

The Multistakeholder Internet Governance Event
MIGworks
6-8 March 2013
UNECA Conference Center - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

(Pre-conference training Workshop on DNS market development in Africa
will occur on 5-6 March in Addis Ababa)

Organizing Partners: African IGF, AfriNIC, AFTLD, ISOC Africa, ATU and ICANN

Background

Internet has become an integral part of socio economic development in Africa as exemplified by many on going initiatives; among those initiatives one could cite the successes in transferring money via mobile telephone with the M-Pesa which is transforming the banking sector in Kenya and other places, the PanAfrican projects on Ehealth, and many national Egovernment projects which are contributing to modernizing public administration and offering better services to the citizens.

Growth in Africa's Internet and Broadband sector has accelerated in recent years due to improvements in infrastructure, the arrival of wireless access technologies and lower tariffs. Broadband is rapidly replacing dial-up as the preferred access method. This process is already virtually completed in Africa's more developed markets. While being the world's most rapidly growing market for mobile telephony, Africa is also home to some of the fastest growing fixed-line markets in the world. Africa still has some of the world's lowest penetration rates in both market sectors.

In just the past five years, Africa's mobile phone market has rapidly expanded to become larger than many developed countries with some 650 million subscribers. At the same time, Internet bandwidth has grown 20-fold as hundreds of thousands of kilometers of new cables have been laid across the continent to serve an increasing number of its 1 billion citizens.

The new access is quickly changing lives, driving entrepreneurship fueled in

part by collaborative technology hubs, and delivering innovation and home-grown solutions for Africa. The recent report of the World Bank on ICT...emphasizes the need to build a competitive ICT industry to promote innovation, job creation, on the continent.

Today, Africa's intake of the Internet is at crossroads; while the so called digital divide of the 1990's is dwindling rapidly, content generation, development of a genuine Internet industry and full participation of Africa in international Internet business and policy development are the current challenges. Indeed, Africa's overall participation to International meetings such as ICANN or the Internet Governance Forum is still low, despite efforts made since the 2000s. Africans are contributing to ICANN's constituencies and IETFs are still very modest; all this despite the fact that the continent has also hosted two of the Internet Governance Forums (IGF), 4 ICANN meetings; it has organized its Internet registry, Afrinic, which now provides IP addresses to the continent, as one of the 5 Internet registries of ICANN. In terms of levels of participation, African civil society and professional associations have been somehow active in forums such as the WSIS, the IGF and ICANN; but governments and local private sectors still need to show more interest in participating to global International policy development processes.

On the DNS industry side, African 54 ccTLDs have been operating on a rather erratic manner with very few registrations in most countries; in fact, of the total of 1.500.000 registrations for a population of 1 billion, South Africa and North Africa account for almost three quarters. Africa claims 6 ICANN accredited registrars over the 956 accredited by ICANN.

The decision of ICANN to expand the domain name space by introducing new generic top level domain names and the consecutive results of the first bids are crystal clear: with only 17 new domain names requested from Africa out of a total of 1930 that were claimed globally, the continent is just not part of the global industry. One must recognize that domain name industry in Africa is far from being close to the developed world in terms of investments, policies, and markets. It is not just price although the price needs to come down, it is not just the new gTLD program whether this round or the next one, it is about establishing an industry in Africa around existing gTLDs and ccTLDs so that there is a market for startups and entrepreneurs; only few registrars operate in the African local market today

but there are many people who sell domains in Africa and they have no legal relationship with ICANN; while consumer choice, and consumer protection are core values of the multi-stakeholder model;

