IPv6 The Key To African Mobile Internet Development Says AfriNIC

- With almost 85% of IPv4 addresses already allocated or reserved, IPv6 is key to the effective development of mobile Internet in Africa
- AfriNIC advises operators and stakeholders of the urgent need to prepare for IPv6 deployment
- Failure to do so may hamper the development of Internet growth and innovation for African nations.

AfriNIC (stand number 3338) – an independent organisation that supports and serves the African region as a Regional Internet Registry, has stated the pressing need for telecom operators and other stakeholders to promote IPv6 deployment in order to protect the development of converged communications in the African marketplace.

AfriNIC distributes Internet number resources, such as IPv4 and IPv6 address space and AS Numbers, to the African Internet community. The African registry argues that a rapid rise and reliance on mobile devices for Internet access should be at the forefront of government and business leaders' thinking, and the deployment of IPv6 will be a vital factor in these developments.

AfriNIC argues that the economic possibilities of effective Internet adoption should not be underestimated for the region. In terms of IP address distribution, Africa holds 1% of the global IPv4 address space and over the last two years, the region has seen 100% growth in requests for IPv4 address allocation.

For effective IPv6 deployment, AfriNIC recommends that Policy makers make IPv6 compliance a requirement for public and private infrastructure. The need to make sure that imported

telecommunication equipment and applications are IPv6 compliant is another critical factor for Internet innovation and development for the region.

Adiel A. Akplogan, the CEO of AfriNIC, comments: "Radical thinking is needed on behalf of the telcos. With vast latent demand for fast mobile Internet in Africa, the future of the Internet in the region lies in immediate IPv6 planning.

"With huge demand for fast Internet in the absence of pervasive home broadband, telcos and stakeholders need to start the planning process for continent-wide IPv6 implementation. Failure to do so will hamper Internet innovation and development for the region. Much of Africa's economic development will rely heavily on getting this right as quickly and effectively as possible. Ultimately, we need to learn the lessons from the other Regions, such as Asia's deployment planning, and adapt specific best practices for Africa."

RIPE NCC, the Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia, has also recently urged business and government leaders to ease the path for wider deployment of IPv6 addresses in their service region.

Axel Pawlik, the Managing Director of RIPE NCC, reinforced Adiel Akplogan's views, saying: "Governments and telcos are key players in Africa's Internet growth and we urge them to play their part in the deployment of IPv6 and, in particular, to lead by example in making content available in IPv6. The key lies in the successful planning for IPv6."

For a briefing from AfriNIC or RIPE NCC please visit stand number 3338 or contact Nick Hyrka, Communications Director at RIPE NCC on tel: +31629028983.

(Ends)

Notes to Editors

About AfriNIC

AfriNIC is a non-governmental and not-for-profit membership based organisation. Its main role is to serve the Africa region as a Regional Internet Registry (RIR), alongside the four other RIRs (RIPE NCC, ARIN, APNIC and LACNIC)

AfriNIC's mission is to provide professional and efficient distribution of Internet number resources to the African Internet community, to support Internet technology usage and development across the continent and to strengthen Internet self-governance in Africa by encouraging a participative policy development.

The AfriNIC organisational structure is set to encourage a bottom-up self governance management model where policies and other organisational functions are determined by the community in general and members who elect representatives that seat on the Board of Directors. The discussions are conducted via both public meetings and e-mail discussion lists. There are no requirements or pre-requisites for any person or entity to participate. AfriNIC has a General assembly which meets once a year whereas Public Policy Meetings are organised twice a year (one back-to-back with the General Assembly).

For media enquiries please contact:
Blaise Hammond / Lucie Smith at Racepoint Group UK
Tel: 0208 752 3200 / **Email:** blaise.hammond@racepointgroup.com/
lucie.smith@racepointgroup.com

AfriNIC
Caroline Koa Wing
Tel: +230 466 6616
Email: caroline@afrinic.net / press@afrinic.net