# AFRICA STRATEGY AFTER DURBAN 47 : A PROGRESS REPORT

By Pierre Dandjinou, ICANN's VP, Stakeholder Engagement, Africa

The Africa strategy was launched in January 2013 and implementation started with key priority projects. The overall goal of the strategy being a transformation of Africa into a contributor to the Internet and an emerging market for the domain name business and industry, most projects sought to deal with the Africa domain name ecosystem.

Hence, a first ever Domain name forum was organized in Durban on 11-12 July, which provided a platform for discussion of issues and engagement between African registries, registrars and the global DNS business leaders; also, the DNSSEC roadshow project started off in February and by July 2013, six of the initial 8 countries were covered. A report has been produced and a new phase of project has been launched in August 2013. An Africa domain name Award was organized in Durban with nominations of 10 African registrars and registries, and the granting of two major Awards to the two top runners: ZADNA/ZACR of South Africa; and KHEWEUL of Senegal.

Since ICANN 47 in Durban, the Africa team has been increased with two new hires: a stakeholder engagement and operations Manager - Africa and a manager stakeholder engagement- East Africa. The Stakeholder engagement and Operations manager Africa came onboard on 26 August, while the Manager for East Africa will take up his position on 1st October.

In keeping with his project on 'Support to African registrars', the VP, Africa has formed a working group of three African registrars which produced a note on the insurance requirements for registrars and possible avenues for lowering the barriers to African registrars. The note has been circulated within ICANN and soon at the GNSO for further discussions, prior to any deemed formal consideration and solutions.

An action plan for FY14 has been proposed in Durban and thereafter reviewed to retain 11 projects. These include, *inter Alia,*: Assessment of African ccTLDs ( A partnership between ICANN, AFTLD and ISOC); an incubator programme for African young entrepreneurs; Engagement missions to strategic countries in each of African regions; a deepened engagement with African participants to ICANN's SO/AC; a support programme for African registrars; and a communication strategy for the Africa strategy.

**AFRICA STRATEGY FY14 PLAN**

| | *Proposed projects* | *Activities under projects* | *Timeline* | *Link with the Africa Strategy objectives* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Promote DNNSEC | Workshops in 8 more countries | August 2013- June 2014 | Promote adoption of DNSSEC |
| 2 | Study on ccTLD management in Africa | Study commited | November 2013- January 2014 | Business best practices and Marketing support for AfTLD, ccTLDs and Registrars |
| 3 | Observatory on DNS industry | Set up an observatory on DNS industry | February 2014 - June 2014 | An observatory to develop new indices for DNS industry growth in Africa ; |
| 4 | Develop exchange program with DNS industry leaders | idendity potential candidate within current registrars and registies; negociate with global industry leader | December 2013 - June 2014 | Promote strategic partnerships between global and local entrepreneurs in the DNS industry |
| 5 | Deploy Anycast instances of Root servers | Root servers copies will be deployed in four countries | November 2013 - June 2014 | Deploy more Anycast instances of L-Root in cooperation with Regional Organisations. Countries: Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Benin |
| 6 | Awareness on link between TM and domain names issues; | Workshop on WHOIS, Trademark issues, workhop for african ccTLDs | February - June 2014 | Support Capcity building and Development of Internet Governance in Africa; Strenghten ccTLDs in Africa |
| 7 | Support Program to African Registrars | African Registrar Meeting to discuss Insurance cost issues/proposals | July 2013 - June 2014 | Promote african registrars |
| 8 | Local engagement | Outreach visit to african countries | July 2013 - June 2014 | Promote the multistakeholder model and platform in Africa at the Government, civil society and private sector levesl to enrich participation in ICANN constituencies |
| 9 | International events | Outreach during International events | July 2013 - June 2014 | Effective communication/Outreach on ICANN |
| 10 | Policy advice on ccTLDS | Contribution to redelegation issues for .TG, .GM, .GW, .LR by: promoting consensus model at the national level trough local workshops | November 2013 - June 2014 | Assist in delegation and redelegation procedure in support of strenghten African ccTLDs |
| 11 | DNS incubation | Draft a concept paper; conference with selected centres | November 2013 - June 2014 | Build Entrepreneurship program in the DNS area |

•