

AfTLD 2019

Annual Report

Home of African ccTLDs



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AfTLD Secretariat
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Introduction

Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AfTLD) is the association of country code top level domain registry (ccTLD) managers in the Africa region. The main objective of AfTLD is to help African ccTLD managers discuss issues regarding the management of ccTLDs. AfTLD also presents a common position arrived at by African ccTLDs on key global issues in the Domain Name System (DNS) industry at the global level.

AfTLD is recognized as the representative of country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers from the Africa region by ICANN and other related global organizations. It is an active participant in the ICANN ccNSO, and also actively participates in various Internet governance fora, including the United Nations Internet Governance Forum , where it has run a number of workshops.

AfTLD works in collaboration and in partnership with other Regional Top Level Domain Organizations (RTLDOs), that is APTLD, CENTR and LACTLD.

AfTLD is an observer to the European ccTLD association (CENTR) as well as the Latin America and Carribean Top Level Domain Organization (LACTLD). It regularly works in partnership with other common interest organizations, including the Internet Society and the Network Start up Resource Centre (NSRC).

AfTLD works with and is recognized by many African governments shown by the support it receives from them when it organizes its events in the country. In addition to its separate topic-specific capacity building events, AfTLD holds an annual conference and Annual General Meeting. Its training workshops are run in both English and French, and are held in various locations across the continent.

AfTLD carries out its work program through a secretariat located in Nairobi (Kenya), and has several working groups (WGs). These WGs include a Technical WG, which drives the technical training program, the Research WG, which drives AfTLD's research program, the Strategy WG which drives the overall corporate strategy of AfTLD, the meetings working group which organizes member meetings and workshops, the IDN working group which discusses Internationalized Domain Names and the Constitutional review working group which continuously reviews the AfTLD Constitution.

What we do

- Represent the interests of African ccTLDs, including the neighboring islands around the African continent.
- Promote communication and cooperation between ccTLDs' managers.
- Inform the African Internet community about the ICANN process, IANA and World ccTLD Community through an awareness and outreach program.
- Provide a common address where information about African ccTLDs can be obtained.
- Assist in Africa Internet & DNS Related issues.

Mission

Facilitating communication and collaboration among African ccTLD and TLD registries through innovation, capacity building, networking and partnerships with national, regional and international stakeholders in an inclusive manner.

Vision

To represent, coordinate and promote development of all ccTLD and other TLD registries in Africa by 2022.

Values

AfTLD believes in the following values

I. Integrity

II. Inclusivity

III. Respect

IV. Diversity

V. Self-improvement

Organization Structure

The GENERAL ASSEMBLY is the decision making organ of the organization. It also elects officers of the organization. It meets once every year at the Annual General Meeting as well as whenever there is an emergency or a need to convene.

The EXCOM (Executive Committee) is the board of the organization providing strategic direction for the organization and assisting the secretariat to implement operational decisions. The EXCOM is made up of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Functional Directors in different areas of operation. Currently, there are directors for Research, Capacity Building, Communications and Strategic Partnership. The EXCOM is aided by Working Groups (WG) with participation by members in the different areas of interest to the organization. These working groups are mostly chaired by EXCOM members. The Executive Committee (EXCOM) is elected by the General Assembly to run the organization in accordance with the wishes of the AfTLD members. The EXCOM is also the board of the company limited by guarantee that provides the legal structure for AfTLD. The Excom is led by a Chairman. The functions of the Excom are defined in the AfTLD Constitution

The SECRETARIAT is the operational arm of the organization implementing all decisions of the organization. The Secretariat is headed by the General Manager who works with administrative and other support staff and interns.

The Secretariat supports the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, organizes meetings and workshops, and is responsible for handling the organization's finances.

It also provides a focal point for enquiries concerning ccTLDs, and distributes information on matters of interest to the AfTLD Members through the mailing lists and social media channels.

2019 was a very eventful year for Africa Top Level Domains Organization. The Organization was involved in a number of events that sought to promote the development of ccTLDs and other TLD registries in Africa. The objectives of the events ranged from Capacity Building, networking to birds of a feather workshops.

Events

The following events were organized by AfTLD in 2020;

Initial Registry Operators Course , Banjul Gambia



Initial Registry Operators Course, Gambia.

