



AFRALO HOT TOPICS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-2019

Draft

Paper of the AFRALO Hot Topics
Implementation Plan Working Group

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Introduction

This implementation plan comes as a result of the outcome of the AFRALO Hot Topics WG <<https://community.icann.org/display/AFRALO/HOT+TOPICS+Implementation+Working+Group+2018>> and encompasses the action plan from the AFRALO Hot Topics Report <<https://community.icann.org/display/AFRALO/AFRALO+Hot+Topics+Report+2017>>

Following the WG meeting held on 28th May 2018, the Co-Chairs agreed to make a draft Implementation plan which will be subject to thorough discussions within the WG before we get the final copy.

This implementation plan follows the following sequence

Definition → Planning → Implementation → Management/Monitoring/Evaluation → Close

Definition

The hot topics items have been defined from the AFRALO Hot Topics Report mentioned above as follows:

- a) Promoting DNSSEC Implementation in Africa's TLD registries
- b) New gTLDs and Geographic names
- c) New gTLD Subsequent Procedure
- d) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Privacy
- e) Registration Directory Service (RDS) and Whois
- f) ICANN Accountability and Transparency
- g) Diversity and Participation at ICANN
- h) Internet Governance activities and issues
- i) Capacity Building, Awareness and Outreach to Africa (e.g. Access of ICANN materials in African/Other languages other than English).

Planning

The planning section involves the implementation procedure which will be done collaboratively with the Capacity Building WG and other WGs working specifically on the respective topics. This procedure is not limited to webinars but may include participation in activities, forums, advice to ICANN and so on.

For the webinars, invitations will be sent out to selected experienced speakers who have specific knowledge on the respective Hot Topics from various WGs. This is to encourage members to get experience, update on current respective WG Processes, and looking forward to members joining the WG that are working on the respective Hot Topics.

Implementation for each Hot Topic Item

a. Promoting DNSSEC Implementation in Africa's TLD registries

DNSSEC (DNS Security Extensions) is a set of extensions to the DNS protocol that allow cryptographically validating DNS server responses. It is important because it adds security to the Domain Name System (DNS) protocol by enabling DNS responses to be validated. It is being deployed throughout the domain name system at the Registry level. Full deployment of DNSSEC will ensure that the end user is connecting to the actual website or other service corresponding to a particular domain name. Although this will not solve all the security problems of the Internet, it does protect a critical piece of it, that is the directory lookup.

Implementation

- Promote DNSSEC and raise awareness among African ALS about the importance of DNSSEC implementation in their ccTLD registries.
- Coordinate with ICANN and AfTLD in organizing DNSSEC session for AFRALO ALSs
- AFRALO to work with Pierre Dandjinou, ICANN VP Stakeholder Engagement, Africa to continue the sensitizing on DNSSEC deployment and contributing to showcase current deployments (where available) and organizing specific training for ccTLDs and ISPs managers.
- AFRALO to participate actively in DNSSEC roadshows.
The overall objective is to promote DNSSEC adoption in Africa..
- AFRALO to contact the DNSSEC Adoption project Leader, Alain P. AINA(Consultant) and the ICANN DNS/DNSSEC team
- AFRALO to work with AFRINIC concerning sensitisation on DNSSEC, DNSSEC training and DNSSEC adoption.
- Conduct periodic webinars to AFRALO members to get insight into DNSSEC

b. New gTLDs and Geographic names

Geographical names form an essential part of our cultural heritage. Most geographical names were invented at the very place where they were used. So, they are also memories of the places and people who gave the names. Geographic names normally contain linguistic elements that are related to the naming scene as they are memories about the place and the circumstances at the time when the name was given. The linguistic element contained in geographical names is a valuable source for the study of the history of language. Each name can be seen as a window to the past; it is the period of time when the name came into being. Each location whether small or large, has a number of geographical names that together form an important part of the history of the region.

Together with Geographic names, consideration should be given to geographical indications. They matter culturally and economically as they can create value for local communities through products that are deeply rooted in tradition, culture and geography. They support rural development and promote new job opportunities in production, processing and other related services.

The GAC proposes that “Geographic names should not be allowed to be registered as gTLDs, unless requested by the relevant communities where they belong or after a specific authorization given by the government or community to the applicant, though Governments do not have the rights or exclusive use of geographic name in any context. The big question remains who has rights over the geographic names and the risk that gTLD applicants might identify wrong approval authority is real.

ICANN has to be very careful as the Internet naming system is a public resource and it must be administered in the public and common interest. This is the reason the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Sub Team - Track 5 – Geographic Names WG has been setup.

Implementation

As the geographic names face the challenges of identity, ownership and jurisdiction, the same applies for the assignment of geographic names as gTLD. Therefore AFRALO members need to be involved in the Working Groups to provide the African perspective concerning the status of the geographic names and their use as gTLD.

