



COMMISSION DE L'UNION AFRICAINE



REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL

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MINISTRE DE LA COMMUNICATION, DES  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ET DES TECHNOLOGIES DE  
L'INFORMATION ET DE LA COMMUNICATION

**AFRICAN ICT MINISTERIAL ROUND-TABLE  
ON 42<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF ICANN**

Hotel Méridien  
Dakar, SENEGAL

21 Octobre 2011

# **COMMUNIQUE**

## **PREAMBLE**

**WE**, African Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technologies met in the Ministerial Round-Table on ICANN in Dakar, during 19–21 October, 2011.

**Guided** by the Constitutive Act and the Vision of the African Union (AU);

**Recalling** the Declaration of the 14th Assembly of Heads of State and Government Summit on Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: “Challenges and Prospects for Development”, number (Doc.Assembly/AU/11(XIV)), made in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010;

**Re-affirming** that Information and Communication Technologies are key to Africa’s development and economic competitiveness in the attainment of the African Union Vision, the objectives of the Tunis Agenda of The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**Welcoming** the Launch of the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) made by African Stakeholders on 30 September 2011 as a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on Internet Governance issues on the continent, to be hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC);

**Welcoming** the various initiatives and programmes of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and its constituencies on the development of the Internet sector, including; Security, Stability, IDN and New gTLDs among others;

**Welcoming** and **Recognising** the various initiatives and program of AfriNIC and its constituencies on the development of the Internet Infrastructure in Africa including the efficient management of Internet Number Resources for the region. In addition to its effort and support provided to incubate regional IGFs in the continent;

**Acknowledge** the significant efforts deployed by the “Joint Applicant Support” Working Group to develop a sustainable approach to providing support to applicants requiring assistance, especially those from developing countries, in applying for and operating new gTLDs as per the ICANN Board resolution number 20 adopted in Nairobi in 2010;

**Taking note** of the GAC Reports on the various Internet public policy issues of ICANN;

### **HEREBY COMMIT TO:**

- Promote the intergovernmental consultations in Africa pertaining to the Agenda of ICANN and GAC meetings.
- Participate more actively in ICANN meetings and also to join the GAC in order to reinforce the common position of the African community on the various issues and in policy development of the Internet;
- Promote in collaboration with the AU, UNECA and other stakeholders the inclusion of networking sciences and technologies in the courses of instruction at Universities in Africa to ensure Africa's future participation in an increasingly networked global

information society

- Promote the discussion in African organisations and internationally around having more multicultural and multilingual international leadership at ICANN to reflect the Internet of today.
- Promote Dot Africa gTLD at the national level by undertaking information, education and communication activities towards the community including private sector and civil society entities. The media should be fully involved in this awareness campaign.
- Promote development of ccTLDs through the promotion of good models for each ccTLD in Africa and through promotion of AFTLD and other similar regional organisations to make domain names more affordable and more inclusive.
- Provide support to ccTLDs for the strengthening of national network information centers (NIC), strengthening AFTLD and other similar regional organisations, adoption and dissemination of best practices in domain name management.
- Work with all stakeholders to set a roadmap and deploy IPv6 on our Internet Infrastructure to safeguard the future of Internet development in Africa.
- Build on the current efforts of AfriNIC, the African Internet Number Registry, to provide training and create an appropriate framework necessary for a smooth transition to IPv6.
- Promote the deployment of DNSSEC as a crucial measure to secure Internet domain name resolution service.
- Promote the setup of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) at national and regional level and encourage local and regional peering among operators which contributes to aggregation of traffic and reduction of cost and latency on international bandwidth.
- Encourage the development of country network operator groups (cNOGs) as communities that coordinate network operations and support networks through training and meetings at the country, regional and continental levels
- Support and promote AfriNIC Root Server Copy Program initiative allowing African countries to improve resiliency of their local Internet Infrastructure.
- Stimulate the use of Internet in all dimensions, and also encourage the development of a strategy to strengthen human capacity in the public and private sectors by making optimal use of existing resources, establishing of an aggressive and consistent local market oriented systems, establishing of ICT training centers and also encourage participation in the training workshops organized by the regional, continental and international stakeholders.
- Contribute to the harmonization of policies and regulatory frameworks of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) taking into consideration the various initiatives of AUC and UNECA.

