and improving the operational principles of AFRALO, building the capacity of members on topics of interest and recognizing some deserving members. He invited the participants to take advantage of the opportunity to discuss and engage in favor of AFRALO.

b- Guest speakers:

Leon Sanchez, ICANN Board Director selected by At-Large (Africa is home and he was happy to join AFRALO at this meeting);

Alan Barrett, ICANN Board Director (Only African lamented the inability to have more outstanding candidates from Africa in ICANN's Board);

Pierre Dandjinou, Global Stakeholder Engagement, Vice President for Africa (urged for localisation of engagement by AFRALO and its membership to deepen the activities of ICANN and by extension the community on the continent.)

Nii Quaynor, Scientist and Engineer Ghana (was earlier scheduled to speak remotely but was not able to join the meeting)

c - Introduction and setting GA Ground-rules, Aims, Objectives and Expectations made by Seun Ojedeji, AFRALO Chair :

- Aims and Objectives:

- Bring together AFRALO members to discuss how to engage better.
- To review and approve the AFRALO Members performance metrics towards an improved AFRALO voice within ICANN
- To re-establish strong connection between RALO members towards informal member/mentee relationships
- To establish better understanding of the AFRALO rules of procedure for ALS and individual members and suggest any revisions where possible.
- To build capacity of our members on topic of interest within the RALO
- To Recognise and/or reward some members of our RALO

-He reminded to members the Ground Rules and Expectations from members:

- Participants who are attending physically should participate at the event - Attendance shall be taken
- Members interventions are brief and straight to the point - If you had the floor kindly yield to members who haven't

- The queue on zoom shall be prioritized so in-room participants are encouraged to sign in to zoom as well.

- Members should abide by the ICANN's expected standard of behavior

d. The Great History of AFRALO was presented by AFRALO's Vice Chair, Prof. Aziz Hilali

Highlights of his presentation included:

ABOUT AFRALO: AFRALO is a regional organization created under ICANN to represent the interests of the Internet community in Africa;

Objective: To inform and promote the participation of Internet users, AFRALO plays a significant role in shaping ICANN's policies, especially concerning end users in Africa; AFRALO has emerged as a significant player in advocating for the interests of the African community in global discussions on Internet Governance.

2007: Signature of a MoU AFRALO/ICANN (ICANN28-Lisbon) (Resolved (07.24) (Mali, Morocco, South Africa & Sudan) 2009:

First AFRALO GA (Mexico-2009, Dakar-2011, London-2015 & Johannesburg-2017)

2010:

First African Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN(31 Joint Meetings, 29 Statements) 2011:

First Showcase (Nairobi 2010, Dakar 2011, Durban 2013, Marrakech 2016) 2013:

Local Community engagement (Durban 2013, Marrakech 2016 and Joburg 2017) &

Capacity building programs 2023: 71 ALSes among others.

e. Closing remarks: AFRALO Chair brought to this session to a close with a remark urging members to return quickly after the break.

- **Session2 -REPORT AFRALO ACTIVITIES, ROPS AND Metrics**

Had 4 presentations ;

a. Report of the AFRALO activities from Johannesburg (2017) to Accra (2023)- Abdeljalil Bachar Bong , AFRALO Secretary

He presented AFRALO objectives ,Afralo activities and achievements

- Report on leadership changes within time period (Available in presentation)
- Report on ALAC membership to date (Available in presentation)
- ALAC NomCom Delegate (Available in presentation)

b. AFRALO Rules of Procedure - Abdeljalil Bachar Bong et Maposa ISAAC co-chairs

They presented AFRALO Rules of Procedure for information :

- Background and scope of work
- First phase review shall focus on the following:
- Provide clarity on ALS accreditation process and timelines
- Address other editorial changes that could aid in ensuring the operating principles are comprehensible.

After discussion, the members of the GA decided to give until ICANN 80 to deliver for all reviews of ROP. Also, 2 webinars will be held to ensure that members are aware of the operating principles and communicate with members. Ensure that they are aware of and able to find the resources which they have access to.

