

**Statements of the African ICANN  
community(Brussels to Durban)**

**Durban, July 2013**

## Support for new gTLD applicants Statement of the African ICANN community

Brussels, 22 June 2010

The ICANN Board resolved at its Nairobi meeting (Resolution 20) that *“The Board requests stakeholders to work through their SOs and ACs, and form a Working Group to develop a sustainable approach to providing support to applicants requiring assistance in applying and operating new gTLDs .”*

The Members of the African Community, consisting of the AFRALO and the AfrICANN, attending the 38<sup>th</sup> ICANN meeting in Brussels, jointly discussed the possible support to be given to new gTLD applicants in Africa, who need assistance in applying for, and operating the gTLDs. As members of the community, we:

- Welcome the Board resolution 20 related to the support for Applicants requesting assistance in applying for and operating new gTLDs.
- Express our gratitude to the Board members for their consideration of the community concerns about the cost of applying for new gTLDs that might hinder applicants, especially those from developing countries.
- Strongly believe that entrepreneur applicants from African countries, where the market is not wide enough for a reasonable profit making industry, are eligible for support.
- Deem that Civil society, NGOs and non for profit organizations in Africa are the most in need of such support, because they have a deep impact in society since they work at the grass-root level.
- Believe that support is of utmost importance for geographic, cultural linguistic, and more generally community based applications..
- Urge that support to new gTLD applicants in Africa be prioritised since this support will be an incitement for new aspirants to come forward and apply for new gTLDs.
- Believe that the support to be provided to applicants of new gTLDs in Africa should include, but is not limited to the following:
  - Financial, by reducing the application and the on-going fees,
  - Linguistic, by translating all the application documents, especially the Applicant Guidebook, in the six UN languages,
  - Legal, by assisting the applicants in preparing their applications properly,
  - Technical, by
    - helping the applicants to define the infrastructure options,
    - Addressing the issue of infrastructure problems in some African countries; such as IPV6, internet connectivity etc.
- Strongly support that cost reduction is the key element in fulfilling the goals of ICANN Board’s Resolution 20 within the principles of the recovery of the application and on-going costs.
- Propose that the following be entertained to achieve cost reduction:
  - Waiving the cost of Program Development (\$26k),
  - Waiving the Risk/Contingency cost (\$60k).
  - Lowering the application cost (\$100k)
  - Waiving the Registry fixed fees (\$25k per calendar year), and charge the Registry-Level

Transaction Fee only (\$0.25 per domain name registration or renewal).

- Propose that the reduced cost be paid incrementally, which will give the African applicants more time to raise money, and investors will be more encouraged to fund an application that passes the initial evaluation.
- Believe that African communities apply for new gTLDs according to an appropriate business model taking into consideration the realities of the African region. ICANN's commitment towards supporting gTLD applicants in Africa will be a milestone to the development of the overall Internet community in Africa
- Since Africa is disadvantaged and lagging behind due to the digital divide, we strongly suggest that ICANN provides supplementary support and additional cost reduction for gTLDs applications from African countries.

***Brussels, 22 June 2010***

## Cartagena Statement of the African ICANN community about the support for African participation in ICANN policy development processes

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Cartagena, December 2010

The African community through AFRALO and AFRICANN is concerned about its lack of effective participation in the main activities of ICANN as internet users.

The commitment and the participation of the different parts of the community require knowledge of the issues being discussed. In order to improve the quality of the participation, it is important to explain the meaning and the limits of ICANN's mandate, the stakes and the impact sought for.

A major awareness campaign at local and regional levels would be a first step towards a due capacity building program for a meaningful participation

Participation can be done by many and different means. They include email discussion lists, teleconferences, fora, videoconferences, electronic votes, wikis, blogs as well as face-to-face meetings in respective languages

For online participation, it is important to have a calendar that establishes the timing for community input. This calendar would allow more effective planning and optimal engagement of the community.

Even as we celebrate the diverse methods and tools available, we recognize that many challenges remain to be overcome for effective participation of users at the edge. Some are entirely technical and will improve with time.

Others, however, will require means and commitment to improvement in interactions from all stakeholders, users included.

Volunteered work is not very sustainable in Africa due to the necessity to make a living and institutions are unwilling to continue to cover the cost of their staff on volunteer assignments. The challenge is to have many motivated African experts to participate in a regular and effective way.

Therefore, we, AFRALO and AFRICANN members, recommend to call for support from development agencies, private sector and other potential actors to facilitate African participation to ICANN policy development processes.

