

SUBMISSION TO THE ICANN ASWG PROPOSAL

Section I: Preamble

Originating Submission: Gideon Rop

Categories/Tags: Individual

Purpose (Brief): Submission to the ICANN_ASWG Proposal

Current Status: Submissions to ICANN_ASWG

Section II: Background

The ICANN_ASWG requested for submissions from interested persons, I have had an opportunity to analyze and Submit the comments below

Section III: Comments and recommendations

ICANN AFRICAN OFFICE:

The decisions that surround the establishment of the African ICANN regional office is a critical matter that if not properly addressed could be another source of more conflict. My recommendation is though the possible office locations have been identified and their pros and cons enumerated it remains a largely emotive factor.

First of all the office should not at all be affiliated to any Afri* initiative as this would create a conflict of interest that would jeopardize the transparency of the functions of ICANN within the African context. A successful office would be clearly be a non affiliated office whose officers would strictly adhere to ICANN's internal policies without bias to any party.

Officials; the same goes for any officers that would be elected to serve in the interim or permanently it would be of great impact of the officers are neutral and knowledgeable but not affiliated to any Afri* initiatives. Africa should follow the same qualitative methods used to select the new ICANN CEO.

FINANCES:

The mention of finance s that would go into to funding several initiatives like the list below provided in various sections of the Draft Matrix

- Create a foundation to support development of African registrars
- Set up business development incubators for the DNS business in Africa
- Research and development programme for Africa for promoting innovation and increased participation in IETF forums.
- Continued support for African participation at ICANN meetings through the fellowship
- Support African government participation in ICANN high level meetings
- Set up an Internet foundation for innovative funding mechanisms for the DNS industry development in developing countries (Africa)

It would be prudent that the existing fellowships be maintained without a need to create more initiatives without a known resource, mostly resources provide for such initiatives have ended up not be properly administered, accounted for or even lost, My Suggestion is for a proper functional budget that is need

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based be created first in order to ascertain the specific areas of critical need, this way any funds provided internally or from supporting groups externally would be properly used.

ICANN Funds: As others have noted critically in the mailing list it would be proper to first enlist needs before sourcing for any fund from ICANN without budget that would risk any future funding that would be provided to the African Internet bodies.

Regionalization of IANA operations in Africa including establishment of more DNS L_Root deployments. This is a welcome proposal given the fact that Africa would soon own its own registry, fight for more L-Root servers will help in reducing inbound traffic, increase intercontinental data traffic capacity as well as increase the outbound segment that would help the world know more about Africa.

Increase of initiatives to enable more African content is available online so as to create more outbound traffic will be a good way to start marketing Africa.