Fortunately, Africa does still offer some potentialities for advancing its Internet economy: as per recent World Bank's report, African economies will be more stable with an average of 6% of growth of the GDP over the next 5 five years. African population is still young (60% under 25 years) and with appropriate supporting policies and strategies, youth entrepreneurship could be one of the lever of growth. Indeed, these youngsters constitute the vast majority of the African Internet population, and some of them bring enormous expertise in various fields, and seek for opportunities online to unleash their entrepreneurial skills to the maximum. Countries have also embarked on digital hubs and labs. The equation to be solved seems to be the one of cross fertilization of efforts by diverse stakeholders, including governments, private sector and civil society on the one hand, and bold decisions on capacity building and appropriate support mechanisms towards a buoyant Internet industry, including the DNS industry and business. Thus, how to promote the necessary multi stakeholder model of the Internet governance within different countries and regions in Africa? And how could this multi stakeholder model help support a sustainable DNS industry in Africa? How can we increase the African participation in ICANN and other I* organizations to become more active in global Internet Governance issues and how can we measure this increased participation during the various meetings as for example in Durban, South Africa in July 2013?

The proposed event being organized by ICANN , in partnership with African I* (AFTLD, AFRINIC, African IGF, ISOC Africa, ATU..) in Addis will provide a platform for discussions around issues of Internet Governance multistakeholder model participation and adoption and DNS industry development in Africa. The event is timely as it comes within an era of new season for ICANN, whose new CEO has embarked on further deepening engagement with all its constituencies.

ICANN has, since its inception, adopted a multi-stakeholder, bottom-up model of policy development to ensure the involvement of all stakeholder

groups from governments, business, civil society, and technical, academic, and end-user communities, in its processes. Indeed, the African community has been represented in many ICANN constituencies, and some African Experts have taken lead on certain issues; however, time has come to stimulate more active African participation in ICANN and other I* organizations, and increase our presence in Africa.

In fulfilling its role as a global Internet body working for the public interest, ICANN has embarked on regional engagement plans in a number of developing countries and regions around the world. Thus, an Africa strategy was announced in October 2012 at the ICANN Toronto meeting. It was developed by an African multistakeholder working group and serves as a mechanism for engagement with the African Internet Governance community. The strategy has key objectives and strategic projects ([www...](http://www.icann.org/africa)), most of them geared towards the promotion of the African DNS market, deepening of African participation to ICANN, and repositioning ICANN presence and perception in Africa. Indeed, it is part of ICANN' to help get proper and better industries serving end users in Africa.

Given this background, this Event is being organized in Africa. It seeks to offer a unique opportunity for a constructive and forward-looking dialogue amongst government officials, policy makers, industry top leaders, representatives of non-government organizations, academia and Internet experts. Meeting agenda is designed around a number of Internet Governance and ICANN related topics that are essential for the region, and require further collaboration among all parties in order to foster further engagement by all African stakeholders in international Internet Governance related processes. The meeting will have a preconference event in the form of a training workshop on the DNS industry from a technical and business perspective.

Expected outcomes of the Event

The purpose of the African Event is to

1. Deepen the engagement of African stakeholders in ICANN constituencies (GAC, GNSO, ccNSO, ASO, ALAC, NCUC..) as well as in other I* organizations such as IETF.

2. To encourage African countries in adopting the Multistakeholder Model for national Internet Governance issues and study the role model of other countries and regions in this regards.
3. Follow up on the implementation of the African strategy with a specific engagement with the DNS industry, both globally and regionally, in a view to promote realistic mechanisms for the advent of a sustainable DSN industry and business in Africa. Clear programs are expected to be presented such as the incubator programme for the DNS business in Africa, the business models on DNS industry, the Award programme for African ccTDs and registrars The DNNSEC roadshow will also be presented as a follow up on the implementation of the African strategy

Event outlines

The event is being organized with four (4) distinct tracks:

1. The multistakeholder Internet Governance model: the African perspectives
2. The development of the DNS Industry and business in Africa
3. DNSSEC deployment in Africa
4. Capacity building in Internet Governance related issues

Track ONE will provide an opportunity for:

- an in-depth debate on the multistakeholder Internet governance model;
- further informing on ICANN's own multistakeholder model,
- highlighting African role models such as Kenya and non-African examples such as Brazil in successful national/Internet Governance Multistakeholder Model;
- pushing for the organization of multistakeholder models at country level in a view to promote African effective participation in global Internet Governance policy issues.

