

AFRALO Universal Acceptance DAY 2024; Session 2

GSE AFRICA Update



23 May 2024

Universal Acceptance in Africa Regional Plan

- ICANN org's first Africa strategy was drafted in 2012 by the Africa Strategy Working Group (ASWG) and adopted by the community in 2013 during the "Multistakeholder Internet Governance and the Domain Name System (DNS) Industry in Africa (MIGWORKS)" event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- We now have an Africa Regional plan aligned on the ICANN Strategic Plan FY21-25

In 3.3 Unique Identifiers System

Many of the upcoming Internet users will be from Africa. This could lead to significant growth of users and more demands on the Internet's unique identifiers.

In 3.3.1 Strategic Objective Evolve the unique identifiers system in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties to continue serving the needs of the global Internet users

In 3.3.2 Regional Goals

- Raise awareness about Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and encourage the development of script-specific Label Generation Rules (LGR) for integration into the Root Zone LGR in Africa.

In 3.3.3 Targeted Outcomes

- Increased number of systems that are Universal Acceptance (UA) ready, with Email Address Internationalization (EAI) systems configured. [Statistics iii](#)
- Increased number of Universal Acceptance ambassadors in the region: [3 ambassadors today](#)

Universal Acceptance in Africa Regional Plan (2)

- **In 3.3.4 Action Steps**

- Raise awareness on UA and IDNs through local initiatives in collaboration with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG).

GSE Africa and AFRALO UA activities

- ❑ Support to the AFRALO Statement on UA
- ❑ Participation in AFRALO UA Project 2022
- ❑ Participation in UA DAY events organized by ALSes

❑ Universal Acceptance readiness in Academia

Project started in April 2023 with two tracks

- UA Readiness in Academic institutions
 - Email systems, Websites
- UA modules in Academic Curricula
- Support to a project coordinator at AAU

❑ Activities

- F2F Workshops
- Online Webinars
- Tests on systems

Universal Acceptance project under the Coalition for Digital Africa

Rabat UA Workshop as Part of the implementation plan for FY24

- 35 participants from and tThree key sessions
 - General introduction (Nabil Benamar)
 - Curricula (Sarmad Hussain)
 - Universities will introduce module
 - System readiness (Arnt)
 - Increase in number of systems ready
 - Need of more test in Wordpress
 - Universities need

- Ongoing activities
 - Preparing for introduction of modules in Universities
 - Webinar for volunteers to test on WordPress
 - Scheduling 1:1 test sessions
 - Daily engagement with Universities

CONCLUSION

- Hope a Strategy that could be implemented
- Collaboration