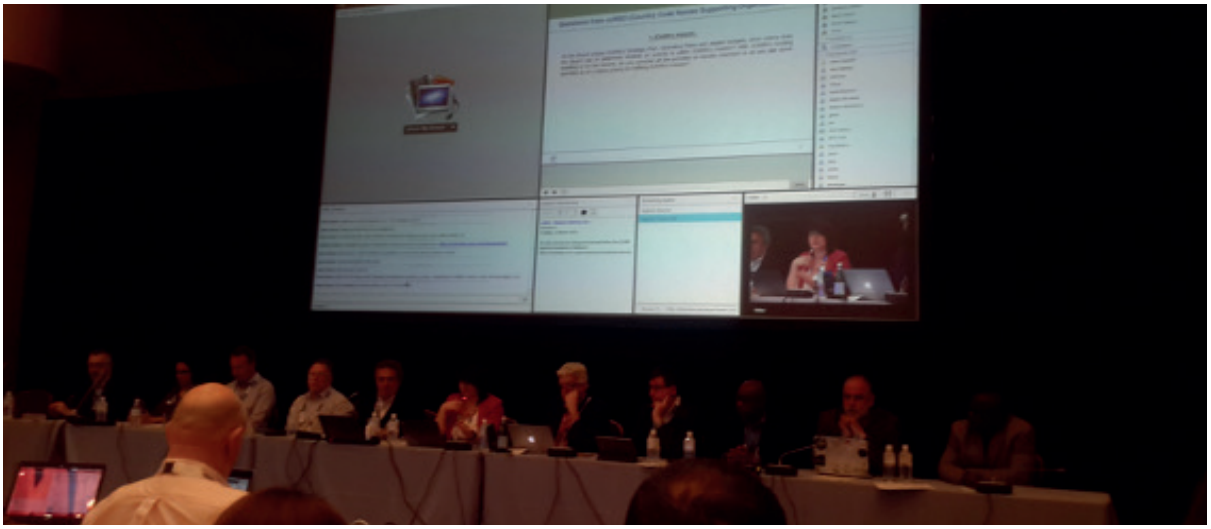
Africa Top Level Domains Organization in partnership with the Internet Society Gambia Chapter, the Information Technology Association of the Gambia and the Senegal Network Information Centre organized the Initial Registry Operators course in Banjul , The Gambia from 4th to 8th February 2019 at the Paradise Suites Hotel. The event was supported by the Ministry of Information and Communications, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), Q Cell, Serekunda Internet Exchange point, Gamtel, Africell and the European Union.

The Gambia is in the process of delegating its country code Top Level Domain Registry. A national steering committee has been established to spearhead the process and the capacity building program was part of the process of equipping local stakeholders with the knowledge required to manage the .GM country code top level domain registry ahead of the delegation. Among the topics discussed were registry models, relationships between ccTLDs and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and local stakeholders.

Participants got a chance to learn case studies from other ccTLDs such as the .SO Registry (Somalia), .TZ Registry (Tanzania) and the .SN Registry (Senegal) who graced the meeting as part of the Instructor team.

The program was centred around sharing of experiences (tour de table), a study of the Registry architecture using COCCA tools and a hands on installation session for COCCA and FRED the most commonly used registry software in Africa. The Program also entailed an introduction to the domain name system for beginners, DNS security and how to handle common registry problems. Domain Name Security extension (DNSSEC) and Business Continuity planning were discussed as hot topics.

ICANN Community Forum, 9 - 14 March 2019 | Kobe, Japan



ccNSO Council Meeting KOBE, Japan.

The AfTLD Secretariat participated in the ICANN Community Forum in KOBE Japan. AfTLD was well represented in the ccNSO members meeting by a number of members. The General Manager and Councillors from the Africa Region played an active role in various sessions such as TLD-OPS, the PDP-retirement working group, the New gTLD subsequent procedures work track 5 session to name a few.

AfTLD was represented in the traditional joint Regional Organizations board and staff meeting that was organized by the Asia Pacific Top Level Domains Organization in whose region the meeting was organized. Regional Organizations shared updates from their respective Regions and explored areas they could collaborate on.

Events

Initial Registry Operators Course, 6 - 10 May 2019 | Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso



IROC Burkina Faso.

Africa Top Level Domains Organization in partnership with Autorite de Regulation des Communications Electroniques et de Postes (ARCEP) and the Association Burkinabe des Domaines Internet (ABDI) organized an Initial Registry Operator's Course in Ouagadougou Burkina Faso.

The aim of the workshop which was conducted in French was to facilitate the smooth transition of the Registry operations from the regulator to a multistakeholder entity (ABDI).