(Track leaders: Africa IGF; AFRALO; IGF and ICANN)

Track TWO deals with the DNS Industry and seeks to:

- Present the status of the African strategy with respect to DNS industry development:
- Highlight the domain name Industry, the new DNS ecosystem and challenges ahead;
- Engage directly with leaders of the domain name industry (both globally and regionally)
- Present the state of the domain industry in Africa
- Highlight elements of business development programs for the DNS industry in Africa such as incubator programs, best practices awards,

...

(Proposed track leaders are African Registrars, AFTLD and global Registrars in cooperation with ICANN)

Track THREE will seek to:

- Elaborate on the DNSSEC and its deployment within African registries and registrars;
- Report on the DNSSEC Roadshow initiated within the Africa strategy in eight countries and implemented in Jan/Feb/March 2013;
- Expose latest technologies and best practices
- Discuss and formalize strategies for African intake of the DNSSEC

(Track leaders: African Experts/ ICANN's IANA Security Team, ISOC, ...).

Track FOUR will cover capacity building on

- Internet related technologies, such as the DNS, IPv6
- Capacity building strategies for ccTLDs
- Capacity building strategies for registrars
- Cyber security and roles of African ccTLDs and Registrars

(Track leaders: ISOC Africa; AfriNIC; ATU; ICANN)

Proposed Agenda

6 March 2013

19h00 Welcome Reception and Dinner with a high-level participation and speech by the African Union, African IGF and ICANN

7 March 2013

09h00-10h30 Plenary 1

- Welcome speech
- Opening address
- Keynote address
- Statements by the organizing Partners
- Follow up report on the Africa strategy
- Introducing Event, the four tracks and expected outcomes of event

11h00-13h00 Breakout parallel sessions for the four tracks

13h00-14h30 Lunch

14h30-16h30 Plenary 2

- Follow up on the African strategy implementation such as The business model for the DNS industry in Africa
- The DNS Incubator program
- The Domain name Awards program

8 March 2013

09h00-11h00 Breakout parallel sessions for the four tracks

11h30-13h00 Closing Plenary

- Reports and recommendations of the four tracks
- The way forward to:
 - Increase African participation in I* organizations and how to measure it
 - Adopt national Internet Governance Multistakeholder Model
 - Engage in global Internet Governance issues

Venue:

UNECA Premises, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dates

5-6 March 2013: pre-conference workshop on DNS industry development for 20 participants

6-8 March 2013: Event on Multistakeholder Internet Governance
MIGworks

Participants: 100-150

African ccTLD managers; registrars, government representatives, regulators, policy makers, global leaders in the DNS industry, local civil society representatives, academia

Main attendees:

African Ministers, key government officials, Head of Regulations and Leaders

African Union (Commissioners)

UNECA (UN Economic Commission of Africa) – the African IGF umbrella

ATU (African Telecom Union)

I* leadership, ICANN leadership and Board Members

Examples for main governments: high-level representatives ([Ministers in Charge of ICT and/or Permanent Secretaries from Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire; Nigeria; Gabon...](#))

Examples for main industry players on a regional and global level (such as Verizon, GoDaddy, ...)

Examples for main civil society representatives ([such as AFRALO, African ISOC Chapters, ACSIS; FOSSFA](#))

Pre-conference training workshop on the DNS Industry in Africa 5-6 March

First Day: 5 March 2013

9- 17h

Second Day: 6 March 2013

9- 16h00

17h00 Closing of the training workshop

Possible themes for the training workshop

The new gTLDs program and the vertical integration of the DNS value chain,

The DNS ecosystem and challenges ahead

ICANN's engagement to leaders of the DNS industry and basis for a new engagement with the sector

Macro-trends affecting the DNS sector

Proposed timeline:

21-22 January 2013: finalize and distribute this proposal in final form

22-26 January 2013: invite participants by African IGF and ICANN

28Jan-1 Feb 2013: fine tune the agenda of the even workshop

February 2013: finalize speakers and further logistical details