

African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)

**OPERATING
PRINCIPLES**

The African Region agreed on the text of the AFRALO Operating Principles as approved at the meeting of 26 October 2009, further amended, and approved on December 13, 2021.

Part I: General

Part II: Membership

Part III: Management

Part IV: Decisions

Part V: Amendments and Dissolution

PART 1: GENERAL

The name of this organization shall be the African Regional At-Large Organization (hereinafter referred to as “AFRALO”)

1. Definitions:

In these Operating Principles the following definitions shall apply:

ALAC	.....	At-Large Advisory Committee
ALS	.....	At-Large Structure
AFRALO	.....	African Regional At-Large Organization.
ICANN	.....	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
RALO	.....	Regional At-Large Organization
Member	.....	A full member of the AFRALO

Region	Geographic Region as defined by ICANN
Provisional Member	The status of an organization that has applied for ALS status and is awaiting the accreditation decision. No ALS applicant shall be considered a Provisional Member where AFRALO has not provided favourable regional advice on applying to the ALAC.
Individual Member	Unaffiliated member out of any ALS, who has been certified according to the procedures set out in this document.
AFRALO Leadership	The officers of the RALO which are the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
AFRALO Extended Leadership	This consists of AFRALO Leadership, ALAC Members from the region, the ALAC NomCom Delegate representing the African Region, and any other AFRALO member who chairs a specific working group, role, or advisory capacity as agreed to by AFRALO from time to time.

2. Relationship with ICANN

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between AFRALO and ICANN in 2007 governs the relationship between the two parties..

3. Objectives:

3.1. to provide a forum and promote and encourage African Internet users' participation and involvement in ICANN in an effective, open, accountable, and transparent manner.

- 3.2. to promote, understand, and advocate for individual Internet users and to provide a forum for outreach, coordination, and exchange of information and knowledge for persons who live in the African region as defined herein.
- 3.3. act as a liaison between individual internet users and ICANN, and promote skills development and information exchange related to the internet among members.
- 3.4. to encourage Internet users in developing countries in Africa to participate in AFRALO.
- 3.5. select two individuals to represent AFRALO members on the ALAC, as outlined in the AFRALO-ICANN MOU.

PART II: MEMBERSHIP

AFRALO shall have two membership categories; At-Large Structures (ALSs) and Individual Members

4. Membership

At-Large Structures (ALSs) Membership

- 4.1. All organizations are considered ALSes if they are accredited by ALAC.
- 4.2. All ALSes in the AFRICAN region shall be Members of the AFRALO.

ALS Responsibilities

AFRALO encourages ALS members to actively participate in AFRALO activities and to contribute to the fulfillment of AFRALO's objectives. Specific ALS responsibilities may include:

- Promoting AFRALO and its activities to its members and stakeholders.
- Identifying and addressing the needs of at-large internet users within their constituency.
- Participating in AFRALO discussions and decision-making processes.
- Collaborating with other ALS members and Individual Members within AFRALO.
- Contributing to the development of the at-large community in Africa.

In addition to the general responsibilities outlined above, AFRALO will collaborate with and draw guidance from the [ICANN Bylaws, Article XII, Section \(d\)\(i-ix\)](#).

Obtaining ALS Membership

Organizations interested in becoming ALAC-accredited ALSs within the African region should refer to the ALS Accreditation Guidance published by the ALAC (<https://atlarge.icann.org/get-involved/about-als>)

Individual Membership

- 4.3 Any Internet end user within the AFRALO region may become an AFRALO individual member but must not be a Representative or a Leader of an ALS to any RALO.
- 4.4. There shall be no limit as to the number of Members of the AFRALO.
- 4.5. All Members and any participant interested in getting involved with AFRALO shall be entitled to attend and participate at all meetings and be entitled to access information via a publicly accessed World Wide Web site maintained by AFRALO.
- 4.6. All Members shall be entitled to participate in AFRALO mailing lists.
- 4.7. The AFRALO individual member must submit an affirmation to At-Large Staff indicating that they meet the following criteria:
 - Being a resident or citizen of one of the African countries/territories
 - Accepting the AFRALO Operating Principles and the ALAC RoP
 - Must not be a Representative or a Leader of an ALS in AFRALO
 - Be willing to be subscribed to the AFRI-Discuss mailing list

- An understanding of, and interest in, supporting and advocating for the needs of non-technical and non-industry individual Internet users as they relate to ICANN's mandate.