We acknowledge that the ICANN fellowship program is supporting the participation from developing economies. Henceforth we urge the ICANN Board consider the following:

- The number of fellowships from African Regions should be increased,
- Recognizing that the present form of capacity building has not produced the desired outcome, a more proactive approach needs to be adopted:
- Policy advocates and students' needs to be identified and recruited in a manner that is sustainable.
- Advocates should be situated and employed on a part-time basis in existing policy institutions or think tanks that are already engaged in local and global internet policy.
- In their capacity as staff, they will be responsible for policy making locally, nationally and regionally and will engage internationally in policy making fora such as the IGF, ICANN, ISOC and other global policy arena.
- This function requires support from development agencies who are concerned about the dearth of African policy makers locally and in the international arena. Support for this sort of initiative must be protracted and sustained over a period of time rather than the current approach of facilitating developing country participation at conferences and international policy for a travel support.

- Policy advocates must act as bridges between their countries/regions and the international policy forum. Their host institutions must act as bridging institutions in the same capacity as the advocates.
- This dual policy vehicle of person and institution will ensure sustained policy development if it is developed and deployed in the different regions in the continent. For institutions such as ICANN, they provide value and leverage where engagement, direct and immediate responses are required for certain policy situations.
- If this model gathers the support of ICANN, it can seek the partnership and support from other institutions such as APC, Kictanet, IISD or AfriNIC to host policy advocates for a period using an internship framework. Policy advocates can also spend certain periods at places like ICANN or the IGF secretariat.

***Cartagena, December 2010***

## STATEMENT OF THE ICANN AFRICAN COMMUNITY ON ICANN GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS REVIEW

San Francisco, Wednesday 16 March 2011

We, African community members attending the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting held on Wednesday 16 March 2011 in San Francisco, appreciate the work done by the geographic regions review working group and the key questions raised during this exercise.

We do think that there are no international norms to be followed (for example UNDP, ECOSOC, ITU council, ITU BDT, ITU BT, and ITU BR use different norms), and thus the best geographic regions for ICANN will be those that reflect the most the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision-making.

We also believe that the present ICANN geographic regions fulfill more or less the above diversity requirement.

Africa is a region fighting for unity to promote economic and social development. As such, we think any division of the African continent would jeopardize the efforts deployed to realize this objective and will not meet the community approval. History has divided the continent by language and the actual efforts are for reunification.

With its 54 countries and its cultural diversity (multiple languages, different types of populations, high demography, different political systems, variety of climates and vegetations, etc.) Africa, by itself, is a complex community model in which the members learn to respectfully communicate and live together, in harmony.

Therefore, we recommend keeping the integrity of the African continent as such with all its countries as actually defined in the ICANN geographic region called "AFRICA".

*San Francisco, 16 March 2011*

## ICANN Summit on Developing Countries

### ----- Statement of the African ICANN community

We, the members of the African community of ICANN attending its 41st meeting in Singapore, convened in a joint AFRALO/AfriCANN gathering to discuss the proposed ICANN Summit on developing countries, due to take place in Dakar, Senegal, during the 42nd ICANN meeting in October 2011:

- welcome the initiative of holding an ICANN summit on developing countries,
- strongly support this initiative, and commit ourselves to provide all the necessary help to make the summit a very successful one.
- believe that the Summit will be a stepping stone to influence ICANN's agenda on matters of concern to the Developing Countries.
- consider that such a summit needs to be strongly supported by ICANN as a whole for an inclusive Internet.
- urge the private sector in these developing countries, particularly those in Africa to participate actively in the summit. In fact, the private sector can play an important role in achieving the goals of those countries in the ICT's field
- propose that the following items be included in the agenda of the Summit:
  - Promotion of ccTLDs in developing countries for a better presence and more visibility
  - Implementation of DNSSEC at the ccTLD levels
  - Awareness of New gTLDs and support to needy Applicants in developing countries
  - Improvement of the Multi-stakeholder model to include Governments, Regulators, Private Sector and Civil Society partnerships
  - Connectivity and infrastructure reinforcement
  - Education, training, Capacity Building and awareness campaigns for a better involvement of all stakeholders in the development of the ICT sector and of the Countries as a whole.
  - Enhancement of the active participation of the developing countries' Governments and Private Sector in the ICANN Process
  - Redefinition of the Universal Service to include broadband
  - Reduction of Interconnection fees at the POPs levels
  - Strengthening of local Internet exchange points
  - Development of local content in local languages
  - Hosting of local content at the local level - Creation and promotion of
  - National Data Centers
  - Incentives to companies of high content providers like Google, Yahoo and Microsoft to place their Cache Servers in the developing countries
  - Implementation of R&D on the Internet domain
  - Costs Reduction for end-users terminals
  - e-waste Disposal
  - Awareness and vigilance for a strong Information Security
  - Use of Renewal Energy