- Invite AFRALO members to join the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Sub Team - Track 5 – Geographic Names at the Top-Level
- Conduct periodic webinars to AFRALO members to get insight into the New gTLDs and Geographic names

c. New gTLD Subsequent Procedure

In June 2014, the GNSO Council established a Discussion Group that was intended to evaluate the experiences of the 2012 round gTLD Program and to identify possible areas for future GNSO policy development. The Discussion Group’s deliverables served as the basis for the GNSO Council’s request for a Preliminary Issue Report in June of 2015. Following the publication of the Final Issue Report, the GNSO Council adopted the charter for the PDP Working Group, which began its work in February 2016. The Working Group initially concentrated on a set of overarching issues and has since established five separate Work Tracks to consider specific topic areas:

1. Work Track 1 - Overall Process/Support/Outreach,
2. Work Track 2 - Legal/Regulatory,
3. Work Track 3: String Contention/Objections & Disputes,
4. Work Track 4: Internationalized Domain Names/Technical & Operations,
5. Work Track 5: Geographic Names at the Top Level.

The outcome of the PDP may lead to

- I. amending or overriding existing policy principles, recommendations, and implementation guidelines;
- II. developing new policy recommendations, and/or
- III. Supplementing or developing new implementation guidance.

Hence it is important that members from the African region are involved in the PDP

Implementation

- Invite AFRALO members to join the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group
- Conduct periodic webinars to AFRALO members to get insight into the New gTLD Subsequent Procedure PDP

d. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Privacy

Data privacy and data protection regulations, such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), are currently undergoing developments that may impact specific areas of ICANN's work. ICANN org executives, subject matter experts from various departments and Board members are guiding the org's activities related specifically to GDPR. This work has two fronts:

- "External" data processing involving domain registration data collected and processed primarily by gTLD registrars and registries under contract with ICANN
- "Internal" data processing compliance for ICANN org

Implementation

Based on the urgency of the issue of GDPR and its impact - AFRALO to raise awareness on the purpose of the GDPR to mitigate any risks that may result from non-compliance.

Action is to conduct an AFRALO Webinar ASAP

Projected Time of preparation of Webinar: 2 Weeks

Action Point

Invite Key Persons from who have been on drafting team of the ICANN GDPR Compliance to make a presentation followed by a Q&A session.

End of the Webinar Session, An evaluation of session should be done to assess whether the members have clearly understood the subject.

e. Registration Directory Service (RDS) and Whois

Following the suspension of the works of the GNSO - RDS - The RDS PDP WG leadership team decided to suspend WG meetings until further notice while guidance from the Board regarding how this WG will be affected by the GDPR compliance efforts. ICANN Org selected a team to work on the Interim GDPR Compliance Model which was presented.

Initially from the AFRALO Hot Topics Report, The Action Items were to :-

- Promote RDS - Whois and raise awareness among African ALS about the importance of RDS implementation.
- Coordinate with ICANN and GNSO - RDS WG to have a session to explain the relevance of AFRALO participation in the RDS PDP
- Request members from AFRALO who are passionate and willing to join the WG to become members to enhance African views and contribute to the Policy recommendations

Action Point: Discuss with the Working Group the implementation of this topic and come up with possible recommendations to guide the co-chairs on how

f. ICANN's Accountability and Transparency

ICANN has a proven commitment to accountability and transparency in all of its practices. Indeed, ICANN considers these principles to be fundamental safeguards in ensuring that its international, bottom-up and multistakeholder operating model remains effective.

Implementation

WS2 Report is complete and discussion are about to begin on the Implementation of the WS2 Recommendations with consideration that they have reached consensus. The works that have been done by the CCWG-Accountability have been tremendous especially in the drafting of the report.

Based on the fact that new Reviews will be starting:

Action: During the meeting, members of the AFRALO Hot Topics Implementation WG will be tasked to discuss during the WG Meeting timelines to hold a webinar about the current works

Time preparation: To be specified during the WG Call/Meeting.

Key Personnel:

Chair of the CCWG - Acct or any of the key experts of the WG

Suggestion: Cheryl Langdon-Orr to give a talk and Introduce the ATRT3 (Accountability and Transparency Review Team) who will also report and give status of the Accountability and Transparency Process

Evaluation

Members' feedback on the session

Outcome:

Members having a clear outcome and knowledge of the Accountability and Transparency Process.

g. Diversity and Participation at ICANN

Diversity is equitable and fair representation of every gender, race and geography in the participating of the activities of ICANN. ICANN carried out a gender survey between June and July of 2017 to gain an insight into the perception of members on gender diversity. 584 people participated in the survey. The survey showed that majority thinks that all genders are being treated fairly in ICANN however more males than females agreed to this overall perception. This shows a bit of disagreement. 69% of the respondent agree that ICANN needs to do more to increase gender diversity. The survey also showed that more males than females feel represented in the ICANN community.

In June 2016 Afnic published a report on diversity in ICANN.

