
**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR SEAT ONE:
NORTHERN AFRICA**

Abdelaziz Hilali



Brief Motivation

As an experienced academic and President of the Moroccan Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC Morocco), I have been deeply engaged in Internet governance across Africa for many years. My sustained commitment—both in higher education and in the broader Internet community—has provided me with strategic insight and a deep understanding of critical issues such as IP resource management, digital infrastructure development, and Internet sovereignty on the continent.

Through this candidacy, I seek to contribute meaningfully to AFRINIC's efforts to strengthen transparency, ensure institutional stability, and promote inclusive, community-based governance. I am particularly dedicated to advancing balanced regional representation, with a focus on North Africa, and to ensuring that African technical and institutional voices are fully heard and considered within AFRINIC's processes. I firmly believe that my expertise, experience, and collaborative vision position me to bring significant value to AFRINIC's Board as it continues to pursue its mission of fostering an open, secure, and accessible Internet for all Africans.

Professional Background

Professor Aziz Hilali is a respected academic and a long-standing contributor to international Internet governance. He holds a PhD in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from the University of Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France. Over a distinguished 41-year career, he served as Professor at the National Institute of Telecommunications Engineers in Morocco,



holding numerous academic and administrative leadership roles. He also contributed internationally as an Associate Professor at ENSIMAG in Grenoble.

In 1994, he co-founded the Moroccan Internet Society (MISOC), which he currently chairs. Under his leadership, MISOC recognized as the Moroccan Chapter of the Internet Society, and an ICANN At-Large Structure, has promoted digital literacy, Internet adoption, and national and international cooperation on Internet issues.

At the international level, Prof. Hilali has demonstrated strong leadership in Internet governance. He is the current President of the Mediterranean Federation of Internet Associations (FMAI), based in Tunis, and served on the United Nations Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) from 2009 to 2013. He also chaired the MAG of the North Africa IGF (NAIGF) for four years, working to enhance cooperation across the Maghreb and Sahel regions.

His active engagement with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) includes representing Africa on the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). As Chair of AFRALO, he strengthened African perspectives in global Internet policy debates. His leadership extended to organizing major global events such as the ICANN meetings held in Marrakech in 2016 and 2019, underscoring his capacity to coordinate international, multi-stakeholder initiatives.

Prof. Hilali is deeply engaged in AFRINIC's ecosystem, where he has actively participated in policy discussions advocating for inclusive, transparent, and community-driven management of IP resources. His dedication to public service, combined with his extensive experience and pan-African network, positions him as an ideal candidate to serve on AFRINIC's Board. He brings with him a trusted reputation, deep technical and policy expertise, and a strategic vision to advance AFRINIC's mission, while representing the interests of North Africa and the broader African Internet community.

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR SEAT TWO:
WESTERN AFRICA**

Emmanuel Adewale Adedokun



Brief Motivation

I am expressing my renewed interest in serving as a Director on the AFRINIC Board, having previously held this role from 2019 to 2022. During that time, I had the privilege of contributing meaningfully to AFRINIC's governance and development, including chairing key committees such as the Technical, Audit, and Finance Committees. These responsibilities enabled me to foster transparent oversight, enhance technical governance, and uphold best practices in resource allocation and policy formulation.

Having closely followed AFRINIC's recent challenges, I am deeply committed to helping restore trust, stability, and accountability within the organization. I believe my prior board experience and understanding of AFRINIC's operational landscape position me well to contribute to its institutional recovery and future resilience.

My motivation is grounded in a desire to realign AFRINIC with its core values, transparency, community-driven governance, and operational excellence—while promoting inclusive dialogue and regional collaboration. I am dedicated to serving the AFRINIC community with integrity and purpose as we collectively chart a path forward.

Professional Background

Professor Emmanuel Adewale Adedokun is a seasoned academic, internet governance advocate, and technology leader with over two decades of experience in computer networks, cybersecurity, and digital infrastructure development in Africa. He is a Professor of Computer Engineering at Ahmadu Bello University



(ABU), Zaria, Nigeria, where he also served as Head of Department and has supervised numerous postgraduate students in fields related to internet technologies and network security.

Prof. Adedokun holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering with a specialization in Network Security, an M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, and a B.Eng. in Electrical Engineering—all from Ahmadu Bello University. His research and academic interests lie in computer networks, wireless and mobile communication, cloud computing, and information security. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and presented at regional and international conferences.

