

Statement of the African ICANN community participating in the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting in Los Angeles on “IANA Stewardship transition and ICANN Accountability seen by the African Community”

Wednesday, 15 October 2014

We, the members of the African community participating in the 51st ICANN International Public Meeting in Los Angeles (California, USA), have debated on Wednesday 15 October 2014 during the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting the issue of “IANA Stewardship transition and ICANN Accountability seen by the African Community”.

Taking into account inputs from the larger African internet community, we declare what follow:

- We welcome the request from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to ICANN to “convene a multi-stakeholder process to develop a plan to transition the U.S. government stewardship role” with regard to the IANA Functions and related root zone management;
- In view of the NTIA announcement, the ICANN accountability and the IANA stewardship transition are interrelated. We understand the challenges faced by the ICANN to ensure broad community support and meet the principles specified by the NTIA and at the same time enhancing ICANN accountability and we appreciate ICANN’s efforts towards that end.
- We welcome the willingness, commitment and involvement of the new direction of ICANN to ensure the participation of Africa in all aspects of the global Internet governance;
- We call for a bottom up prepared process for the ICANN accountability and governance to ensure that it is community driven.
- We believe that, for an effective participation from the African internet community, an effort towards awareness raising and capacity building about IANA functions and facilitation of the engagement of the African community in the process through the operational community channels (naming, numbering, protocol parameters) is drastically needed.
- The African Internet community requests the operational communities (naming, numbering and protocol), the IANA Coordination Group "ICG" and the accountability coordination Group to ensure that the opinions of Internet community in Africa and other developing regions of the world are considered when they participate in the proposal development.
- The AFRALO and AfrICANN community invites all the African Internet community stakeholders to actively engage and participate in the IANA Stewardship transition and the ICANN Accountability and Governance processes

We believe that with due consideration of those recommendations, ICANN will better succeed the multi-stakeholder process of preparing the IANA Stewardship transition proposal and the ICANN accountability enhancement, in line with its principles of inclusiveness and bottom-up decision making.