- Cooperate with AUC and the UNECA in organizing consultation workshops with Regional Economic Communities and member States in order to finalize the provisional Convention on Cyber Legislation and submit it to CITMC in April 2012 and further to the Summit of Heads of State in July 2012. Furthermore the AUC and UNECA are requested to support member States in transposing the Convention into national legislations.
- Support and promote regional and local forum on IGF to stimulate multi-stakeholder and participatory approach to Internet Development issues in Africa using the spirit of the IGF.
- Promote the creation of national Business Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) through reactivation of the continental "AfriPKI" initiative launched in 2003 by the UNECA and the OIF to support secure online Identity for e-Governance and public services;
- Revitalize the Africa PKI forum to support PKI initiatives in Africa. Consultations should be fostered by the AUC in cooperation with UNECA and AfriNIC to work on establishment of certification agencies in the regions to stop the over reliance of African networks on foreign certification agencies.
- Encourage involvement of the private sector to develop innovative activities, services, applications and content industry.
- Setup national, regional and continental Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to manage global and local cyber security incidences
- Strengthen the implementation of observatory institutions and programmes for measurement, metrics, statistics and analysis of ICT and economic development
- Involve civil society in advocacy initiatives, building awareness, dissemination of information and evaluation.
- Support Research and Education Networks (RENs) at, national, regional and continental levels.
- Setup national and regional Internet Governance Forums to actively participate in AfIGF.

**HEREBY REQUEST THE BOARD OF ICANN TO:**

- Include (.Africa, .Afrique, .Afrikia. افريقييا), and its representation in any other language on the Reserved Names List in order to enjoy the level of special legislative protection, so to be managed and operated by the structure that is selected and identified by the African Union.
- Provide more fellowship to support government and other stakeholders from least developed countries in Africa to increase their participation in the various meetings of GAC and ICANN.

- Support and implement the opening of an ICANN Africa Office like in other regions, to be closer to African stakeholders to provide direct advice on Africa's participation to ICANN and outreach, and also to facilitate ICANN's mission.
- Support the integration of an ethics charter for board and staff at ICANN to prevent conflict of interests not addressed at the moment. This should be done as soon as possible and as independently as possible from the organization itself.
- Support ICANN's efforts to ensure that all ICANN documents, meetings and training sessions are open and conducted in all the UN languages, especially in French, given that it is the official language of many African countries..
- Strengthen the internationalization of ICANN by introducing the principle of geographical rotation in line with other international bodies in their management (Board of Directors and Management),
- Support the US Government draft "statement of work" in the recent Notice of Inquiry On the IANA contract, and also ICANN's own bylaws. To the greatest degree possible, decisions about ccTLDs (including what strings are utilised, who operates the registry and what policies the registry should follow besides those set out by ICANN) should be made by the responsible public authority and the local Internet community concerned and not by the IANA contractor.
- Impart an early warning period to all applicants whether a proposed string would be considered controversial or to raise sensitivities, including; geographical, cultural and community names. This will provide opportunity to governments to review potential new gTLD strings and to advise applicants whether their proposed strings would be considered controversial or would raise national sensitivities.
- Support Africa to have root servers in countries in order to minimize the connectivity exchanges and for better utilization of the available bandwidth.
- Adopt the final report of “Joint Applicant Support” Working Group and also urge to proceed to the establishment of the related implementation plan to be ready for the upcoming application round.
- Make the best use of the available resources for Outreach and Education toward the expected African new gTLD applicants by proposing innovative and efficient programs for all African regions.
- Speed up the process of resolving and finding resolutions to the outstanding substantive issues on the last version of the Draft Applicant guidebook before the launch of the new gTLD application process.

**EXPRESS** our gratitude to His Excellency President Abdoulaye WADE, the Government and People of the Republic of Senegal for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of this event.

**Dakar, SENEGAL, 21 October 2011**