In the broader internet ecosystem, Prof. Adedokun has made significant contributions through capacity development and leadership. He currently serves as the National Coordinator of the Nigerian Network Operators Group (ngNOG), a capacity-building initiative that has trained hundreds of engineers and technical personnel in IP networking and internet resource management across Nigeria and West Africa. His role has been pivotal in promoting technical excellence, local internet development, and knowledge sharing.

Prof. Adedokun has also served on the Board of Directors of AFRINIC as the representative for the Western Africa region, where he contributed to governance processes, strategic planning, and community engagement. His time on the AFRINIC Board was marked by his commitment to transparency, regional inclusion, and the strengthening of AFRINIC's institutional capacity.

He is a recognized thought leader in Africa's internet governance space and an active member of the global Internet community. He is affiliated with several professional bodies including the Internet Society (ISOC), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE), the Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN), and the Nigeria Computer Society (NCS).

Prof. Adedokun's unwavering dedication to advancing Africa's internet ecosystem, combined with his academic, technical, and governance credentials, make him exceptionally well-qualified to continue serving on the AFRINIC Board. He brings a balanced perspective, combining grassroots technical engagement with high-level strategic oversight and remains deeply committed to AFRINIC's mission of enabling internet growth and resilience across the continent.

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR SEAT
THREE: INDIAN OCEAN**

Kaleem Usmani



Brief Motivation

I am motivated to serve on the AFRINIC Board of Directors to actively contribute to the sustainable development and governance of Internet resources in Africa. With a background in ICT policy, cybersecurity, and multi-stakeholder engagement, I bring a strong regional perspective and a commitment to transparency, accountability, and technical innovation.

My experience in regional and international Internet governance forums, including involvement in UN cyber processes, African Union Expert in cybersecurity, SADC positions in ICT governance and cybersecurity as well as national digital policy formulation, positions me to effectively represent stakeholder interests and promote digital inclusion. I aim to enhance AFRINIC's role as a reliable, community-driven registry, ensuring equitable distribution of IP resources and promoting capacity building across the continent.

I believe that a strong, well-governed AFRINIC is essential for Africa's digital future, and I am committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to strengthen the organization's resilience, responsiveness, and regional relevance.

Professional Background

Dr. Kaleem Ahmed Usmani is a seasoned cybersecurity professional with extensive experience in national and international cyber defense initiatives including for the Internet registries.

I am leading the Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU), a national CERT of Mauritius which is a department operating under the Ministry of Information Technology,



Communication and Innovation, Republic of Mauritius. In this role, i oversee national cybersecurity strategies, incident response coordination, and cyber policy implementation.

As part of the cybersecurity agenda and under my leadership, Mauritius has adopted a series of measures in terms of infrastructure, legislation, policy strategies for capacity building, data management system and preventive strategies to make Mauritius a digital

gateway for Africa and other countries including the elaboration of cybersecurity initiatives in collaboration with local, regional and international agencies.

In 2021, I spearheaded the technical drafting of the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Act 2021 in alignment with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime as well as the Malabo Convention. The new law aims at developing a more robust framework for the protection of the Mauritian cyberspace, by providing new criminal offences related to cybersecurity and cybercrime, reinforced provisions for protection of critical information infrastructure and implementation of a policy in that regard, improved investigation techniques and international cooperation as well as mutual legal assistance in cybercrime matters and setting up of a National Cybersecurity Committee. The new law has been enforced.

Currently, I am driving ITU Academy Training Global Centre in the area of cybersecurity which was setup in 2020. The Centre is helping Mauritius as well as the other regions of the world to build capacity. The center is used as a resource point for all countries to strengthen capacity to address cybercrime through training, education and professional development of law enforcement, criminal justice community, parliamentarians, regulators, operators and technical staff; facilitate the development of cybercrime policies; the development of a national law and procedures with regards to Mutual Legal Assistance and the establishment of international cooperation.

I am representing Mauritius in various international cybersecurity forums. Notably, I have served as the country's representative to the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber, contributing to global discussions on cyber norms and policies. Currently I am also contributing the UN's Open

Ended Working Group as the African Union Expert. As part of the international collaboration, I have been supporting the affiliation of African CERT Teams with FIRST. Zambia, Ghana, Rwanda, Malawi are some of the examples.

The other projects which I am leading right now includes the implementation of the National Cyber Crisis Management Plan, the development of the Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Policy, the implementation of national cybersecurity strategy, coordination of Government SOC activities and the national honeypot project.

I am committed to enhance cyber resilience and foster collaborative approaches to cyber threat management both at the national and international level.