More than 40 participants drawn from the government, private sector, civil society and academia participated in the workshop.

Africa Internet Summit, Marketing Workshop, 17 - 21 June 2019 | Kampala, Uganda



AIS Kampala.

The Secretariat organized a Marketing workshop during the Africa Internet Summit that was held in Kampala Uganda from 17th to 21st June 2020. The workshop explored modern marketing approaches for ccTLDs and the role of data in assisting ccTLD Managers to make decisions.

Other sessions that AfTLD participated in included the ICANN day where AfTLD made presentations on issues affecting country code Top Level Domain Registries and uptake of domain names in Africa.

Africa Top Level Domains Organization and Afrinic renewed their memorandum of understanding at a session presided over by the Africa Top Level Domains Organization President Dr Alex Corenthin and the Afrinic Chief Executive Officer Alan Barret that set the scene for greater collaboration between the Regional Organizations.

Events

ICANN 64 Policy Forum, 24 - 27 June 2019 | Marrakech, Morocco



ICANN 64 Policy Forum Marrakech Morocco signing of MOU with Afralo.

The Secretariat and a number of members participated in the 64th ICANN Public Forum in Marrakech Morocco. The Secretariat led its members in actively participating in the country code Name Supporting Organization sessions. AfTLD was a co-sponsor of the ccNSO cocktail.

The secretariat also participated in the joint Regional Organizations Staff meeting in which the Regional Organizations shared updates from their respective regions and explored areas of collaboration. Highlights of the meeting included the signing of a Memorandum of understanding between Africa Top Level Domains Organization and the Africa Regional At Large Organization.

Africa Domain Name System Forum, 22 - 24 July 2019 | Gaborone, Botswana



Africa Top Level Domains Organization in partnership with the Africa Registrar Association and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers under the auspices of the Botswana Communication and Regulatory Authority hosted the 7th African Domain Name System Forum in Gaborone Botswana.

Africa Domain Name System Forum 2019 Gaborone Botswana.

The forum which brought together Regional actors such as the Africa Union Commission and the Africa Network Information Centre attracted 291 participants from 46 countries drawn from 5 Regions around the world. This was in addition to 45 remote participants, 762 unique visitors on the livestream channel who stayed for 17,824 minutes and 401 viewers on Facebook who stayed on the channel for 507 minutes.



Signing of the Heads of Agreement Between AfTLD and Africa Registrars in Gaborone Botswana.

The Africa Domain Name System Forum aims to continuously establish an engagement platform for the domain name industry in Africa. More than seven annual fora have been held since its inception in July 2013 in Durban South Africa. During the forum Africa Top Level Domains Organization and the Africa Registrar Association discussed the need for a memorandum of understanding and signed a Heads of Agreement (HOA) as a precursor to the memorandum of understanding which will be signed in future.

Events

Launch of the South Sudan Network Information Centre, 28 August 2019 | Juba, South Sudan

On 28th August 2019, Africa Top Level Domains Organization participated in the launch of the South Sudan Network Information Centre in Juba South Sudan. The launch was attended by EXCOM member Abdalla Omari and Mr Landi Ahmed from the Kenya Network Information Centre who played a key role in the delegation and eventual establishment of the Registry.

During the Africa Internet Summit, the South Sudan Network Information Centre Technical Manager participated in the Marketing workshop in Kampala Uganda.

Africa Union Policy Meeting, 2 - 6 September 2019 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



AUC Registry and Registrar Forum Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

Under the auspices of the Africa Union Commission, Africa Top Level Domains Organization and the Africa Registrar Association participated in the Africa Union Commission Policy and Regulation Initiative for a Digital Africa (PRIDA) policy harmonization workshop in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

The delegation included 3 executive committee members, five representatives of the Africa Registrar Association and 2 councillors from the country code Name Supporting Organization representing the Africa Region.

Africa Internet Governance Forum, 10 -12 September 2019 | Ndjamena, Chad



The Africa Top Level Domains Organization Secretariat participated in the 8th Africa Internet Governance Forum in Ndjamena Chad. The Forum's theme was shared responsibilities of stakeholders for a robust Internet Governance Ecosystem in Africa. The meeting was attended by more than 500 participants drawn from 35 countries on the African continent. It was also the first time the meeting was hosted in a French speaking country as well as in Central Africa



Events

East Africa Internet Governance Forum, 17 - 18 October 2019 | Arusha, Tanzania

The Secretariat participated in 7th East Africa Internet Governance Forum hosted by the East African Community in Arusha Tanzania. The theme of the Forum was achieving digital inclusion in East Africa. This was also the first time the forum was being hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania under the auspices of the Internet Society Tanzania Chapter.

