



Universal Acceptance

4 December 2020

Seun Ojedeji, AFRALO Chair
AFRALO and AFRICANN Community Members

Subject: Status, Impact and Recommendations for Universal Acceptance (UA) in Africa

Dear Seun, fellow community members,

On behalf of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), I would like to thank you for sharing the Universal Acceptance Project Statement from Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting ICANN69 Virtual Annual General Meeting dated 14 October 2020. The UASG is glad to receive these thoughtful comments. We appreciate the multilingual nature of the communities across Africa and agree that UA is very relevant and significant for African internet users. Please find below UASG's responses against the specific items in the statement addressed to UASG.

The UASG has identified multiple stakeholders based on their roles in addressing Universal Acceptance. These details are provided in UASG's FY21 Action Plan. The current state of practice for these stakeholders has been published as part of the [UA Readiness Report FY20](#). UASG intends to continue to undertake studies to provide such updates going forward as well. UASG also encourages such studies at regional and local levels to be undertaken by its local initiatives.

UASG reaches out to local organizations to raise awareness and provide training globally, at relevant events and through its UA Ambassadors. With three active UA ambassadors in the African region, UASG continues to raise awareness about the challenges and solutions for UA to the African audience with the support of ICANN organization. For example, some recent engagements in Africa are listed below. UASG plans to continue these outreach and training efforts in Africa.

- i. 25 November 2020 – UA session during African IGF
- ii. 16 November 2020 - EAI technical training for African Association of Universities (AAU)
- iii. 10 November 2020 - UA awareness webinar for GAC African members
- iv. 29 September 2020 - UA awareness webinar for African Telecom Regulators Association
- v. 16 September 2020 - UA presentation to the African Association of Universities (AAU)

UASG has already approved local initiatives from China, Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe, and India. UASG is also keen to support multiple local initiatives to address UA across the African region. We would encourage the community to organize and provide proposals for this purpose, based on the [charter and proposal template](#) for the UA local initiatives. For further details, feel free to contact info@uasg.tech. ICANN's team also remains available to assign in the process. For any queries with regards to support from ICANN, please email UAProgram@icann.org.

UASG continues to undertake outreach in African region with the support of UA Ambassadors and ICANN org, as stated above. However, UASG believes that the outreach would be even more effective if the African community can organize and set up local initiatives for this purpose, including engaging with the local open-source communities, academia and other relevant local organizations.



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Therefore, we would encourage those developing local initiative proposals to also include these aspects in their outreach plans for the local initiatives.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your statement and proposals with us. The UASG is a community initiative driven by voluntary effort. As such UASG looks forward to additional contribution from the African community, while UASG continues to work closely with the African community to address UA issues.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ajay Data
Chair, UASG