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR SEAT
FOUR: CENTRAL AFRICA**

Laurent Ntumba



Brief Motivation

I, Laurent Ntumba Kayemba, respectfully submit my candidacy to the AFRINIC Board of Directors to serve with integrity and wisdom during this defining period for Africa's internet governance.

AFRINIC is currently navigating a period of exceptional institutional challenge marked by coordination difficulties, ongoing legal pressures, concerns around the mismanagement of IP resources, and broader risks to Africa's digital sovereignty. I bring over 40 years of ICT leadership in Central Africa, having built one of the region's most resilient infrastructure networks and helped localize internet traffic through KINIX, LUBIX, and GOMIX.

As a former member of AFRINIC's Governance Committee and Policy Development Appeal Committee, I understand both the governance gaps and the community-driven processes needed to restore stability and trust. As Vice President of the Telecom Committee at the Federation of Enterprises of Congo (FEC) and President of ISPA-DRC, I engage regularly with stakeholders across the public, private, and civil society landscape.

I stand for an AFRINIC that is transparent, accountable, and sovereign. My mission within the limits of my function and in compliance with the AFRINIC Bylaws will be to protect Africa's remaining IPv4 resources, support collaborative policy development, and ensure AFRINIC remains a secure and strategic institution serving the continent.

I am committed to contributing experienced, principled leadership to help rebuild trust and ensure AFRINIC's continued service to the African internet community.

Laurent Ntumba Kayemba

Managing Director - Microcom DRC



President - Internet Service Provider Association of the DRC (ISPA-DRC)

Former Member - AFRINIC Governance Committee

Professional Background

Laurent Ntumba Kayemba is a visionary ICT leader with over 30 years of experience advancing telecommunications, digital infrastructure, and internet policy reform in Central Africa. Based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), he currently serves as Managing Director of Microcom DRC, a top-tier wireless ISP, and as President of the Internet Service Provider Association of the DRC (ISPA-DRC).

Under Laurent's leadership, Microcom evolved from a small electronics repair shop into a national ISP operating in 11 cities, serving government bodies, international organizations, and major private sector clients. He pioneered key innovations including a VSAT satellite backbone and early WiMAX deployment, dramatically expanding broadband access to underserved regions. His work earned Microcom the AfricaCom Award for Best Network Improvement and secured strategic partnerships with global satellite providers like Intelsat and Eutelsat.

As ISPA-DRC President, Laurent has been instrumental in shaping national internet policy, advocating for reduced telecom taxes, inclusion of ISP voices in digital strategies, and more transparent spectrum regulation. He is the founding architect of KINIX, the first Internet Exchange Point in the DRC, and led the launch of LUBIX and GOMIX, creating a national IXP ecosystem that significantly reduced latency and international transit costs. Through partnerships with the Internet Society, Google, and Facebook, he has made the DRC a continental model for local traffic exchange and digital sovereignty.

Laurent also serves as Vice-President of the Telecom Professional Committee within the Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC), representing ICT industry interests in regulatory discussions. He is a regular contributor to continental forums such as AfPIF and has served in governance roles at AFRINIC, influencing regional internet development policy.

Beyond ICT, Laurent is a passionate humanitarian. As President of Operation Smile DRC, he has led campaigns delivering over 2,000 cleft surgeries and 100+ fistula repairs, improving access to care for vulnerable populations.

With a track record of visionary leadership, ecosystem building, and policy impact, Laurent Ntumba Kayemba is recognized as one of Central Africa's most influential ICT pioneers, committed to a more connected, inclusive, and resilient digital future.

Laurent Ntumba Kayemba

Managing Director - Microcom DRC

*President - Internet Service Provider Association of the DRC (ISPA-DRC) Former Member
- AFRINIC Governance Committee*

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR SEAT
FIVE: SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Carla Sanderson



Brief Motivation

Carla Sanderson is a seasoned marketing and strategic communications executive with over 25 years of leadership experience across Africa's digital infrastructure, telecommunications, and technology sectors. She is standing as a candidate for the AFRINIC Board of Directors, bringing extensive experience in ecosystem building, multi-stakeholder engagement, and regional Internet development.

Carla currently serves as Head of Marketing at Teraco – A Digital Realty Company, where she is a member of the executive committee and plays a pivotal role in shaping the brand and strategic vision of Africa's most interconnected and vendor-neutral data centre platform. In this role, she also leads the marketing and community building initiatives for NAPAfrica—a non-profit subsidiary of Teraco and the largest Internet Exchange Point (IXP) on the African continent.

