**AFRALO / AfrICANN joint meeting**

**Helsinki, Wednesday 29 June 2016**

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**Statement**

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We, African ICANN Community members participating in the ICANN 56th International Public meeting in Helsinki and attending the joint AFRALO / AfrICANN meeting on Wednesday 29th June 2016, discussed the implementation of the Final proposals of the IANA Coordination Group (ICG) and Cross Community Working Group on enhancing the ICANN accountability (CCWG).

We first want to congratulate the entire Internet community for the huge amount of work undertaken in a so short time towards developing the various proposals. We also commend the ICANN board for performing its role by endorsing and forwarding the proposals to NTIA. We are pleased with the NTIA positive assessment of those proposals, which gives the process the green light to proceed with the rest of US Government approvals. Nevertheless, we have some remarks to make about the implementation of the proposals and beyond:

* The African Internet Community within ICANN and the African Regional At-Large Organization “AfRALO” would like to encourage the US government to not relent in performing its role in this process, which would result to the removal of the historical stewardship role of NTIA. We believe any attempt to block or further delay the transition process should be discouraged as its completion will strengthen the Internet Multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance and will “hopefully” prevent future proposals for government led management of the Internet’s IANA critical functions. When accomplished properly and in a timely manner, the transition will put the USA in high regard.
* We commend the work of the Implementation Oversight Task Force (IOTF) that has been overseeing the implementation of the CCWG and ICG proposal. We have been following the work of that group and like to reiterate that the group should remain focused on ensuring that implementation remains within the scope of the various proposals.
* We like to emphasis that the CWG proposal requires legal separation of PTI from ICANN hence that should be evident in its formation and composition as well. We believe that PTI should be empowered to independently manage its staff including recruiting new staff members as may be required. We understand that the new subsidiary would require some staff of ICANN for initial kick-off, nevertheless, we believe that this should just be a startup measure and not necessarily become the de-facto source of staffing.

* As the CCWG kicks off plans for work stream 2, we like to reiterate our previous comment that the work stream 1 was developed at a pace beyond average. This has made it difficult for some volunteers to follow-up with the process hence may have reduced the level of diversity of views in the development of the proposal. In view of this, we recommend that adequate and flexible time be provided for the development of work stream 2.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our support to the whole work done towards the transition of the U.S. government stewardship role with regard to the IANA Functions and related root zone management to the global ICANN community, and the progress made so far. We also encourage everyone involved to continue to perform their part in a manner that does not stall the transition process. Lets all work together to keep the One Internet We Know for the future generations.