

03 October 2024

Hadia Elminiawi  
Chair, African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)

RE: Joint AFRALO-AFRICANN ICANN79 Statement entitled " Artificial Intelligence (IA) & AI-powered tools in the service of DNS management in Africa: Opportunities, Challenges and impacts"-

Dear Ms. Hadia Elminiawi,

This to confirm receipt of your [letter](#) of information on the Statement discussed at the ICANN79 meeting, entitled "Artificial Intelligence (AI) & AI-powered tools in the service of DNS management in Africa: Opportunities, Challenges and Impacts."

The Board would like to congratulate you for this initiative and has carefully considered your set of recommendations with the organization and the ICANN community.

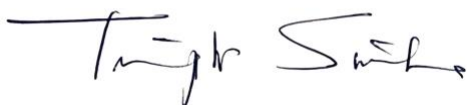
I would like to inform you that while machine learning is not a new phenomenon, ICANN continually monitors its evolution to assess its potential applications in our environment. We use machine learning to build research models to address specific questions, without replacing human interaction or actions. Thus, we employ it to achieve our objectives.

One subset of machine learning, known as "Generative Artificial Intelligence" (GenAI), is receiving significant attention across various industries. ICANN closely observes the emergence and development of technologies, including machine learning. We are primarily concerned with two key questions: How will these technologies enhance or disrupt our business processes, and how will they impact the Internet's identifiers and ICANN's mission?

ICANN's focus lies in supporting permissionless innovation while ensuring the security, stability, and resilience of the global Internet identifier system that we coordinate.

The governance of AI falls outside our remit, except when AI itself poses concerns for us, specifically in relation to the maintenance and existence of a unified global domain name space. To date, we have not encountered such issues, and at this time, other technologies appear to pose more significant threats to our mission, although this situation may change in the future.

Sincerely,



Tripti Sinha  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

cc : Sally Costerton, Interim President & CEO, ICANN