- **[Session 3-BUILDING THE RALO CAPACITY WITHIN THE DNS ECOSYSTEM](#)**

Had 5 presentations ;

a. Internet Resources: Exploring the Crucial Challenges of Domain Names and IP Addresses by Aziz Hilali, AFRALO Vice Chair

Aziz presented the importance and crucial role played by these two resources in the functioning of the Internet.

Aziz briefly explained the journey of a DNS request and the format of an IPv4 address. TCP/IP is the foundational protocol suite that enables communication over the Internet.

ICANN coordinates these resources globally to ensure a stable, secure, and harmonized Internet for all users.

IP addresses are allocated by regions, and there are five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) responsible for allocations in different parts of the world, they are ARIN, RIPE, NCC, APNIC, LACNIC, and AFRINIC for Africa. The exhaustion of IPv4 addresses has led to the introduction of IPv6.

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There are two types of Top Level Domains (TLDs): generic (gTLD) and country-code (ccTLD). Historically, there was resistance to adding more gTLDs due to concerns about brand protection and cybersquatting. However, since the launch of the New gTLD Program in 2012, numerous new gTLD extensions have been introduced, including geographic extensions (.eu, .africa, .Quebec), city extensions (.paris, .berlin, .NYC, .BCN), and more. Only a few of these new extensions are specifically related to Africa.

Aziz emphasized the introduction of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), which allow people who only know their own language to type URLs in their browsers using their own alphabet. This enables them to use the Internet for their development, as they can navigate the web in their native language under domain extensions written in their own script.

Universal Acceptance is an inclusive approach towards users from all regions of the world, regardless of their language, culture, or level of technological development. AFRALO should contribute to domain name governance, particularly in collaboration with AFRINIC, which is currently facing issues. The next AFRALO General Assembly (GA) should be dedicated to discussing domain name-related problems in Africa.

b- New gTLD Applicant Support Program by Tijani Ben Jemaa & Sarah Kiden

-**Tijani Ben Jemaa** presented the disappointing findings of the first round of the New gTLD program. The major points highlighted were the extremely high cost, a complicated and demanding application process that required significant resources, and significant concerns from certain segments of the community.

To address these issues, potential solutions are being considered, and a working group will be established. These solutions include :

Financial support: Exploring options like payment by installments or deferring the first payment.

Creation of a development fund: Establishing a fund to support and assist applicants in the new gTLD process.

Non-financial support: Providing assistance in preparing applications, offering guidance and training on DNSSEC implementation, and raising awareness, among other measures.

The goal is to ensure that the next launch of the program enables all communities, including underserved ones, to access the new gTLD program.

-Sarah Kiden,AFRALO member and member of the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) working group, presented the work plan and schedule. There are six tasks and nine preliminary recommendations that are worth reading. From July to September, a call for contributions is underway, and everyone is invited to participate and provide input.

c- How can the GSE team collaborate building member's capacity? by Pierre Dandjinou, VP Global Stakeholder Engagement ICANN, Africa

For the Vice President, stakeholders must collaborate to assess their needs and submit them to ICANN, which is ready to provide any necessary support.

It is essential to have strong collaboration between ALSes (At-Large Structures) and the ICANN GSE team. Mr. Yaovi Atohoun, Stakeholder Engagement & Operations Director- Africa is fully dedicated to AFRALO.

For a comprehensive vision of the DNS in Africa, we need statistics that will facilitate the development of capacity-building programs. These statistics will help measure Internet usage in Africa and provide training and support on DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions), among other aspects.

d- ISOC Training Programs and Fellowships by Victor Ndonnang, Manager for Community Engagement in Africa, ISOC

Victor recalled ISOC's vision (Internet for Everyone, Internet with Everyone, Open Internet) summed up in 3 words: Build, promote, and defend the Internet.

To achieve this vision, Victor presented the programs offered by ISOC on training, learning, and scholarships.

