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# Global Stakeholder Engagement

## Regional Activity Report

**Region:** Africa

**Event Title:** Launch: Africa Engagement Office

**Date:** 05/24/16

**Organization Hosting Event:** ICANN

**Activity Type:** Regional Event

**City:** Nairobi

**Country:** Kenya

**Event Category:** Business Event; DNS Industry Event

**Event Topics:** Other

**Audience Size:** 150-250

### **Staff Report**

**Staff Attending:** Bob Ochieng; Luna Madi; Pierre Dandjinou; Sally Costerton; Tarek Kamel; Yaovi Atohoun

**Participation:** Presentation/Speaking-Other Staff/Board; Bi-Lateral(s)

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## Discussions Held

On May 24, 2016, The ICANN Engagement Office was formally launched in Nairobi Kenya following the announcement of the decision by the ICANN board chair in ICANN 55 held in Marrakech Morocco.

Our global leaders, Tarek Kamel and Sally Costerton together with Luna Madi were kind enough to join the Africa staff in this occasion which was also attended by ICANN board member – Mike Silber.

This significant milestone in the ICANN globalization agenda was also attended by notable Internet community members from across Africa including African SO / AC leaders from GAC, AFRALO, NCUC Af\* & I\*. Distinguished early Internet pioneers like Prof Nii Quaynor and Mouhamet Diop, Mary Uduma amongst others were all present representing the African community.

The hospitality, participation and warm reception by the government of Kenya led by the Minister for ICT, Hon. Joe Mucheru (Who had actually invited the Deputy President to preside) was notable and significantly contributed to the huge success and attendance of the overall Kenyan Internet community, a testament to their goodwill, enthusiasm not only in welcoming and working with ICANN, but also their keenness in fully and effectively participating within the ICANN going forward. (180 participants attended the launch against our plans for only 100.)

The telecoms regulator, (Communications Authority of Kenya) under the leadership of the DG, Eng. Francis Wangusi working with ICANN Africa staff, went out of their way to ensure proper coordination of the overall government of Kenya participation. It is worth noting that the regulator fully paid for a 2-page print media supplement which captioned various messages of goodwill and welcome from the Minister of ICT, the Chair of the Board of the Regulator, the DG and the ICANN VP for Africa. The supplement was carried on one of the major daily newspapers in Kenya “**The Standard** - <http://standardmedia.co.ke/>”. The regulator also facilitated transport and security arrangements for the ICANN GLs and later hosted the visiting ICANN team and other representatives from the African community, SO / AC leaders to a networking lunch. This demonstrated the cordial working relationship and partnership in Africa, that we have continued to build with various stakeholders, especially governments on the need to understand and participate in ICANN.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> 2016, a number of bilateral meetings were attended by the ICANN GLs and staff starting with the Regulator, the ministry of ICT and finally a joint press briefing and press release at the Ministry of ICT that was attended by major media in Kenya and Africa. The press brief was led by the Minister of ICT and also attended by the regulator, ICANN staff and Mike Silber from the board. During this brief, Sally reiterated ICANN’s commitment to Africa while

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Tarek stressed why government participation in ICANN is so important noting the over 160 GAC members currently and the ongoing IANA transition.

## **Staff Observations**

### **Key Outcomes**

- Commitment by government to support and work with ICANN (Continue actively participating in ICANN) going forward.
- The government promised to coordinate with ICANN Africa staff to ensure longer term VISA's are issued starting with the Africa staff not from Kenya
- Confidence by the African community at large on ICANN's commitment to globalization and specifically to Africa
- Both the .KE operator and the Regulator are ready to host an L-Root.
- The Africa team will soon hire an assistant to support the team with logistics and communications as well as to administer the office.
- Africa team will now develop an action plan for the office to ensure the presence of the office impacts our engagement

