

## **Communiqué of the African Top Level Domain general assembly in Carthage 26<sup>th</sup> October 2003**

AfTLD is the African ccTLD regional organisation created in Lomé 2001 and incorporated in Mauritius in December 2002 as a non profit company. The African ccTLDs present at the Carthage general assembly congratulate the 3 members of the AfTLD ex-comm (Yann Kwok - Mauritius, Nii Quaynor – Ghana and Brian Longwe - Kenya) for achieving the incorporation of AfTLD.

The AfTLD objectives are the following:

- represent the interests of the African ccTLDs, including the neighbouring islands around the African continent
- promotion of communication and cooperation between ccTLDs' managers
- outreach to the African Internet community about the ICANN process, through awareness and outreach programs
- provide a common source from where information about African ccTLD's can be obtained

The first AfTLD general assembly was held in Carthage 26<sup>th</sup> October 2003 during the ICANN Meeting. The African ccTLD present in Carthage had the opportunity to listen to various ccTLD's experiences on the African continent. Presentations were made on .sn (Senegal), .tn (Tunisia), .za (South Africa), ke (Kenya) and .sd (Sudan). The African ccTLD are committed to promoting the exchange of best practices between African ccTLD's to achieve the goal of improving the naming services offered to the African local internet communities.

The African ccTLDs are grateful to the other ccTLD regional organizations (AP-TLD for Asia Pacific, LAC-TLD for Latin America, CENTR for Europe) for the presentations they made at the GA on their experiences. We highly appreciate their willingness to share with AfTLD, particularly in the fields of capacity building, policy development and software exchange. We expect that the

community will keep moving forward to achieve the ccNSO formation. We believe that the ccNSO as a framework that will favour the development of information exchanges between all ccTLDs. We can report that the Africa region has 10 approved members of the ccNSO: .bi (Burundi), .ci (Ivory Coast), .cm (Cameroon), .ke (Kenya), .mr (Mauritania), .mg (Madagascar), .mw (Malawi), ng (Nigeria), .sd (Sudan) and .ug (Uganda).

AfTLD organized a nameserver training workshop in Carthage during the ICANN meeting. This workshop hosted more than 20 ccTLD operators from the African and Arab regions. AfTLD plans to organize similar workshops in Africa to strengthen technical capabilities and improve the reliability, security and the stability of African Internet naming systems.

AfTLD members decided to have their next meeting during ICANN Roma, and to hold the second General Assembly during the ICANN meeting in Capetown (December 2004).

AfTLD members express their grateful thanks go to Prof Faryel Mouria - Beji and Lamia Chaffai and the staff of Agence Tunisienne d'Internet for their help and their hospitality which made the first general assembly and the nameserver training workshop such a success.

The AfTLD web site can be found at <http://www.aftld.org>