

17 November 2023

Subject: ICANN 76 Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Statement on Best Practices for DNS Operations in Africa

Mr Seun Ojedeji
Chair, African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)

Dear Seun,

ICANN organization (ICANN org) thanks AFRALO-AfrICANN for the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Statement on Best Practices for Domain Name System (DNS) operations in Africa, which came out of discussions held during the ICANN76 Public Meeting in Cancun, Mexico on 15 March 2023.

ICANN org appreciates the recommendations and activities which have been put forward to foster best practices for DNS operations in Africa. As we consider your recommendations, please find below a summary of related ongoing work.

ICANN's Africa Strategic Plan FY16-20 made significant progress through initiatives focused on revitalizing the regional DNS industry and enhancing capacity development. Subsequently, the ICANN's Africa Regional Plan for FY21-25 outlined strategic objectives that encompass strengthening the security of the DNS and the Root Server System, increasing awareness of unique identifiers and contributing to the development of DNS technologies and security in the region.

As a result, several activities have been undertaken to promote the adoption of Domain Name Security Extensions (DNSSEC) in Africa. Additionally, technical expertise has been provided aimed at establishing legal frameworks in Africa to combat DNS-related cybercrime. Capacity development remains a pivotal aspect of our strategic plans, and ICANN is committed to providing training for relevant stakeholders in Africa to strengthen DNS operations and facilitate DNSSEC implementation.

Additionally, the launch of the Coalition for Digital Africa in 2022 has emerged as a major force in driving the digital transformation in the continent. The Coalition's overarching goals are to support the development of the Internet infrastructure to foster the growth and sustainability of Africa's digital economy, and to promote the digital transformation of Africa.

The Coalition has initiated a range of initiatives to support strategies for the digital economy and the expansion of the Internet in Africa, including the 2023 Africa DNS Market Study; the DNSSEC Roadshows and the capacity development for African ccTLD registries.

We appreciate the continued input from AFRALO-AfrICANN and look forward to working with you on these activities.

Sincerely,



Sally Costerton
Sr. Advisor to President and SVP, Global Stakeholder Engagement & Interim
President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Cc: Tripti Sinha, Chair, ICANN Board of Directors