



AFRALO NEWSLETTER

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The latest news from the African At-Large Regional Organization (AFRALO)

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Chair's Remarks

Hadia Elminiawi



Welcome to the AFRALO Newsletter!

As we close out another year, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May 2025 be filled with productivity, prosperity, and joy for all.

First, I would like to warmly welcome AFRALO's new Secretary, Herve Setondji Hounzandji, who began his role at the conclusion of the ICANN Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Istanbul. At the same time, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Abdeldjalil Bashar Bong for his exceptional dedication and contributions to AFRALO throughout his tenure and beyond.

Key highlights of AFRALO's activities in 2024 include:

ICANN80 AFRALO Roundtables: AFRALO organized two impactful roundtable discussions during the ICANN80 meeting, hosted in Kigali, capital of Rwanda in East Africa. The first session focused on 'Enhancing Internet Infrastructure

in Africa for an inclusive Internet,' while the second was about 'Building a Multilingual Internet.' Both sessions generated recommendations for the community which were incorporated into AFRALO Financial Year for 2025 (FY25) Outreach and Engagement Plan. You can access the AFRALO FY25 Outreach and Engagement Plan here: [AFRALO FY25 Outreach and Engagement Strategy](#)

AFRALO Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2024: AFRALO hosted a regional Universal Acceptance of Domain Names (UADN) also known as (UA) Day event consisting of two sessions. The event included a presentation by ICANN's regional technical specialist on a strategy for UA adoption as well as a discussion about AFRALO's developed UA adoption strategy.

To learn more about the strategy and contribute in the ongoing UA activities, visit: [AFRALO UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES Wiki](#). Achievements will be shared via the mailing list and featured during AFRALO UA Day 2025

AFRALO Continuous Improvement Programme (CIP): AFRALO has developed and approved its [Continuous Improvement Programme \(CIP\)](#) by consensus. In 2025 we will begin implementing the activities and improvements outlined in the CIP.

AFRALO Community Regional Outreach Programme (CROP) and the RALO Discretionary Funding

AFRALO still has one CROP slot available. The allocated trips for FY25 must be either to an ICANN Public Meeting or an ICANN-organized event in the region of AFRALO. The deadline for [FY25 Trip Proposal Submission](#) is 9 May 2025.

AFRALO Discretionary Funding: Discretionary funding is still available. The purpose of the RALO discretionary funding is to provide opportunities for members of all RALOs to do local outreach and engagement about ICANN and ICANN policy related issues within the region and in alignment with the Regional Outreach Plans for the relevant Fiscal year. You can know more about this here: [FY25 Criteria for RALO Discretionary Funding Requests](#).

AFRALO - ALAC Subcommittee on Appointee Selection: This year AFRALO has selected Patrick Kiza as a member and Houda Chihi as the alternate for the ALAC Subcommittee on Appointee Selection. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and express my gratitude for their willingness to take on these roles.

AFRALO UA Day 2025

AFRALO's proposal for 2025 has been accepted. This year the proposal will focus on four main themes:

1. Technical Adoption. (featuring AFRALO members' adoption experiences)
2. Sustainable Capacity Development (featuring the Association of African Universities)
3. DNS Local Industry (featuring local service providers and hosting providers)
4. Public Policy (featuring the collaboration with UNESCO)

To have your UA achievement featured during AFRALO UA Day 2025 please fill "AFRALO Members' UA Activity Sheet" which you can access at: [AFRALO UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES Wiki](#) or share your activity via the mailing list and AFRALO leadership team will add it to the table.

ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee:

The ALAC has issued a call for members to join the ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee. Several AFRALO members have expressed their interest in joining the subcommittee.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for a year of impactful initiatives and collaborative efforts. As we move ahead into 2025, we have several key initiatives ahead of us such as : AFRALO UA Day 2025, promoting the new gTLD programme, implementing the CIP, engaging fellows and newcomers and strengthening our outreach and engagement strategies.

Stay connected, Stay engaged and let's make 2025 another successful year for AFRALO!