NAPAfrica operates from Teraco facilities in Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg, and its mission is to make Internet access more affordable and accessible in Africa. It provides cost-free access to infrastructure, charging no membership, port, or cross connect fees, and offers a neutral, high-performance platform for traffic exchange between enterprises, carriers, cloud providers, content delivery networks (CDNs), and Internet service providers (ISPs). By localising traffic and improving routing efficiency, NAPAfrica plays a critical role in



ensuring that African Internet traffic stays within Africa. Under Carla's leadership, the brand has grown into a symbol of community collaboration and Internet empowerment.

In addition, Carla served as a member of the Open-IX Association, where she contributed to international efforts in establishing neutral Internet exchange.

Professional Background

Carla Sanderson is a seasoned marketing executive with over 25 years of experience driving strategic marketing, brand development, and communications across the technology and digital infrastructure landscape in Africa. Since 2010, she has served as Head of Marketing at Teraco – A Digital Realty Company and the NAPAfrica Internet eXchange Point, where she leads the full marketing function and serves on the executive team.

Carla has played a central role in Teraco's growth from a regional player to a pan African leader in carrier-neutral data centres, shaping its brand and thought leadership in a rapidly evolving telecommunications ecosystem.

Earlier in her career, Carla held senior marketing roles at TransUnion Africa, EOH, and Wonderware Southern Africa, building a deep foundation in IT services, automation, and enterprise solutions. She is known for her ability to balance strategic vision with hands-on execution, as well as her collaborative leadership style.

Carla holds several Marketing qualifications from the IMM Graduate School, as well as executive education from SDA Bocconi in Milan and Pragmatic Marketing in the US. She is a Certified SEO Professional and a passionate advocate for ethical digital marketing and industry education.

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR SEAT
SIX: EASTERN AFRICA**

Fiona Asonga



Brief Motivation

Fiona has served the region before from 2011 to 2018 was one of the three African representatives on the Number Resource Organization – Number Council. Her role doubled as a member of the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Address Supporting Organization-Address Council that co-ordinates the development of Global Numbering Resource Policy Development. Her experience in operating a critical internet infrastructure and the industry association should be of value to the region in helping address the interests of all stakeholders. She continues to advocate for the use of the internet by all in a safe manner that promotes social, economic and political development of society and multi-stakeholder engagement for digital development. She leads private sector in stakeholder partnerships and consultations that have enabled strong relationships and collaborations within the ecosystem.

Professional background

2005 - 2006 Account Manager , Seven Seas Technologies (K) Ltd 2006 -
2009 Administrator, TESPOK

2009 - 2010 Acting Chief Executive Officer , TESPOK 2010 - To
date Chief Executive Officer , TESPOK

Volunteer Experience:

2011 - 2018 AFRINIC ASO/NRO Representative

2023 to date - Advisor to President and Chief Executive Officer, Global Cybersecurity Alliance 2022 to
date - Executive Council Member IGF Supporting Organization

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR
SEATS SEVEN AND EIGHT: REGION-
INDEPENDENT**

Rodrigue Guiguemde



Brief Motivation

With over 15 years of experience in digital governance, ICT policy, and multistakeholder coordination, I bring a strong commitment to restoring stability, transparency, and trust in AFRINIC. As former Vice-Chair of the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), I have worked at the intersection of global internet governance and African digital policy, and currently lead advisory initiatives under the Smart Africa Internet Governance program.

My technical and institutional background spans DNS infrastructure, national IPv6 strategies, and capacity building, with recognized leadership in cross-border collaboration and stakeholder inclusion. I have supported AFRINIC-related community training efforts, participated in ICANN and ISOC forums, and contributed to bottom-up governance reforms across Africa.

Honored with the 2024 Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building and the Order of Merit of Burkina Faso, I remain dedicated to ensuring AFRINIC fulfills its founding mission—providing equitable, transparent, and member-driven resource management. I aim to strengthen AFRINIC's legitimacy, reinforce its operational resilience, and rebuild constructive engagement with the global internet ecosystem.

Professional Background

Rodrigue Guiguemde is a seasoned ICT policy advisor, Internet governance leader, and digital transformation strategist with over 15 years of experience advancing inclusive digital development



across Africa. His career spans national, regional, and international levels, including roles with Smart Africa, ICANN, and multiple African governments.

He currently serves as Internet Governance Advisor at Smart Africa, where he leads the development of strategic frameworks for Internet governance across the continent, supporting institutions like the Council of African Internet Governance Authorities (CAIGA) and regional digital policy initiatives. He is also Secretary General of ROPTIC-UEMOA and Founder of Digitales Solidaires, an NGO advancing inclusive digital empowerment in West Africa.

