Africa Engagement Forum
25-27 July 2023
Accra, Ghana (Hybrid)

Theme: Engagement for a Flourishing Digital Africa

Agenda Last Updated - 13 June

Day 1 – 25 July 2023

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<tr>
<th>TIME (UTC) Session</th>
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<th>SESSION DESCRIPTION</th>
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| 14:30 – 15:30      | Opening Ceremony | **Keynote address:** What is Africa’s Digital Potential, and What Will it Take to Realize it?  
Andile Ngcaba | Founding Partner & Chairman, Convergence Partners  
**Remarks on topics of interest to ICANN touching on ongoing/planned projects in Africa.**  
**Panelists:**  
- Pierre Dandjinou | Vice President Stakeholder Engagement – Africa, ICANN  
- Baher Esmat | Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement – Middle East and Managing Director – Middle East and Africa, ICANN  
- Sally Costerton | Interim President and CEO and Sr. Advisor to President and SVP, Global Stakeholder Engagement, ICANN  
- Prof Olusola Bandele Oyewole | Secretary General of Association of African Universities (AAU)  

30 minutes break
16:00 – 17:00
The Africa DNS Market Study: Preliminary Findings

This session will present some of the initial findings in the *Africa DNS Market Study 2023*, a Coalition for Digital Africa Initiative, conducted by the project consultant, Powersoft. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on the key findings.

Moderator:
Prof Nii Quaynor | Chair Ghana dot Com

Panelists:
- Project consultant, Powersoft

END OF DAY 1

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<td><strong>TIME (UTC)</strong></td>
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<td>09:00 – 10:30 (90 min)</td>
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90 minutes break
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<th>Moderators/Panelists</th>
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| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Panel Discussion:** Coalition for Digital Africa  | In December 2022, ICANN launched the Coalition for Digital Africa, an initiative aimed at expanding the Internet in Africa. Conceived by ICANN, the Coalition is an alliance of like-minded organizations committed to building a robust and secure Internet infrastructure to bring more Africans online. This session will provide an update on the status of the Coalition projects as well as discuss deeper opportunities for partnerships to fully leverage the potential and spirit of the Coalition.  | Moderator: Serge Sanou | Chairman of Executive Committee (President)  
Panelists:  
- Pierre Dandjinou | Vice President Stakeholder Engagement - Africa, ICANN  
- Professor Olusola Oyewole | Secretary General, Association of African Universities  
- Professor Nii Quaynor | Chair, Ghana dot Com  
- Boubacar Barry | CEO, WACREN |
|              |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                      |
|              | **30 minutes break**                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                      |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | **Informational session:** Technical Key Highlights for Africa  | In this session, the ICANN Office of the Chief Technical Officer (OCTO) will provide insight on ongoing Technical Engagement activities in Africa and highlight key successes, and some of the lessons learned to date.  | Speaker: Yazid Akanho | Technical Engagement Senior Specialist, ICANN |

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| 09:00 – 10:30 (90 min) | Informational Session: Presentation on ICANN Key Topics | The GSE Africa team has been implementing the ICANN Regional Engagement Plan 2020–2025. In this session, the team will provide a mid-point report of the status of the implementation plan. The session will also provide special updates on selected ICANN hot topics / projects that the community should follow very keenly. Presenters:  
- Yaovi Atohoun | Stakeholder Engagement and Operations Director - Africa, ICANN  
  → Status report of the Implementation of the Africa Regional plan  
- Giovanni Seppia | Vice President, Implementation Operations, ICANN  
  → Grant Program (remote)  
- Elena Plexida | Vice President, Government and IGO Engagement, ICANN: MSM of IG  
  → Geopolitical perspective  
- Patrick Jones | Vice President, Government and IGO Engagement, ICANN  
  → DNS privacy issues  
- Q/A |
| 30 minutes break |  |  |
| 11:00 – 12:30 (90 min) | Community Forum | During this session, the audience will have a chance to engage ICANN org with a Q&A session touching on various topics of relevance to the African Community. It’s an opportunity for the African community to have a deeper understanding and more focused engagement with the various ICANN functions. |
**Moderator:**
Sara Kiden | Coalition for Digital Africa Secretariat

**Panelists:**
- Baher Esmat | Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement - Middle East and Managing Director Middle East and Africa, ICANN
- Edmon Chung | Board Member, ICANN (tbc)
- Alan Barrett | Board Member, ICANN (tbc)
- Pierre Dandjinou | Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement - Africa, ICANN

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<th>12:30 – 13:00</th>
<th><strong>Closing Ceremony</strong></th>
<th>Key takeaways and next steps</th>
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<td>Host:</td>
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