Hadia Elminiawi

AFRALO Chair

Editorial Team	About AFRALO
<p>Editor-in-Chief: Hadia ELMINIAWI</p> <p>Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Bram FUDZULANI</p> <p>Managing Editor Secretariat: Herve Setondji HOUNZANDJI</p> <p>Editor (English): Remmy NWEKE</p> <p>Co-Editor (French): Olévié KOUAMI (Iate)</p> <p>Contributing Editor: Pierre DANDJINO <i>ICANN Regional Vice President, Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) Africa</i></p> <p><u>FULL LIST OF TEAM MEMBERS:</u></p> <p>SUPPORT: ICANN At-Large Staff staff@atlarge.icann.org</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">African Regional At-Large Organization <i>... Engaging Africa for Development</i> ***</p> <p>AFRALO is the home of the individual Internet user community for the African region. It provides news, key resources and interactive information sharing tools for individuals and end-user groups in the African region who are interested in ICANN and in shaping the future of the Internet.</p> <p>AFRALO aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen users' participation in ICANN decision-making structures. ● Help ensure that its members will actively encourage more direct participation by end users. ● Build Internet policy making capacity in the region. ● Reach out to Internet users on the issues in the scope of ICANN. ● Represent users' interests and define public interest aspects of Internet governance with specific focus on the areas of privacy, transparency, and accountability. ● Strengthening consumer protection in ICANN policies ● Identify social impacts of technical infrastructure design. ● Take cultural diversity into account when formulating technical standards (e.g. IDN implementation) <p>AFRALO currently consists of 76 ALSes located in 33 countries and territories, as well as 16 Individual members and 3 Observers.</p> <p>To learn more about the ongoing work of AFRALO, you are welcome to check out the AFRALO workspace.</p>

ALAC Policy Updates

- 1) [At-Large Policy Sessions @ ICANN Meetings](#)
- 2) [At-Large and DNS Abuse](#)
- 3) [The Consensus Playbook](#)
- 4) [At-Large Capacity Building Workshop - An Introduction to Policy Development at ICANN](#)
- 5) [At-Large Community Policy Issues - Why End Users Should Care?](#)
- 6) [ICANN Public Comment Proceedings](#)
- 7) [Upcoming ICANN Public Comment Proceedings](#)
- 8) [Published ALAC Advice](#)
- 9) [How does the ALAC develop advice?](#)
- 10) [At-Large Document Reference System](#)

ICANN Updates



- [Save the Date: ICANN to Host 2025 Middle East DNS Forum in Bahrain](#)
- [Call for SOs/ACs: Nominate Fellowship Mentors and Selection Committee Members](#)
- [Call for Expressions of Interest: 2025 ICANN Nominating Committee Standing Committee Members](#)
- [ICANN Announces NextGen@ICANN82 Participants](#)
- [ICANN to Host Webinars on the Draft FY26–30 and FY26 Operating Plan and Budget](#)
- [Call for Applications: NextGen@ICANN83](#)
- [ICANN Renews .COM Registry Agreement with Verisign](#)
- [ICANN Seeks Input on Draft PTI Strategic Plan Covering 2025 to 2030](#)
- [ICANN Publishes Fiscal Year 2025 First-Quarter Management Financial Results](#)
- [ICANN82 Community Childcare Grants Program: Apply Now](#)

NomCom Report

ICANN appoints 2025 Nominating Chair, Chair-Elect

Remmy Nweke

The Board Governance Committee (BGC) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), has appointed Amir Quayyum as the 2025 Nominating Chair and Thomas Barrett as chair-elect.

This followed their review of the Expressions of Interest (EoI) and other materials submitted by candidates for the 2025 Nominating Committee (NomCom) Chair and Chair-Elect.

They also considered the NomCom members' evaluation of the 2024 NomCom leadership, conducted interviews of a short listed group of candidates, and made a recommendation, which the Board considered and discussed.

“Resolved (2024.09.26.03), the Board hereby appoints Amir Qayyum as the 2025 Nominating Committee Chair and Thomas Barrett as the 2025 Nominating Committee Chair-Elect.