**Singapore, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011**

**Statement of the ICANN African community participating in the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting  
Dakar on 26 October 2011**

The members of the ICANN African community participating in the joint AFRALO - AfrICANN meeting held on Wednesday 26 October 2011 in Dakar, during the 42<sup>nd</sup> ICANN international public meeting, having debated the dangers faced by the African Internet end-users due to the various forms of the cyber-criminality:

1. Exhort the African ccTLDs operators to adopt implementation of DNSSEC as a crucial measure to secure DNS
2. Encourage the African countries that do not have yet a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) to create one to respond in a timely manner to the requests of the Internet users and provide them with the necessary advice based on updated security information
3. Advise the African parents to equip their systems with parental control software, while mentoring their children and making them aware of the threads on the net
4. Invite all the African Internet users to contact their national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) to learn about the latest virus alerts, and follow its advice to avoid any damage to their systems
5. Recommend to the African users of the Internet to follow closely the minimum safety rules listed below:
  - Use good quality passwords, that is to say difficult to find using automated tools and difficult to guess by a third party
  - Have an updated operating system and software: browser, antivirus, office, personal firewall, etc... because most attacks attempt to use the computer holes (holes of the operating system or of software)
  - Perform regular backups in order to be able to react to an attack or a malfunction.
  - Disable by default ActiveX and JavaScript components; although they allow many interesting functions, they present in the meantime security risks up to the takeover of the control of a vulnerable machine by an intruder
  - Do not hurry in clicking on links, but take the URL yourself and put it in the browser address bar, as a standard attack consists in encouraging Internet users to click on a link in a message to mislead him and steal his/her personal information.
  - Dissemination of personal information: A good practice consists in never give personal information in forums, and never enter personal and sensitive data (such as bank information) on sites that do not offer all required guarantees
  - Never pass on hoaxes such as letters chain, lucky winner, financial pyramid, call for solidarity, virus alert, etc...
  - Cultivate prudence: Internet is a street full of unknown people, and generally, it is recommended to not automatically trust the sender's name that appears in the message, and never meet with a stranger without a minimum precaution.
  - Vigilance before opening attachments to an e-mail: they often peddle malware

***Dakar, October 2011***



## STATEMENT OF THE ICANN AFRICAN COMMUNITY ON THE NEW gTLD APPLICANT SUPPORT PROGRAM

San Jose, Wednesday 14 March 2012

We, the African community members attending the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting held on Wednesday 14 March 2012 in San José (Costa Rica), laud the ICANN board's adoption of the JAS Working Group Final Report which is aimed at supporting the applicants, in particular those from developing countries, requiring assistance in the application and operation of new gTLD's.

We recognize and appreciate the establishment of the implementation group that includes Board, community and staff members. We acknowledge that the group, as part of its mandate, has developed the Applicant Support Program (ASP) which details the support process in its entirety.

We, nevertheless, express our concern about the following issues:

- That the Applicant Support Program has as yet not been adequately communicated nor 'marketed' in the regions to those who have an interest in the new gTLD program but who lack the wherewithal to apply. In addition to the existing channels of promotion in particular online, ICANN needs to leverage events where sector related attendees are and send high level ICANN officers to such. The goal would be to further inform and persuade potential applicants from our region to make use of the support program, and also encourage regional competencies to volunteer for the "Support Application Review Panel (SARP)" membership and participate in the evaluation of the various requests for support.
- That the ASP as yet does not provide objective criteria for the evaluation of the Applicants' financial needs. At present the evaluation process as it exists is largely subjective in nature. A set of objective criteria balanced with the existing subjective evaluation will ensure a fair decision making process of applicants by the Applicant Review Panel. The need of such fair evaluation has been made greater by the punishment documented in the Applicant Support Program for 'gaming', i.e. by designating forfeiture of the application fee for those judged as not meeting the financial needs criteria. This will ultimately result in the non- support of the applicants with genuine needs, in particular those from developing countries - the original focus of the ICANN Boards resolution 20, which was made in Nairobi in March 2010, and which resulted in the formation of the JAS Working Group.
- That the amount allocated, 2 million Dollars, currently reserved in a fund to the support program is barely sufficient to support 14 applicants.
- That a review of the ASP, post its period of implementation, needs to be integrated within its existing terms of reference.
- That it is necessary that the JAS working group continues its work to prepare for the next round of application, and propose better ways to support applicants from developing countries.
- That for a meaningful number of supported applicants at the next round, we believe that a fund should be constituted, and fed by various sources such as full or part of the new gTLD program incomes including the auction ones.