These include: Mid Career Fellowship, Early Career Fellowship, Youth Ambassador Program, MANRS Ambassador Program, IETF Policy Program, and Pulse Fellowship.

These different points aim to :

Facilitate the development of open standards, protocols, administration, and technical infrastructure of the Internet.

Support education in developing countries, and wherever the need exists.

Foster professional development and strengthen the community to encourage participation and leadership in areas important for the evolution of the Internet.

Provide reliable information about the Internet.

Victor invites AFRALO members to disseminate this information within their respective communities.

e- ICANN Fellowship and Next Gen Programs

by **Siranush Vardanyan**, Fellowship Program Manager, Public Responsibility support (remote)

"Siranush is known worldwide, and 90% of the people in this room know her. As the Manager of the Fellowship and NextGen program, she explained the goals and ambitions of this ICANN program.

It's worth noting that ICANN has 2 scholarship programs :

NextGen, which is reserved for individuals aged 18-30 from the region where the ICANN meeting takes place. One can only benefit from it once.

Fellowship, which is available for individuals aged 21 and above, with the possibility of participating in 3 programs.

Calls for applications are periodically launched according to the dates and location of the ICANN meetings

- **[Session 4-BUILDING AT-LARGE CAPACITY AND IP ECOSYSTEM WITHIN AFRICA](#)**

This session included 4 presentations (included draft statement by Dave) ;

**a- Introduction to the At-Large Loop Experiment by Jonathan Zuck ,ALAC
Chair (remote):**

Jonathan presented a number of updates in the At-Large Feedback Loop. He concluded on sharing out a number of long term goals of ALAC as follows:

Development and implementation of campaigns or experiments on four topics during FY24

Phishing

DNSSEC

UA (in collaboration with UA Day)

- New gTLD Next Round

Presentation Library

Multiple Languages

Demonstration videos

Funding for Opportunistic Amplification on various topics that matters for AFRALO/ALAC/ICANN learning from UA Day 2023 or Phishing, Awareness and Reporting.

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**b- AFRINIC Update and Discussion by Brice Abba & Cedrick Mbeyet, AFRINIC
Stakeholder Development** Brice Abba & Cedrick Mbeyet gave a presentation on AFRINIC Update and Discussion. They further presented AFRINIC Internet Development Programs which has 6 programmes:

1. Technical Community Development Program
2. Fellowship Program
3. Research and Collaboration Program
4. Diversity in ICT Program
5. African IGF & ICT Initiatives Development Program
6. Critical Infrastructure Development Program

Action Item:

AFRALO to approve a resolution to support efforts toward a resolution to the current AFRINIC situation as soon as possible.

c- Presentation and adoption of the AFRALO member performance metrics by Tijani Ben Jemaa

Presentation and adoption of the AFRALO member performance metrics by Tijani.

The team propose the following objective metrics:

- Number of attended meetings per year
- Number of Contributions per year
- Number of taken polls for the last
- Consécutive polls
- Number of reported Local Activity per year

Action Item: AFRALO Leadership to follow-up with staff and make data available at first hand before final approval.

Agenda day 1 : <https://community.icann.org/display/AFRALO/Agenda++AFRALO+General+Assembly-Accra+24-25+July+2023#2023AFRALOGeneralAssembly-1844718.8>

10 - Day 2 Summary report

Day 2: we had 2 sessions ;

- [**Session 5-Hot Topics at ICANN & RALO Visibility**](#)

Had 4 topics: 4 communications by Guest & 6 presentations

Topic 1: Guest Speakers:

-ICANN Interim CEO General remarks by Sally Costerton, ICANN interim President and CEO (remote)

STRENGTHENING OF AFRALO VOICE WITHIN ICANN

The plan for ICANN is that internet users to come from Africa
 Thanked the Universal acceptance team for the great work they are doing
 Request increased participation in Ralo's
 Advised the GA members of ICANNs strong commitment to the total digital commitments to Africa
 Happy for the GA to be taking place along with the Africa Engagement forum...for both members to align
 ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement remarks by Baher Esmat, VP Stakeholder Engagement, Middle East & Managing Director MEA