You can find the application form and more information on the AFRALO website or by contacting the AFRALO Secretariat.

Member Rights and Responsibilities

5.8 AFRALO Individual Member must agree to follow all the AFRALO rules:

- An AFRALO Individual Member must submit a Statement of Interest (SoI). Please see <https://community.icann.org/display/atlarge/At-Large+New+SOIs+Workspace> for reference
- An AFRALO Individual Member must affirm his/her interest in learning about and/or participating in ICANN's policy processes and/or other related/relevant activities

Ceasing to meet any of the aforementioned section 5 requirements affects the processing of the application.

5.9. The AFRALO Individual members are encouraged to collaborate closely with AFRALO ALSes in their country of residence, where there is an ALS present.

5.10. The Individual members participate in all the AFRALO activities including but

not limited to:

5.10a Attending the AFRALO face-to-face and virtual meetings

5.10b Participating in and/or initiating debates

5.10c Proposing views, activities, or projects

5.10 d AFRALO individual members shall have the right to vote when required and the following rules shall apply:

- Votes of individual members shall be conducted independently from ALS votes
- Individual members shall select a representative yearly before the ICANN Public Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the purpose of casting their representative vote in AFRALO election processes.
- The term of the selected individual members representative shall commence at the end of the ICANN AGM
- The term of the current individual members representative shall end by the end of the ICANN AGM
- ICANN Staff shall facilitate the voting exercise including call for nominations in coordination with AFRALO leadership.
- Each individual member shall be entitled to cast one vote
- The total Individual members' vote shall be equivalent to a single ALS
- The representative of the individual members shall then cast the single vote, in a given AFRALO election process, based on the outcome of the individual members internal voting.

Withdrawal of Membership

5.11 An AFRALO Individual Member may have her/his membership withdrawn at her/his own request or by a decision of AFRALO Leadership.

5.11 a. If an AFRALO Individual Member voluntarily gives up her/his

membership status, this should be duly documented and AFRALO Leadership informed. It is the responsibility of the AFRALO Chair to ensure that proper procedures have been followed and to ratify that the AFRALO Individual Member no longer has membership status.

5.11b. A request for AFRALO to withdraw of the individual membership - may be raised by:

- AFRALO Leadership.
- One or more ALS Representatives or RALO Individual Members through a request to the AFRALO officers.
- At-Large Staff by notification of the ALAC Chair. Staff notification will generally come when Staff becomes aware of an AFRALO Individual Member who is no longer willing or able to meet her/his obligations.

5.11 c. If the withdrawal request is caused by an AFRALO Individual Member moving to a different geographic region, the member must be informed of the possibility to apply for At-Large membership in the new region.

5.12 d. Any request to withdraw membership status not voluntarily requested by the AFRALO Individual Member shall be accompanied by a rationale for such request.

The AFRALO Individual Member should be notified of the request and given an adequate opportunity of at least 6 months

to answer the request and to remedy the situation. This will be done by the AFRALO Secretariat in collaboration with ICANN At-Large Staff.

- A record of all communications, attempted communications, and reminders must be maintained. The record will also document the rationale for the request to withdraw membership status.

5.11e. At-Large records should maintain the history of AFRALO Individual Members who have had their membership withdrawn.

5.11 f. Besides permanent withdrawal, the AFRALO Individual Membership status can be put on hold following circumstances of a temporary nature like the member becoming an ALS representative or a member of an ALS Leadership.

5.12 **Privacy**

AFRALO Individual Members may exercise their right to privacy by withholding their consent to being listed on AFRALO's Individual Membership web page in accordance with ICANN's personal data protection procedures

Next Date of review

5.13. The AFRALO individual membership section issue may be reviewed by or before 4 years of its formal adoption and implementation by AFRALO.

PART III: MANAGEMENT

6. Officers

The officers of AFRALO are a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and a Secretariat.

6.1 The Chairperson shall be elected by the Members of AFRALO and shall serve a term of office of two years.

He or she shall act as Chairperson at all AFRALO Meetings, coordinate the AFRALO activities, and represent the AFRALO in its dealings with outside entities.