From 2019 to 2022, he served as Vice-Chair of the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), where he championed African perspectives in global policy forums and promoted Multistakeholder governance. He has also been actively engaged in AFRINIC capacity- building activities and has coordinated national initiatives on IPv6 deployment, DNS resilience, and platform security.

Rodrigue previously held the position of General Director of Digital Industry Development in Burkina Faso, overseeing national strategies for digital innovation, internet infrastructure, and public-private partnerships. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was appointed National Focal Point for Digital Resilience, coordinating emergency ICT responses and digital inclusion programs.

His technical background includes hands-on experience in IT infrastructure, DNS, and cloud platforms, supported by certifications in Ethical Hacking, ITIL, PRINCE2, IBM Cloud Admin, and PMP. He has led cross-border regulatory and infrastructure projects, advised governments on data governance and AI regulation, and contributed to Smart Africa's work on internet resilience and cross-border connectivity.

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR
SEATS SEVEN AND EIGHT: REGION-
INDEPENDENT**

Ben Roberts



Brief Motivation

Ben Roberts is well recognized for over 25 years of transformative leadership in building Africa's digital infrastructure. As Group CTIO of Liquid Intelligent Technologies, he architected Africa's largest terrestrial fiber network spanning 110,000km across 17 countries. His deep technical expertise, combined with proven governance experience across multiple African subsidiaries and international partnerships, positions him uniquely to guide AfriNIC 's strategic direction. Ben's commitment to Africa's digital transformation, extensive work in technical communities, and leadership in developing local talent make him an ideal advocate for African interests in Internet governance. His work connecting African networks, fostering innovation ecosystems, and driving policy development demonstrates the vision and expertise needed to ensure AfriNIC serves Africa's growing digital economy effectively. Now working as a consultant and startup advisor and investor, Ben has no vested commercial interests in the current and future predicament of AfriNIC, and he wishes to be a part of a fresh set of leaders to turn around AfriNIC to resume its place as a key pillar of Africa's Digital Future.

Professional Background

Ben Roberts is a pan Africanist, settled in Kenya, and a distinguished technology leader with 25+ years driving Africa's digital transformation. As Group Chief Technology & Innovation at Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group, he built Africa's largest Pan-African IP network backbone (110,000km+ fiber), spanning Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, DRC,



Lesotho, and South Africa, and other African nations.

Key Achievements:

Network Infrastructure: Led strategy and implementation of Africa's most extensive terrestrial fiber network, establishing Liquid as one of the top 50 global IP backbone networks.

Internet Exchanges: Has been a long-standing member of the ISPA INX Working group and later the INX-ZA management board in South Africa to create Africa's largest multi site data centre neutral Internet Exchanges.

Satellite Services: Transformed a satellite business from bandwidth resale to becoming one of Africa's largest VSAT suppliers, implementing the global-first DVB-S2 shared trunking system, and now a globally cited industry observer of LEO Technologies and their impact in Africa.

International Connectivity: Established deep partnerships with global networks and major cloud providers, creating one of Africa's most connected and well-peered IP networks.

Innovation Leadership: Built Liquid's cloud business, led African tech innovation initiatives, and mentored numerous African startups.

Policy and National Initiatives: Has been member of the Digital Economy Strategy Task force and chaired a working group of the Kenya ICT Policy Task Force for the Government of Kenya, representing the Kenyan private sector as ICT Sector chair of KEPSA

Governance Experience:

- Board Chairman: Liquid Telecommunications Kenya Ltd (2013-2024)
- Board Chairman: East Africa Data Centre Ltd (2013-2024)
- Board Director: TEAMS (East African Marine Systems)
- Board Director: WIOCC (West Indian Ocean Cable Company)
- Board Director: Zanlink Ltd (Zanzibar)
- Board Director: Raha Liquid Telecom Ltd (Tanzania)
- Board Chair: Young Scientists Kenya Ltd (2023 to date) – an NGO in Kenya
- Chair: ICT Sector Board, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) (2021 to date)

Technical Community Leadership:

- Active in Africa Peering Forum, ISOC, IETF, ITU. Recognized thought leader in African ICT infrastructure development
- Education: BSc Physics (2.1 Honours), University of Bristol

Ben's unique combination of technical expertise, governance experience, neutrality and commitment to African digital development makes him exceptionally qualified to represent a region independent seat Africa on AfrINIC's Board, ensuring all of African interests are well-served in Internet resource allocation and policy development.