ICANN org : GLOBAL STAKEHOLDER TEAM

Leads engagements around the globe and support and offering support on Capacity building
 Advised the GA that more engagements need to be scheduled

-ALAC remarks by Jonathan Zuck, ALAC Chair (remote)

Hot topics discussion on new round
 Intended consequences
 Emphasizes on the expansion of audience

-ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement remarks by Pierre Dandjinou VP, Stakeholder Engagement Africa

Paid tribute to a member Pierre Ouedraogo who is being laid to rest today the 25/07/23
 Invited to a remembrance session today 25 July 2023 at 17:15
 Advised the GA members that the ICANNs support is guaranteed for AFRALO

Topic 2. PROMOTING DOMAIN NAME INDUSTRY GROWTH IN THE AFRICAN REGION by Mohammed El Bashir & Hadia Elminiawi

Mohammed El Bashir: ALS sudan

Mohamed presented an overview about the domain name industry in the continent.

Hadia Elminiawi: incoming

AFRALO Chair

Hadia presented an overview about the domain name industry in the region from an end user perspective. The presentation focused on a key message that domain names are an important part of the digital transformation that is happening in Africa, which promises a prosperous future to Internet users.

The session focused on three main components, the significance of domain names to end users, promotion of domain names from end users' perspectives and strategies to promote domain names to end users.

Significance of domain names to Internet users in Africa

The importance of domain names for Internet users in Africa lies in their ability to support the continent's online visibility, stimulate economic expansion, and thereby contribute to the economic and skill advancement of African Internet users. This also extends to providing support and nurturing the growth of the startup ecosystem.

Promoting domain names from end users' perspectives

Promoting domain names from an end user's perspective focuses on communicating the benefits and value of owning a domain name to individuals and businesses.

Strategies to promote domain names to end users

Internet infrastructure and efforts to improve connectivity and provide reliable Internet access will indirectly boost the demand for domain names.

Supporting local languages

Outreach and engagement campaigns

Partnerships

Emphasizing security and trust

Following the presentations a brief discussion included the following points:

- Africa has a low number of DOMAIN names compared to other countries with Infrastructure being the biggest challenge.
- More marketing/ awareness is still required among different communities
- Partnerships and collaboration with entrepreneurs can assist with sending the message across
- The role of ALSs in advocating for domain names within their countries.
- Social media versus domain names
- Cost of domain names
- The role of governments and the role of the GAC.
- The role of associations that promote interests of businesses such as the chamber of commerce.

Among the contributors to discussion were Lesley, Joel, Ryana, Dr. Matogoro and Ousman Bara

**Topic 3 : Universal Acceptance - Where are the ALSes?
by Abdulkarim Oloyede & Nabil Benamar (Vice Chair of the UASG)
(remote)**

**-Topic : ALS reporting on status of UA in their country by Abdulkarim Oloyede
UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE :**

What are the Afralo GA specific takeaways?

1. UA day event participation in terms of numbers across Africa, according to the report, was very low. Though there were almost equal numbers of events in the organization, about 13% participation was recorded in Africa.
2. UA training should be targeted at the relevant group to get the right impact
3. According to Hadia, the digital transformation currently happening in almost all African countries is a good opportunity, thus being part of the digital transformation strategy would serve the promotion of domain names as well as UA readiness
4. At-Large loop is a good tool to promote domain names and UA readiness – The UA day event was a good example for how the At-Large loop could work

Specific Action items

1. Local Initiatives in Africa
2. Increase participation in UA day activities.

-Topic :Practical Workshop on Universal Acceptance Domain names & email addresses by Nabil BENAMAR (Vice Chair of the UASG)

Need more people- ambassadors in Africa to assist with solving the above issues raised ;

Have received two proposals to date and already shortlisted

Report Topic : https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a1e6-gPs1-0Etm75phbOMPSvXUWI8tjBhkf_MRfbbM/edit#bookmark=kix.xrnl2phta337

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a1e6-gPs1-0Etm75phbOMPSvXUWI8tjBhkf_MRfbbM/edit

Topic 4 : Promoting AFRALO member Activities

-Topic: . How can Members be supported for better Visibility by Newsletter team Co-Chairs, Remmy Nweke & Olivier Kouami

BRIEF ON AFRALO NEWSLETTERS

Urged the members to support the team with submission of reports in order for them to be shared on Wiki timeously.