6.2 The vice-chairperson shall be elected by the Members of AFRALO and shall serve a term of office of two years.

He or she shall assist the Chair and assume his/her responsibilities when unavailable.

6.3 The Secretariat shall be elected by the Members of AFRALO and shall serve a term of office of two years.

He or she shall deal with all questions concerning the administration of the Organization.

He or she shall particularly prepare the AFRALO meetings agenda in close collaboration with the Chairperson and deal with the membership applications.

He or she shall also manage actively the AFRALO mailing list(s), and disseminate AFRALO and ICANN-related news, and requests for comments on any policy development issues to AFRALO members through the mailing list(s) in a timely manner

- 6.4 For the first election, and as an exceptional disposition, the secretary shall be elected for a term of office of one single year to allow an overlap of one year between the term of the Chairperson and the Vice Chair and the Secretary one.
- 6.5 No one of the officer positions mentioned above can be held by the same person for more than 2 consecutive terms of office.
- 6.6 All the officers of AFRALO should work closely with ICANN staff to achieve AFRALO objectives.
- 6.7 The election of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, and the Secretariat of AFRALO shall be held simultaneously to the process of election of the AFRALO Representatives on the ALAC.
- 6.8 The selection process of AFRALO representatives to ALAC is as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding between AFRALO and ICANN and as provided by the Bylaws of ICANN.
- 6.9 The duties of the Officers of the AFRALO shall be as determined by the Members as they may decide from time to time by the majority of a quorum.
- 6.10 If a vacancy occurs amongst those positions referenced in this Part III a replacement shall be elected to fill the remainder of the term by a simple majority of a quorum of the Members of AFRALO.

Conflict of Interest

AFRALO officers and members are expected to avoid conflicts of interest in their roles.

AFRALO Committees

AFRALO may establish standing or ad-hoc committees to address specific issues or undertake ongoing tasks.

PART IV: DECISIONS

7. Meetings

7.1 The AFRALO shall hold once every year an Annual General Meeting, in addition to any other meetings in that calendar year, and not more than fifteen (15) months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting and that of the next.

7.2 The Annual General Meeting or a Meeting shall be held at a venue accessible to all members physically and/or electronically and shall be called by the Chairperson with at least thirty (30) days' notice, said notice specifying the time, date and venue of the Meeting and a draft agenda.

7.3 A quorum at any Annual General Meeting or Meeting shall be one third (1/3) of the Members, or seven (7) members, whichever shall be greater. The quorum for any vote of the members, whether held during a Meeting or at any other time, shall be a simple majority of the whole Membership, excepting as provided in Clause 7.5. below.

7.4 The Secretariat shall announce the results of any decision that has been made to the entire membership within 4 days maximum using the AFRALO mailing list.

7.5 At any meeting where at least one half (1/2) of members are present, a motion to amend, change, or repeal the Operating Principles may be initiated. Two-thirds of the whole membership must consent for the motion to carry.

7.6 All Meetings shall be public.

8. Decision Making

8.1 Unless otherwise specified herein, to the extent possible all decisions shall be made by consensus; if a consensus cannot be reached then a vote shall be held. Only those ALSes that have been accredited prior to the opening of a vote shall have voting rights. Each accredited ALS will have one (1) vote. In case of equal votes, the President has the casting vote.

8.2 Where a vote is held, it may be carried out using such electronic and or on-line means (including web applications, e-mail and/or video or tele-conferencing) as determined appropriate by the members.

PART IV: AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLUTION

9. Amendments

These Operating Principles may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership following proper notification of the proposed amendment

Dissolution

- 9.1 AFRALO may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership if:
 - 9.1.1. it is determined the objectives of AFRALO have been achieved and its existence is no longer necessary, or.
 - 9.1.2. it is determined that AFRALO will no longer be able to function effectively, or.
 - 9.1.3. The structure of the At-Large community in ICANN is modified in such a manner that Regional At-Large Organizations no longer exist in the Bylaws of ICANN.
- 9.2 A motion for dissolution may be passed at a General Meeting provided notice of the intent to move for Dissolution is given to all Members 90 days before the Meeting is held.
- 9.3 Any motion for dissolution must provide for the disposal of any assets of AFRALO