More than 100 participants from the six East African partner states of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda participated in the forum which included a special session with the members of the East African legislative Assembly to brief them on key legislative issues affecting Internet Governance and their role in advancing the same. For the first time the meeting was attended by 20 deaf and blind participants which highlighted the need for Internet Governance conversations to embrace diversity and inclusivity.

ICANN 66 Community Forum and AGM, 2 - 7 November 2019 | Montreal, Canada



ICANN 66 Community Forum Montreal Canada.

Africa Top Level Domains Organization participated in the 66th ICANN Community Forum from the 2nd to 7th November 2019. The Secretariat participated in the country code Name Supporting Organization sessions as well as the joint Regional Organization Staff meeting that has become a tradition in ICANN meetings. The Secretariat also held meetings with a number of members present at the Forum and discussed areas in which the Secretariat would add value to member programs and activities.

14th Internet Governance Forum meeting, 25 - 29 November 2019 | Berlin, Germany



IGF Berlin Germany.

The AfTLD Secretariat Participated in the 14th United Nations Internet Governance Forum in Berlin Germany. Various AfTLD members participated in the meeting. These included the Kenya Network Information Centre (.Ke), Adetic (.TD), the Ghana Network Information Centre (.GH), The .ZA Domain Name Authority (.ZA), the Madagascar Network Information Centre (NIC.MG), ATI the operator of the Tunisia ccTLD (.TN) and ARCEP the operator of the Burkina Faso ccTLD (.BF).

The Secretariat also attended the joint Regional Organization ccTLD Staff meeting for General Managers and Staff from APTLD, CENTR and LACTLD. The meeting explored possibilities of having joint workshops at Future Internet Governance Fora and areas of common interest in the year 2020.

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2019 brought together representatives from governments, the technical community, business and civil society to discuss and amplify digital cooperation.

The IGF convened for the fourteenth time since its establishment in 2005 and was hosted by the Government of Germany in Berlin. Under the overarching theme, 'One World. One Net. One Vision', the IGF 2019 provided a substantive multi stakeholder platform for engaged and informed discussions about policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and how the Internet can support and fulfil the nexus of respecting human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Events

NIC.MG 25 Years Celebration, 12 - 13 December 2019 | Antananarivo, Madagascar

Madagascar Network Information Centre (NIC.MG) celebrated its 25th anniversary from 12th to 13th December 2019. AfTLD was represented at the anniversary by EXCOM member Dr. Serge Sanou. The Celebration focused on the journey of NIC.MG since it was delegated and advancements made in the local Internet industry in Madagascar which had been spearheaded by the Registry and the growing Internet Community.

Chad Domain Name System Forum, 17 - 18 December 2019 l Ndjamena, Chad

Under the auspices of Agence de Developpement des Technologies de l'information et de la Communication (ADETIC) the .TD Manager, AfTLD participated in the first Chad Domain Name System Forum. AfTLD was represented by the Vice President Mr. Ali Hadji Mmadi from .KM (Comoros).
The forum explored ways of developing the Domain Name Industry in Chad. In addition capacity building sessions on how to use the WHOIS, Domain Name Security Extension and Internet Protocol Resources were also conducted.

Visit to NIC Mauritania, 22 - 24 December 2019 | Nouakchott, Mauritania

The Africa Top Level Domains Organization Secretariat paid a courtesy call on the NIC.MR ccTLD in Nouakchott Mauritania. The Secretariat was hosted by the ccTLD Manager Mr. Ahmed Salem Cheikh and explored areas in which the AfTLD Secretariat would enhance its support for the .MR ccTLD.
The .MR ccTLD recently hosted a training programme for Francophone ccTLDs with the support of AFNIC the French ccTLD. The Secretariat also met the President of the University of Mauritania Prof. Ahmedou Ould Haouba and discussed various training programmes that would increase the number of Registrars and bolster the digital economy in Mauritania.

Acknowledgement of Sponsors and Partners

Africa Top Level Domains Organization would like to thank the following partners and sponsors for supporting its annual work plan;

1. Afilias
2. Africa Registrar Association
3. DNS (PTY)
4. OIF (La Francophonie)
5. Internet Society
6. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
7. Public Interest Registry (PIR)
8. ZACR

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