Challenges with feedback and activity reports from ALS.

Most wikis are not being used by members.

Fixing the proper model for the production.

The long process of getting a French translator, as ICANN is assisting for now

Requesting participation from members in the newsletter activity

Olwi - Team has issues with receiving articles but applauded Mali as being the best with submission. Need more members with translation

-Topic : Overview of Community Regional Outreach Pilot Program (CROP) by Social Media Chair, Bukola Oronti

She gave an overview of CROP

- [**Session 6 -ALAC & AFRALO GA Wrap-up**](#)

This session included 5 presentations

-Topic : AFRALO Outreach Strategy by Bram Fudzulani

He presented AFRALO FY 24 OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY to the GA and requested feedback and inputs from members

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s80Era1AD56VkbiSFWR6OipKEqwAV_LPInP6tFdRS0w/edit

-Topic : AFRALO Perspective's within ALAC by Dave Kissoondoyal, Raymond Mamattah, and Raihanath Gbadamass, ALAC members

They gave an overview of ALAC activities and How AFRALO will contribute efficiency .

Some key points of the presentation on AFRALO Perspective within ALAC:

-Awareness and Education: AFRALO advocates for increasing awareness and education among Internet users in the African region about the risks and impacts of DNS abuse.

-Privacy and Data Protection: AFRALO emphasizes the importance of robust privacy and data protection regulations to safeguard the rights of African Internet users

-Address the challenges faced by African Internet users, including issues related to connectivity, multilingualism, local content, and Dns Abuse etc

<https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/244945234/Updated%20AFRALO%20Perspective%20within%20ALAC%20%5B1%5D%20%20-%20%20Read-Only.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1690280206000&api=v2>

-Topic : Recognition of outgoing/former AFRALO Leaders since last GA by Seun Ojedeji, AFRALO Chair

Presented by Seun and gave recognition to the outgoing AFRALO Team for their hard work inside AFRALO.

-Topic : GA Social Media Champions by Bukola Oronti

As usually AFRALO GA SM team with support of Staff recognize a community member for best sharing post on SM

**-Topic : Summary of GA outcomes and next steps by Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong ,
AFRALO Secretary**

The secretariat gave a brief outcome to the community and recommended to send by email the final report to all members.

**-Topic : GA Closing Remarks by Seun AFRALO Chair & Hadia Incoming AFRALO
Chair**

Closing remark by Seun who thanked all people who contributed to the success of GA and Hadia thanked AFRALO Members and Staff for full support.

Report

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O2XQ3LBbMNIBkUbLVK5RjKekjFqnQBnkSiVbBN2i2rk/edit>

Agenda Day 2 :

<https://community.icann.org/display/AFRALO/Agenda+-++AFRALO+General+Assembly-Accra+24-25+July+2023#2023AFRALOGeneralAssembly--885587968>

11-Photos





You can find all photos of the GA on the [AFRALO 2023 GA Photos Workspace](#).

