Ref: DCA 13.11.2010

13 November 2010

Internet Corporation For Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)
AtLarge Structure
ALAC Chair and Distinguished members of
The At-Large Board Candidate Evaluation Committee (BCEC)

Sub: DotConnectAfrica Outline Comment re: Mr. Pierre Dandjinou's board nomination

Dear Members,

Mr. Peirre Dandjinou is one of three short listed candidates for ICANN Board Membership representing the "At Large Community".

Our organization DotConnectAfrica (DCA) (www.dotconnectafrica.com) intends to apply for the gTLD for Africa in the upcoming application round.

The Candidate has been credited with giving his consent and contributions as well as leadership position with another gTLD proposals **dotafrica,org** and more recently as chairman **audotafrica@google.com** taskforce herein exhibited in the link below.

a) Dotafrica.org: http://www.scribd.com/doc/41348134/Document-1B-BCEC#fullscreen:on
b) audotafrica@google: http://www.scribd.com/doc/42164360/Document-BCEC-1B#fullscreen:on

DCA is totally opposed to the Applicant's gaining board membership due to this conflict of interest, **which is not even disclosed in his Statement of Interest**. Link to his SOI.
https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/2265195/At-Large+Director+Applicant+-+Pierre+Dandjinou.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1288326126000

In our opinion he should not have agreed to be considered given his close links and involvement with an organization that intends to apply for the dotafrica TLD.

We have prepared a *document outlining in eight key points* the experience of our organization in dealing with the candidate and persons/groups with which he is closely associated. These points are in the main, backed up by material sourced from websites, discussion groups, email exchanges and institutional reports. **In summary these 8 points** are in the table below and the **detailed document is on the web site** at the following link **DCA website www.dotconnectafrica.org re: ICANN BOARD VOTE FOR SEAT 15.**

No.	ATTRIBUTE	DESCRIPTION
1	Bias, **Conflict of Interest**	**2007 Lisbon:** In his position of Chairman of an AfriICANN meeting the candidate blocked presentation of DotAfrica Initiative whilst in support of another group.
2	Non-Transparency, **Conflict of Interest**	**2007 Lisbon:** Candidate promoted DotAfrica.org as the proposed model for gTLD for Africa having excluded alternate presentations
3	**Conflict of Interest**	**2007/2008 AfriICANN Email Thread:** Candidate continued to support another dot Africa initiative
4	Obstruction of other voices	**2010 AfrICANN Email group:** DCA's excluded from AfriICANN discussion forum which is sponsored by AfriNIC.
5	Prejudice, **Conflict of Interest**	**2010 Nairobi:** Candidate publicly supported his dotafrica initiative through reference to the concept paper on which it is based.
6	**Conflict of Interest**, Attacking	**2010 Nairobi:** Candidate contributed directly to a particularly aggressive discussion on Kictanet that attempted to destroy DCA's initiative. He characterized

	Competitors through email lists, misleading	it as a "pure and pale copy of the original one" (sic DotAfrica.Org). This series of exchanges was an irresponsible use of an internet forum and set a bad example for the less experienced and younger members.
7	Inconsistencies, Inaction, misleading, **Conflict of interest:**	**2010 Nairobi:** Candidate claimed in the Kictanet group email discussion that "all current african Internet related organizations" supported the original model he was championing. This indicates a narrow view of what constitutes the internet constituency and is at odds with AtLarge Board Member should cover.
8	Oversigting Governance issues, misrepresentation, **Conflict of interest:**	**2006-2010 Nairobi:** Candidate continues to promote a single version of the gTLD for Africa.

The table below list those criteria for board membership that we believe are relevant to the The Candidate.

Additionally, we note the following comment already raised by EURELO: "ICANN should establish a formal mechanisms for identifying the collective skill-set required by the ICANN Board including such skills as public policy, finance, strategic planning, corporate governance, negotiation, and dispute resolution. Emphasis should be placed upon ensuring the Board has the skills and experience to effectively provide oversight of ICANN operations consistent with the global public interest and deliver best practice in corporate governance."

No.	Criteria	Comment: The references corresponded to the table above.
1	Accomplished persons of integrity, objectivity, and intelligence, with reputations for sound judgment and open minds, and a demonstrated capacity for thoughtful group decision-making;	We make no comment on personal character. However the barriers that have been places in our way suggest closed rather than open mind and non-inclusive decision making. **Ref .above: 1,2,6**
2	Board members are expected to meet specific conduct and conflict-of-interest criteria	We do not suggest that the Candidate will benefit personally however his promotion of one model over another may give the appearance of a COI. **Ref:1,3,7,8**
3	A track record of working to build consensus with a diverse set of interests working together on complex policy issues	He may have given the appearance of consensus within the Afri* but this does not represent the full range of stakeholders. **Ref :1,2,4, 7**
4	Independence from the ICANN stakeholders whose financial situation is significantly impacted by ICANN decisions.	As an immediate past Chairman of AfriNIC and a contributor to DotAfrica.org he has links to organizations that will be impacted financially by ICANN decisions. **Ref 5,8**

Without casting aspersions against his personal character or professional competence the clear conflict that could arise during this critical submission with respect to the Africa gTLD means that he should not be considered as a candidate.

We recognize that ICANN depends on consensus and constituent input and wish to assure you that we have a significant following in Africa as evidenced by the information contained on our own web site and numerous national and international publications. It is against this background that we speak both for ourselves and our many supporters to request that the Candidate not be considered for board membership at least until the dotAfrica gTLD is finalized.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in the process. We wish all Candidates every success in the future.

DotConnectAfrica organization,
www.dotconnectafrica