

Statement of the ICANN African Community participating in the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting during ICANN46 in Beijing, China

Wednesday 10 April 2013

We, the members of the African community participating in the 46th ICANN International Public Meeting in Beijing, have debated on Wednesday 10 April 2013 during the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting the possibility of establishing a fund for the development of the Internet for developing countries, declare what follow:

- We highly appreciate the efforts made by ICANN during the past years for its internationalization and its willingness to integrate developing countries in all its activities and projects;
- We welcome the willingness, commitment and involvement of the new direction of ICANN to ensure the participation of Africa in the global Internet governance in general and the Domain Names industry in particular;
- We highly appreciate efforts made by the African Community with the help of ICANN to develop and start implementation of the Africa Strategy for better engagement and real development of the Domain Names Market in the continent.

Whereas previous initiatives will not only empower Africa for better participation in the ICANN ecosystem and its policy development process, but also help the continent develop its Domain Names Industry, we call for the **creation of a development fund to help developing countries in general and African countries in particular** to achieve this goal. This development fund while remaining global and open will mainly help achieve the following objectives:

- Providing technical and financial support for the Accreditation of more ICANN Accredited Registrars from African and developing economies;
- Supporting experience sharing and transfer of knowledge between most experienced and successful registrars and newcomers (newly accredited registrars) to the domain name market;
- The organization of activities of information, communication, awareness and training on the new gTLD program and the applicant support program implemented for those who need assistance in the application and the operation of a new gTLD;
- The promotion and support of capacity building activities for the better understanding of the domain name industry and its role in the development of the digital economy;
- Supporting the development of African based registries and registrars in technical, marketing and communication aspects;
- The design and organization of training courses, capacity building program at the local level on the Open Internet Governance using all appropriate tools (on site and online);
- Supporting the adoption of the Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance model by all Internet development structures in Africa and sharing of best practices;
- Continue supporting the participation of more Africans and fellows from developing world in all ICANN's activities.