

TO THE BOARD OF ICANN  
C/O Dr Steve Crooker, Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

We the undersigned are leading members of the African Internet technical and policy community; we wish to express our unreserved support to ICANN in its challenges in the transformation and global reach.

ICANN is consistently making great strides in Africa. We have had several successful meetings in the Continent resulting in the African Union acknowledging the importance of the work ICANN does. We also congratulate ICANN for what has been accepted as several successful ICANN meetings in Africa which overall expands ICANN's global reach.

At the African Union ministerial meeting held during the Senegal ICANN meeting, participants issued a communiqué expressing strong aspiration in their public interest management of Internet resources and improved African participation in the process. They also requested for specific action by ICANN, which we believe, may form a basis for an ICANN strategy for Africa. As ICANN moves forward with major decisions on Africa we would wish that the Africa strategy be expanded to include relevant activities.

The technology related considerations of DNSsec uptake by ccTLD and overall Domain Name Business development in Africa and cyber security were mentioned in the communiqué ; we believe these are resources that ICANN has access to and can bring value to African technical capacity development.

Likewise organizationally, the communiqué called for an ICANN Africa region office to strengthen access to ICANN resources and relationships within the region. Thus a comprehensive African strategy would be important at this stage.

We note that there is a wave of recruitment of Vice President for Africa in which a recruitment agency is actively searching for a VP as the current President's term is expiring. Several of us have been approached. We wish to request that this VP appointment process is deferred till the new CEO for ICANN is appointed and a future strategy for the region built on these great steps forward is confirmed and communicated to the community. ICANN will benefit a great deal with a response to the communiqué and clarification of its commitment to the region

We are satisfied that the ICANN Africa region staff is able to continue engagement during the transition. We commend the ICANN Africa staff and Anne-Rachel Inne in particular who have given ICANN recognition in the region at Ministerial and industrial circles.

**Signatories**

- Nii Quaynor, Former ICANN Board Member ,Ghana
- Pierre Ouedraogo, Founding member of AFTLD and AfriNIC
- Adiel Akplogan ,CEO, AfriNIC, Mauritius
- Pierre Dandjinou ,Former Chair, AfriNIC Board , Benin
- Tarek Kamel , AfriNIC Founding Board Member and Former Minister, ICT, Egypt
- Alice Munyua, Chair, Kenya Internet Governance Steering Committee, Kenya
- Mary Uduma,President Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA), Nigeria
- Ndeye Maimouna Diop Diagne, Director, ICT Senegal
- Alain Patrick Aina, SSAC Member and ISOC BoT, Benin
- Mouhamet Diop, Former ICANN Board Member, Senegal