WAIGF Communiqué
14-16 October 2009
Accra, Ghana

"Promoting the Multi-stakeholder Model for further Internet Development in Africa"

We, the participants at the West African Internet Governance Forum held in La Palm Hotel, Accra (Ghana), from 14th to 16th October 2009, organised by AfriNIC and the Government of Ghana,

Recalling that good Internet governance is critical for sustainable ICT development in general for wider social-economical impact:

Recalling that the Global Internet Forum has offered the possibility to explore and test a new approach in addressing global issues related to Internet development such as Access, Security, Critical Internet Resources and Openness.

Recalling with satisfaction, that the United Stated Government (USG) has ended its unilateral oversight of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and to take note of the new Affirmation of commitment document issue by the two parties to make ICANN independent with an important role to be played by the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC).

Agreeing:

1. To pursue what the meeting participants resolved as the N.K.R.U.M.A.H. Agenda (N= Networks (IXPs, etc.); K= Knowledge (capacity building, sharing, etc); R= Regional priorities; U= Ubuntu (People) and Umoja (togetherness); M= Multi-stakeholder and good management; A= Assembly and Ambassadors; and H= High level engagement on processes and policies).

2. That West African countries should strive to create an environment that favors a multi-stakeholder model dealing with critical issues that are challenging the Internet development in the region.

3. That West African countries should setup regional Internet Governance Forums to open the door for more participation of the

various key players and stakeholders in their respective countries for ICT development planning.

4. That Affordable Access should continue to be the priority for countries and Regulators in order to improve Internet usage as a tool and enabler of Socio-Economical development.

5. That affordable access starts from optimizing traffic flow paths and Internetworking by encouraging local Interconnection through the setup of Exchange Points and production of local content.

6. That Access and Security are key concerns for the region that must be further discussed at a forum like IGF where different constituencies and stakeholders can share their experiences and where African countries can learn from and adapt to their local environment.

7. That the Global IGF has been a successful initiative as it has helped to create an open environment where major issues have been discussed and where the multi-stakeholder approach has been so far successfully discussed. Hence support the renewal of the IGF mandate after the first five years.

8. To organize a West African Internet Governance committee that is reflective of the multi-stakeholder model to carry out the initiatives of WAIG (as established in the WAIGF Concept Paper).

Urge the West African stakeholders:

1. To actively participate at IGF to be held in Sharm El Sheikh;

2. To increase their participation in ICANN especially the governments with the GAC so they can fully participate in the new oversight and evaluation mechanism;

3. To broaden popular awareness of the IGF issues in general and particularly, West Africa's priorities, as well as building Internet resource management capacities with continental partners, such as, FOSSFA, OSIWA, PIWA, ECOWAS, governments, regulators, academia, civil society, private sector, and technical community, and;

4. To further engage Internet Governance experts and local bodies such as AfriNIC, AfNOG, AfREN, AfTLD, and, AfrISPA, in the region's global policy decision-making process.