AEF Album available here

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/198841589@N04/sets/72177720310100029/>

12- Echo ALS After GA Communication

Some ALSes shared GA information on their respective platforms and in Social media, too. please find samples below:

- **ALS : Nurses Across the Borders from Nigeria**
 1. <http://newworldnewsng.blogspot.com/2023/07/omoragbon-president-of-nurses-across.html?m=1>
 2. <https://authorityngr.com/2023/07/28/omoragbon-advocates-promotion-of-interest-of-afralo-increasing-its-voice-within-icann/>

- **ALS : DigitalSENSE Africa Media from Nigeria**

<https://www.itrealms.com.ng/2023/07/african-internet-community-mourns-late.html?m=1>

- **ALS : Tanzania Community Networks Alliance from Tanzania**

1. https://twitter.com/tz_cna/status/1685246244673798144?s=48&t=y32w7XBVzR-DV0Zhyk0uFA

2. https://twitter.com/tz_cna/status/1685332762285211648?s=48&t=y32w7XBVzR-DV0Zhyk0uFA

3. https://twitter.com/tz_cna/status/1685352338133864448?s=48&t=y32w7XBVzR-DV0Zhyk0uFA

- **ALS: E-Governance/Internet Governance Foundation for Africa (EGIGFA) from Ghana**

1. <https://twitter.com/egigfa/status/1685073779364397057?s=20>

2. <https://twitter.com/ghanasig/status/1685067622000250880?s=20>

3. https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0J13VEwLzEatk6USLNicnZMhSPKLygDvgVmZyZsrM8G7e8Uou47f9fs5PVj4Jvqnl&id=100072167255942&mibextid=Nif5oz

4. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/e-governance-and-internet-governance-foundation-for-africa_egigfa-afrafo-ghanasig-activity-7090837963781115904-L3fo?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android

- **ALS: ISOC MALI from Mali**

1. https://twitter.com/isocml/status/1685640670407516160?t=7kHNiraOV6yKAK7z_xV9RQ&s=19

2. <https://twitter.com/isocml/status/1685457149252521984?s=09>

3. https://twitter.com/isocml/status/1683437897511325696?t=qRaF8QY_6HxYTI5aVrvXjw&s=09

4. <https://twitter.com/isocml/status/1685732923742330880?t=O0ulUWPQ7EuG0Ts214PMjg&s=09>

- **ALS : ONG ACIEDD from Chad**

<https://www.facebook.com/100064472540791/posts/676806544478424/?mibextid=S40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

- **Others ALS to add ...**

13 - Lessons learned

- **Building trust:** The importance of fostering relationships and building trust among AFRALO members to strengthen their collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- **Keeping the community informed:** The significance of such meetings in keeping the community informed about policies that impact the region such as those related to skills development, the new gTLD applicant support program, Universal Acceptance of new Domain Names and Internationalized Domain Names among others.
- **Keeping the community engaged:** The GA underscored the importance of having an engaged AFRALO community. During the meeting the members discussed topics of interest to the RALO such as the challenges that AFRINIC currently faces, AFRALO Rules of Procedures (RoP) and measuring the engagement and participation of members for a more impactful RALO among others. The members reached consensus on the way forward on the topics discussed.
- **The significance of carrying out surveys:** Collecting input from the community about topics they deem significant for the community to discuss.

14 - Suggestions and Recommendations

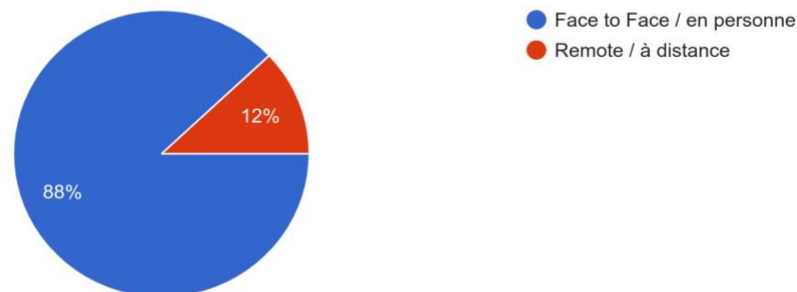
- Creating a feedback mechanism through which ALSs could gather input from Internet users and relay it back to ALAC and the ICANN community
- Identifying a framework for ALSs to engage with their local communities to raise awareness about ICANN related work and hot topics.
- Making efforts to include all members who wish to have more active roles within the RALO. This would start with outreach efforts followed by identifying members who would like to have more active roles. Those members would then typically be included in various working groups.
- Continuing with skills development programs. This could happen through various channels such as ICANN learn and coordination between the RALO and At-Large capacity building working group.

