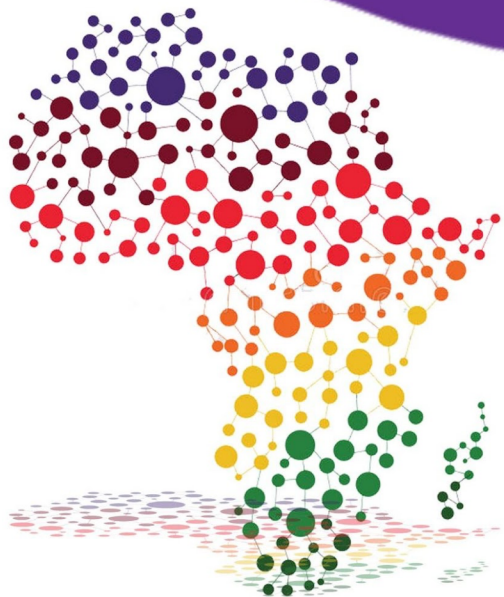# Draft ICANN African Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

by

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On Behalf of

ICANN African Strategy Working Group (ASWG2020)   2020

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Introduction

- The African Strategic Working group was inaugurated in Jan, 2020.

- It comprises of 25 members across Africa with different background skill set and experience within ICANN.

- The WG had an inaugural meeting 27th January 2020.

- Subsequently a leadership team of 5 people was agreed on to serve working group chairs among whom 3 was selected as Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur.

Management Team

1. Abdulkarim Oloyede (Nigeria)   Chair

2. Muriuki Mureithi (Kenya)   Vice-Chair

3. Robert Nkambwe (Uganda)   Secretary/ Rappatour

4. Patricia Akello (Uganda)   Chair Sub Committee

5. Isaac Maposa (Zimbabwe)   Chair Sub Committee

Team Members

- 1. Paulos Nyirenda — Malawi
- 2. Wisdom Donkor — Ghana
- 3. Alan Levin — South Africa
- 4. Dessalegn Mequanint Yehuala — Ethiopia
- 5. Hadia Elminiawi — Egypt
- 6. Judy Okite — Kenya
- 7. Caleb Ogundele — Nigeria
- 8. Jean-Robert Hountomey — USA/Togo
- 9. Wafa Dahmani — Tunisia
- 10. Justin RUGONDIHENE — Rwanda
- 11. Bram Fudzulani — Malawi
- 12. AKANHO Yazid — Benin
- 13. OUSMANE LY — Mali
- 14. Arsene Tungali — DR Congo
- 15. Dawit Bekele — Ethiopia
- 16. Luc Missidimbazi — Congo
- 17. Francis Olivier CUBAHIRO — Burundi
- 18. Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong — Chad
- 19. Michel TCHONANG LINZE — Cameroun
- 20. BALBINE MANGA — Cameroun

The African Strategic Plan FY 20-25

- The document aligns the regional needs and priorities of the African community with ICANN's overall corporate strategy FY21-25.

- Presents ICANN orgs 5-year strategic plan for the African region.

- The document was prepared by the African community with input from various stakeholder groups.

- It presents how the community intends to overcome some current challenges and offers proposals a plan to be executed by the community and ICANN to ensure that Africa effectively contributes and participates in the implementation of the ICANN strategic plan.

- Africa is a diverse continent in many ways, and the second most populated continent in the world.

- Despite its large population, it has unique challenges accessing and using the internet, having the lowest internet penetration rate in the world.

- This strategy is cognizant of the many challenges Africa faces   which includes awareness, capacity, skills and resources at regional, sub regional and even national levels.

- It emphasizes capacity building to empower African governments and internet stakeholders to address some of these challenges leveraging ICANN's strategy and its remit.

- In line, with ICANN's overall corporate strategy FY21-25, this document also identify 5 key areas
  - **Security**
  - **ICANN Governance**
  - **Unique Identifiers System**
  - **Geopolitics**
  - **Financial**

For each we identify:

- **Specific objectives**
- **Goals**
- **Strategic Outcomes**
- **Action Steps**
- **Strategic Risks**

Security

- The critical internet infrastructure is very important to the stability and resilience of the internet, however, this is a shared responsibility requiring a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

- Africa, as a key ICANN stakeholder, is committed to support global initiatives to secure the internet.

- **Objective: Promote ICANN's efforts to strengthen the security, stability and resilience of the Internet's core infrastructure in Africa.**

ICANN Governance

- In ICANN's bid to improve the effectiveness of its governance model, Africa, will strive to engage and implore regional constituencies to embrace inclusivity, diversity and participatory principles of good governance.

- This will help build cohesive communities in the region and beyond working towards achieving ICANN's mission Vision and objectives.

- **Strategic Objective: Improving the effectiveness of African's Participation and Contribution to the Multi Stakeholder model**

Unique Identifiers System

- Most of the expected new users on the internet are from Africa.

- This could lead to significant growth of users and more demand on the internet unique identifier.

Strategic Objective: Evolve the unique identifier systems in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties to continue to serve the needs of the global Internet user base.

Geopolitics

- Addressing issues around Geopolitics is very important especially in recognizing the critical role played by ICANN within the internet ecosystem.

- Some African governments still believe that this role should be left to ICANN and there is a need to better engage such governments.

- The visibility of ICANN within the African region can also be significantly improved by upgrading the engagement center in Kenya into a regional office and opening more engagement centers.

- **Strategic Objective**: **Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single, globally interoperable Internet.**

Financials

- There is a need to build the DNS industry within the region to improve one the revenues collected from AFRICA.

- Today, (according to the Africa DNS Market Study 2016 commissioned by ICANN) most registrars and ccTLDs in Africa are barely breaking even and hence their limited capacity to contribute to ICANN's revenues even voluntarity.

- This trend can only be reversed through intentional efforts and investments both by ICANN and other partners to build their technical and business capacity and put them on the path to sustainability and growth.

- **Objective: Ensure ICANN's long-term financial sustainability.**

Next line of Actions

- Public Comment
- Review
- Final Document

Conclusion

- The strategic plan has outlined key areas for the ICANN African region for the year 2021- 2025.

- We hope that the plan would help accelerate the process of achieving the goals of ICANN within the African region.

- We greatly note the importance of having a regional office in Africa to help and support the current team to drive this strategy when it finally approved.

- Our appreciation to all members of the committee and all those who volunteered in preparing the document.

Questions and comments