**Statement of the ICANN African Community participating in the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting in Beijing**

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**Wednesday 10 April 2013**

We, members of the African community participating in the 46th ICANN International Public Meeting, gathered in Beijing on Wednesday 10 April 2013, having mainly debated the possibility of establishing a fund for the development of the Internet for developing countries,

* We appreciate the efforts made by ICANN these recent years in its international approach and its willingness to integrate developing countries into all its projects;
* We welcome the commitment and the involvement of the new leadership of ICANN who has made every effort to ensure that Africa can find its place in the global information society and that the digital gap with the North is reduced;
* We highly appreciate that an African strategy is adopted for a better engagement in the continent
* Considering that all these initiatives will enable Africa to not only integrate into the ICANN process and participate in the development of its policies, but also to enter the Internet domain industry, we call for the creation of an Internet development fund to help developing countries, particularly the African ones, to catch up the lateness. This fund will be oriented towards the overall interest of the region and will aim in particular at:
* Facilitating the accreditation of new Africans registrars through financial and technical support,
* The organization of activities of information, communication, awareness and training on the new gTLD program and the applicant support program implemented for those who need assistance in the application and the operation of a new gTLD,
* The promotion of capacity building activities in terms of understanding the domain name industry and its role in the digital economy development,
* The design and organization of training courses at the local level on Internet governance according to the multi-stakeholder model, using all appropriate tools (face to face or virtual),
* Encouraging the participation in all activities of ICANN of citizens from developing countries who are interested and effectively participate in various training and capacity building efforts.