- Providing material to ALSs that they can easily share with their members and communities about topics of relevance to ICANN work. The material provided may include a range of topics such as technical recommendations, policy development issues among others. The material provided can take the form of videos, handouts, and various forms of online material that can be utilized across different online platforms.
- More ALS representatives and individual members should be encouraged to present and/or take leading roles on various activities at General Assemblies or during online webinars

15 - Post General Assembly Survey Report

AFRALO conducted a post General Assembly survey and we had 50 responses from our ALS representatives. Below are some of the feedback from the survey:

Mode of Participation / Participation
50 responses

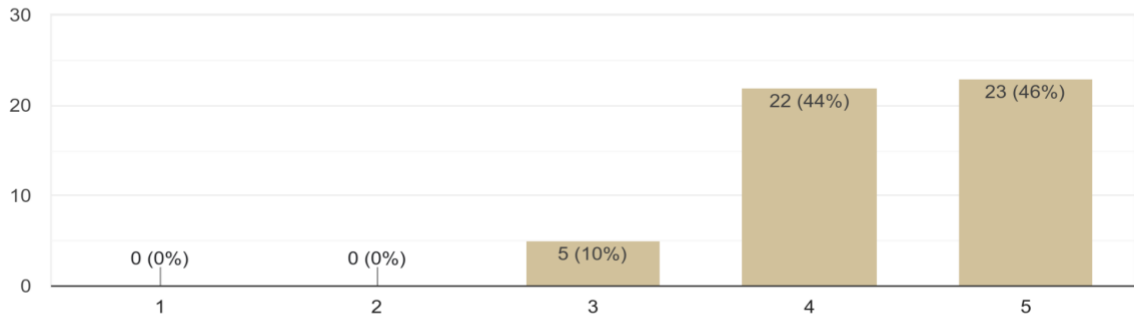


While the event was in an hybrid format we had more physical respondents. It is important to note that the Survey was sent to the ALS representatives so this may have impacted the outcome as most representatives were physically present. However we also had quite a number of remote participation during the sessions.

Other relevant indicators includes the following

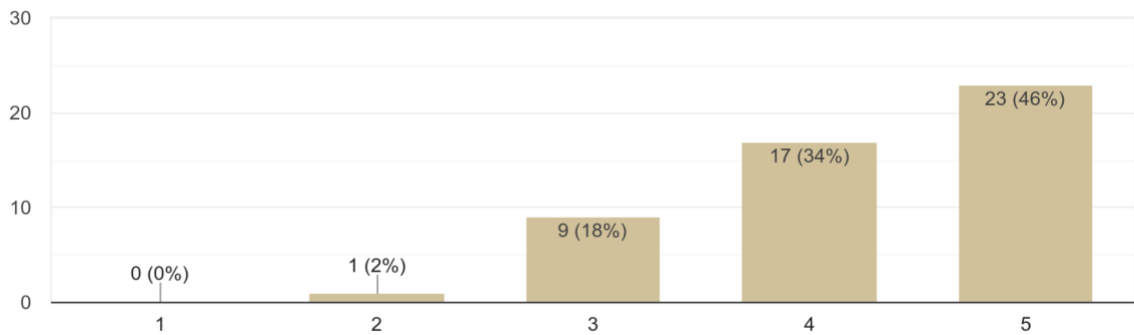
How satisfied were you with the event? / Dans quelle mesure étiez-vous satisfait de l'événement?