The survey also highlighted some barrier to participation in ICANN

Implementation

- Conduct a Gender Diversity Assessment of the engagement of AFRALO Members
- Coordinate with ICANN and Regional Leaders ways to enhance engagement from Africa region
- Strong Statement from ICANN – e.g. ICANN aims to reach gender parity at Board Membership level.
Write to the ICANN Board to ask for a statement for Gender Parity at Board Membership Level by year 2030
- All meetings of ACs and SOs will be done in all languages.
Write to the Chair of the NomCom requesting all meetings of the NomCom to be done in all languages not exclusively in English as it is the case. The need for interpreters is required. Similarly write to the chairs of other ACs and SOs with the same requests.

h. Internet Governance activities and issues

Internet governance encompasses the development and sharing of norms and principle on issues relating to the Internet. Internet governance is critical because the internet is a precious global resource that has an impact on our socio economic activities. Global representation is necessary as no one organisation owns the internet. Annually AFRALO and its members participate in local, national and international IGFs.

Underrepresentation of any group of stakeholder in Internet Governance will adversely affect the smooth operation of the Internet. It is therefore import for the AFRALO members who are end users to participate in Internet Governance to make the voice of African end users heard.

Implementation

- Have AFRALO represented in Internet Governance Forum at different levels
- Capacity building in form of Webinar, Support for remote participation at IGFs, promotional materials in different languages.
- Support for ASIG
- Get ICANN's commitment to support more participation at IGFs and support for AFRALO participation
- Organise an online African IGF with the support of AFRALO and ICANN

i. Capacity Building, Awareness and Outreach to Africa

Capacity building, Awareness and outreach are the processes of developing and strengthening the skills of Africans to understand, participate, voice out and propagate views on issues relating to PDP at ICANN. This is important because there is low level of awareness and participation from the African region. Capacity building is necessary not only on the Hot Topics but all areas of interests.

Outreach awareness and engagement efforts are essential for maintaining a sustainable source of end user volunteers from various country in Africa. This would ensure that members are versed in ICANN policy issues and can effectively engage with other stakeholder groups.

Implementation

- Work with Tijani Ben Jemaa, Chair of the Capacity Building Working Group to disseminate the webinars and training programs being done by the WG and encourage extensive participation from Africans
- Coordinate with ICANN Staff to have all ICANN materials translated to more languages including Portuguese, Swahili etc.
- Coordinate with ICANN Staff to have training materials related to capacity building in both audio and video as well as in different languages including English, French, Portuguese, and Swahili etc.
- Coordinate engagement with more Universities in Africa to propagate outreach materials from ICANN
- Encourage members to use ICANN Learn by organizing awareness on it
- Distribute ICANN materials to ALS for capacity building
- Do a sensitisation campaign at ICANN level for the requests of more fellowships to Africans especially for the NextGen program.
- Create a sub group named “capacity building and outreach” to englobe all Hot topics items where capacity building and outreach are required.
- Set up mechanisms to use local media (community radio, TV, social media on mobile phones) to increase awareness and reach out to communities with very limited internet access.
- Establishing ICANN Studienkreis in Africa
- Implement ICANN road shows to create awareness about ICANN in Africa

Management - Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation Item with respect to Webinars

After each activity that is geared towards the implementation an Assessment form should be sent out within the webinar to assess understanding of the Hot Topics in order to help in evaluation.

The evaluation will also be done for other items of the implementation procedure.

Outreach and Engagement Activities in Africa

The following events are occurring in Africa and there is opportunity for outreach activities for AFRALO. The new sub group “capacity building and outreach” can formulate a plan for participation in the events.

1. West African IGF
2. Central African IGF
3. West Africa Com - 10 - 11 July 2018 , Dakar Senegal
4. Ghana Tech Summit 2018 - 18 - 20 July 2018 , Accra, Ghana
5. ITU Telecom World 2018 - 10 - 13 September 2018, Durban, South Africa
6. Africa Com 2018 - 13 - 18 November 2018 ,CTICC, South Africa
7. AFRINIC-29 - 25 - 30 November 2018, Egypt

ICANN Resources required

Resources required include

- a. Involvement from ICANN for the smooth implementation of this plan
- b. ICANN budget and staff
- c. Translations and printing ICANN materials in English, French and Swahili
- d. Training materials (audio and video) in different languages
- e. Invitation of Speakers and Experts on respective AFRALO Topics
- f. Collaboration between AFRALO Hot Topics WG Co-Chairs and Capacity Building WG
- g. Call Management and organizing of Webinars
- h. Setting up of Calendar invites of members from AFRALO for respective Webinars

Timelines

Group	Hot Topic Item	Webinar Date
A	Promoting DNSSEC Implementation in Africa's TLD registries	
	New gTLDs and Geographic names	
	New gTLD Subsequent Procedure	
B	General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Privacy	
	Registration Directory Service (RDS) and Whois	
	ICANN's Accountability and Transparency	
C	Diversity and Participation at ICANN	
	Internet Governance activities and issues	
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Appendix

Evaluation Form