

Port Louis, Mauritius
29, August 2012

To the CEO of ICANN

At the 44th ICANN meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, the Board, the incoming CEO, the CEO and ICANN management met with members of the African community present at the meeting. The incoming CEO requested the African group to develop a 3 year strategic plan with clear goals for Africa. The strategic plan for Africa should address ICANN presence in Africa, African participation, contribution and representation in ICANN.

Consultations within the African community, and subsequent interactions with ICANN management, led to the formation of the Africa Strategy Working Group (ASWG) composed of nine members. The nine members were selected to ensure ICANN constituency diversity and sub-regional balance.

The Africa Strategy Working Group conducted a retreat in Mauritius from 27-28 August 2012, to brainstorm on a knowledge base derived from its primary outreach and input from the community, ICANN Strategic plan for 2012-2015 and facts on the African Internet ecosystem. While striving to align with ICANN's strategic plan framework, the group reflected on the African context and reaffirmed that Africa deserved a specific treatment, if the region is to harness the benefits of ICT, the Internet and the overall ICANN delivery. The group believes Africa must develop its domain name industry and associated businesses, while ensuring meaningful participation and contribution to ICANN and the overall Internet governance process.

The Mauritius retreat generated a good basis for the strategy development: strategic objectives, strategic projects and key impact measures were retained and agreed upon; a communication and outreach plan was designed in a view to further engage with the community. The initial draft of the strategic plan will be presented at the upcoming ICANN meeting in Toronto.

By developing an ICANN Africa strategy, ICANN will be investing in its necessary internationalization and inclusiveness as well as benefiting from an improvement in its operations, perception, image and legitimacy in Africa.

The group values ICANN and AFRINIC support which has enabled it to produce preliminary material, the quality of which will continuously be increased on the way to the Toronto meeting and beyond.

This group therefore wishes to thank ICANN CEO and management team for its foresight which initiated the working group, and have sent high level representatives of ICANN, Dr Tarek Kamel and Ray Plzak to contribute to the working group's deliberations; the group is finally thankful to AfriNIC CEO and management staff, which facilitated organization and tenure of the retreat.

Warmest regards

The Africa strategic Working Group

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Maimouna Diop Diagne
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