Finally, we emphasize that without the appropriate promotion of the Applicant Support Program in the developing countries, without the inclusion of a set of objective criteria for the financial need evaluation, and without the involvement of developing country experts in the process of evaluation, the ASP would not be successful. The addressing and adoption of the aforementioned issues will further contribute to the strengthening of a truly inclusive and multi-stakeholder model that ICANN strives to achieve.

*San Jose, March 2012*

## Statement of the ICANN African Community on the Low African Participation in the Applications for New gTLD

Prague, Wednesday, 27 June 2012

We, members of the African community attending the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting held on Wednesday, 27 June 2012 in Prague (Czech Republic), have regretfully noted the few participation of Africa in the first round of applications for the new gTLDs program.

This lack of interest is mainly due to a deficiency of outreach and communication activities in this region, to the almost nonexistence of the domain names industry and also to the very small number of ICANN Accredited Registrars in Africa.

With the delays experienced in Africa in Internet development, in the use of services and in African ccTLDs management, the digital divide will get bigger with such a weak involvement of the region in the new gTLD program.

Considering the efforts made by ICANN over the last few years in its international approach and its will to integrate developing countries in all its projects, including the support program for new gTLD applicants who need assistance;

Taking into account that the digital economy can be an important source of revenue for nations and can trigger a more rational management of public affairs;

We make the following statement:

### **Towards CANN :**

- We express our deep concern about the lack of promotion of the new gTLD program in the regions of developing economies, particularly in Africa, which has led to the derisory number of application from Africa.
- We also believe that the insignificant number of applications for support under the "Applicant Support Program" for new gTLD applicants who need assistance is a direct consequence of the absence of a communication effort in areas where potential applicants for such support live, especially Africa.
- We suggest that ICANN considers the possibility of positive discrimination towards applications from developing countries, especially Africa, in any kind of prioritization.
- We hope that, for the next rounds, an information and awareness campaign on the whole gTLD program and the "Applicant Support Program" in particular is timely programmed and implemented in developing countries in general and specifically in Africa.
- We also propose that ICANN
  - ✓ Strengthens further its communication policy towards African countries by raising awareness and training on stakes and opportunities of Internet governance and particularly the attribution of New Domain Names,
  - ✓ Involves and empowers ICANN local stakeholders in the outreach and training activities;
  - ✓ Encourages and facilitates the accreditation of new African registrars, using exceptional measures if necessary, which could offer Africa the opportunity to be part of this continuous revolution of the Internet.

### **We recommend to African Governments to:**

- Continue their Abuja commitment to promote domain names in Africa and particularly the ". Africa";

- Create suitable conditions for the establishment of NIC (Network Information Center) to manage the country code Top Level Domains (ccTLD) for the benefit of economic and social development in general;
- Promote an enabling environment to the emergence of national domain name operators through the intensification of Internet access channels, the increase of "e-government" applications and the widespread use of the Internet.

**We invite the African Private Sector to:**

- Foster the establishment of regional LARGE GROUPS, viable and competitive at the international level; the digital economy remains a huge income source in Africa that requires big initial investments;
- Continuously seek for new technologies adapted to social habits and lifestyles of local people and provide innovative services;
- Be more active and visible on the world stage within the governance technical management organizations, as well as in the technologies and their usage thereof;
- Actively participate in the GNSO constituencies in order to stimulate the development of policies promoting the domain names industry in Africa.

**We encourage the African ICANN accredited Registrars to:**

- Undertake more communication and outreach initiatives about their activities;
- Establish an ICANN Accredited African Registrars organization in order to create the enabling conditions for a real development of their activities in Africa and speak with one voice at the GNSO.

**We call the African Civil Society to:**

- acquire the best practices in terms of knowledge documentation and presence on the Internet (use of gTLDs with creation of local content);
- increase the number of outreach and information activities at local level;
- Participate in the capacity building activities in terms of understanding of the Internet domain industry and its role in the development of the digital economy.
- Contribute to the development of the African TLDs and ensure that each African application for new gTLDs succeeds.

***Prague, June 2012***

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

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**Beijing , 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.

**Beijing, 10 April 2013**