



**African Telecommunications Union (ATU)**  
**Union Africaine des Télécommunications (UAT)**

General Secretariat / *Secrétariat Général* : Nairobi

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Mr Rod Beckstrom  
President, CEO ICANN  
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6601  
USA

Dear Sir,

**RE: CONGRATULATIONS ON THE AFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENTS**

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) welcomes the Affirmation of Commitments issued on the 30th September 2009 jointly by the United States of America's Department of Commerce (DOC) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) under which ICANN commits to undertaking the institutional reforms required to make it fully accountable. This indeed signifies a new era in the management of the Internet, the embracing of key principles of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the enhancement of Internet governance.

As the Internet has become a globally shared infrastructure critical to the proper functioning of our societies, it is important that ICANN is subjected to continuous reviews **BY THE COMMUNITY**. The reaffirmation of the Government Advisory Committee's (GAC's) role, especially as a key participant in selecting the membership of the review teams, enhances this vital aspect of governance.

On its part, the ATU is willing to participate and contribute towards this vital process and to:

- 1) Create awareness amongst its membership on the Affirmation of Commitments;
- 2) Encourage its membership to participate in the coming work regarding the four specific action areas spelled in the Affirmation of Commitments; and,
- 3) Enhance the role of its membership (African governments) in the current Internet governance mechanisms, and particularly within ICANN, so that they can fully exercise their share of responsibility in the management of the global public resources of the Internet.

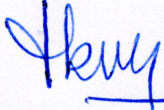
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ICANN should use existing international forums, in particular the African Union (AU) and African Telecommunications Union (ATU) forums, to announce this initiative and invite actors, especially those stakeholders that have not been involved in the past.

Finally, I would like on my own behalf and that of ATU to congratulate and reaffirm our support for ICANN. I wish ICANN every success as it spearheads the institutional reforms required to maintain the organization fully multi-stakeholder and international, and to implement the mechanisms that will ensure its accountability to all stakeholders.

Yours Sincerely,



**Akossi Akossi**  
**Secretary General**



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