50 responses

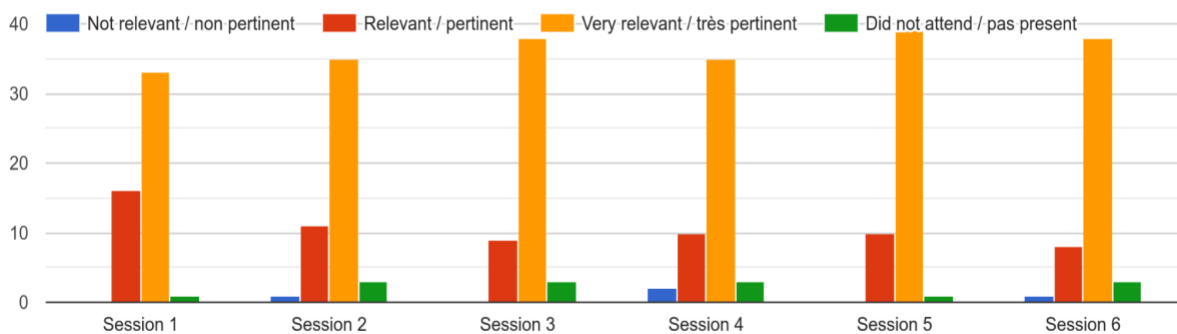


How satisfied were you with the session content? / Étiez-vous satisfait du contenu des sessions ?

50 responses



Which sessions did you find most relevant? / Quelles séances avez-vous trouvées les plus pertinentes ?



16 - Conclusion

The AFRALO General Assembly was a success since it bolstered the capability and participation of its members. The attendees gained greater knowledge about AFRALO's function and contribution to the ICANN community as well as strategies for improving their participation in working groups and policy making procedures.

It was a huge opportunity for AFRALO members to participate in the African Engagement Forum (AEF) scheduled for 25-26 July 2023 in Accra, Ghana.

The General Assembly gave members and other stakeholders a chance to connect, work together, and provide feedback.

The impact of ALSs in AFRALO was apparent during the AFRALO GA. The following aspects highlighted the significance of the ALSs in advocating for the interests of the Internet users within the ICANN community:

Inclusivity and diversity: The attendance of all AFRALO members, in person and remotely, 71 ALSs and individual members ensured inclusivity and diversity in coordinating the unique identifiers and other critical Internet resources. The participation of the representatives of the ALSs provided a space for individuals who may not be directly affiliated with any of the ICANN Stakeholder groups to participate in the discussions and decisions related to the Internet ecosystem in general. Allowing participants as well to discuss the needs of the continent.

Identifying, Amplifying and Raising Awareness: The presence of the ALSes at the AFRALO GA was an opportunity to advocate for new programs and initiatives that could benefit Africa such as the new gTLD program and other capacity building and scholarship programs offered by ICANN and other relevant organizations who took part in the meeting. It was also an opportunity to discuss how the ALSs could have a role in identifying and amplifying the continent's needs. Discussions included how to campaign for topics such as Universal Acceptance (UA) among others.

Networking: African ALSes successfully established connections and built trust among the AFRALO members, influencing potential collaboration and information sharing. This networking could lead to exchange of ideas and partnerships to address common challenges and consensus building on policies that yield beneficial outcomes for Africa.

Representation: The gathering of the African At-Large Structures at the Africa GA provided a platform for individual Internet users to have their voice heard through

their relative ALSs in ICANN policy-making processes. Raising the views and concerns of the Internet users on topics such as the Internet industry in Africa, the applicant support program, and scholarships among others.

Building the RALO: Discussions among the At-large structures included enhancing the competence and influence of the RALO. Topics discussed such as the AFRALO rules of procedures and how to measure the impact and effectiveness of the ALSs helped identify the way forward for a more impactful and inclusive RALO

Consensus Building: During the assembly members were able to reach consensus on topics of interest to the community such as the situation prevailing at AFRINIC. The participants received an update on the situation prevailing at AFRINIC from AFRINIC staff. There was collective agreement to draft a resolution to support endeavors to address the current challenges that AFRINIC faces. The drafting of the resolution started during the GA and was eventually ratified later by AFRALO in accordance with AFRALO rules.