

African Regional At-Large Organisation (AFRALO) Hot Topics



Document Objective :

This document aims to provide an overview of key policy issues that AfRALO has been working on in ICANN, as well as the key outreach and engagement activities.

AfRALO is the home of the individual Internet user community for the African region. It provides news, key resources and interactive information sharing tools for individuals and enduser groups in the African region who are interested in ICANN and in shaping the future of the Internet.

AfRALO aims to:

- Strengthen users' participation in ICANN decision-making structures
- Help ensure that its members will actively encourage more direct participation by end users
- Build Internet policy making capacity in the region
- Reach out to Internet users on the issues in the scope of ICANN
- Represent users' interests and defining public interest aspects of Internet governance with specific focus on the areas of **privacy, transparency, and accountability**
- Strengthen consumer protection in ICANN policies
- Identify social impacts of technical infrastructure design
- Take cultural diversity into account when formulating technical standards (e.g. IDN implementation)

AfRALO currently consist of **54 ALSes** located in **30 countries and territories**.

Policy Issues selected :

- Promoting DNSSEC Implementation in Africa's TLD registries
- New gTLDs and Geographic names
- New gTLD Subsequent Procedure
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Privacy and RDS (Whois)
- ICANN's Accountability and Transparency
- Diversity and Participation in ICANN
- Internet Governance activities and issues
- General ICANN Issues Awareness and Outreach to Africa
(e.g Access of ICANN materials in African/Other languages other than English)

Promoting DNSSEC Implementation in Africa's TLD registries

Summary

DNSSEC is important because it adds security to the Domain Name System (DNS) protocol by enabling DNS responses to be validated. Specifically, **DNSSEC** provides origin authority, data integrity, and authenticated denial of existence.

Why its important to AfRALO and African Internet Users ?

Africa has a low DNSSEC implementation compared to the rest of the world.

Action Items

- Promote DNSSEC and raise awareness among African ALS about the importants of DNSSEC implementation in their ccTLD registries.
- Coordinate with ICANN and AfTLD in organizing DNSSEC session for AfRALO ALSs