“Resolved (2024.09.26.04), specific items within this resolution shall remain confidential pursuant to Article 3, section 3.5(b) of the ICANN Bylaws until the Interim President and CEO, or her designee(s), determines that the confidential information may be released.”

Noteworthy is that the ICANN Nominating Committee (NomCom) is an independent committee that selects candidates for leadership positions within the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN): ICANN Board of Directors, Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) Board, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council, and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council.

The NomCom's goal is to identify and select candidates who will contribute to the stable and secure operation of the internet identifier systems. NomCom members are expected to act on behalf of the global internet community, and are not compensated financially for their work. They are, however, reimbursed for expenses related to their duties.

NomCom operates independently from the ICANN Board, Supporting Organizations, and Advisory Committees.



NomCom Updates:

Dave Kissoondoyal, NomCom Rep.

Overview of the 2025 NomCom Setup

- Amir Qayyum has been appointed as the NomCom Chair.
- Thomas Barrett is serving as the NomCom Chair-elect.
- Vanda Scartezini has taken on the role of Associate Chair.

2. Initial Meetings and Workshops

- The first face-to-face meeting of the 2025 NomCom was held in Istanbul during ICANN81.
- A comprehensive onboarding workshop and training session was conducted successfully on October 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2024.

3. Subcommittees Formation

- Various subcommittees have been established to streamline the selection process.
- These subcommittees have already begun their meetings and are actively working towards fulfilling their responsibilities.

Common health issues computer users should note!

By Remmy Nweke

In recent times, especially since this era of computer age, there are common health issues associated or related to computer users.

According to Better Health channel, back and neck pains, headaches, and shoulder as well as arm pain are common computer-related injuries.

Such muscle and joint problems could be caused or made worse by poor workstation (desk) design, bad posture and sitting for long periods of time.

In addition, there are what experts outlined to include Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI), Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS), eye strain, headaches, neck and back pain, obesity, and stress disorders.

RSI: They described RSI as a broad term for disorders that could affect the muscles, tendons, and nerves in the arms, hands, and wrists. RSI equally could be caused by repetitive or awkward movements, such as typing or using a mouse for long periods. Symptoms include pain, tingling, or numbness in the fingers, hands, or upper arms.

CTS: Experts said its a common type of RSI that occurs when the nerve in the wrist is compressed. Symptoms include burning or tingling in the hand.

Just as eye strain is caused by focusing on a computer screen for long periods of time. Symptoms include blurry vision.

Then come headaches, which experts said, could be caused by increased muscle tension from working at a computer.

For the neck and back pains, they posited that this could be caused by looking down at a computer screen for long periods of time.

Obesity for those using computers has been associated to be caused by a sedentary lifestyle from spending too much time sitting at a computer.

While stress disorders, experts pointed out, could come from using technology too much, which could negatively impact mental health.

To help prevent computer-related health issues, you can:

- Maintain good posture
- Use proper furniture
- Take frequent breaks
- Position your wrists neutrally while typing
- Keep your feet flat on the ground
- Maintain eye level with your monitor



ALAC Meeting Updates



MONTHLY MEETINGS: ALAC held its last monthly meeting on Tuesday, 10 December 2024 from 16:00 – 17:00 UTC.

(For the time in various time zones [click here](#))

The agenda and call details are available at:

<https://community.icann.org/x/V4lvEQ>

[ALAC Policy Comments & Advice](#) «

- [Executive Summaries: ALAC Statements \(Comments ...](#)
- [At-Large Workspace: GNSO EPDP on Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#)

- [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#)

ICANN82 Planning Committee

<https://community.icann.org/display/ccnsowkspc/ICANN82+-+Seattle%2C+USA+%7C++8-13+March+2025>

AFRALO monthly call:

The last **AFRALO Monthly Call** was on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 18:30 UTC.

The agenda and call details are [available here](#).

Do well to join!

ALAC Policy Comments & Advice

As usual, some members of AFRALO and the At-Large Community were invited to contribute to ICANN Public Comment proceedings.

For more information, please visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact At-Large Staff.

This enabled them to have their say. To contribute to ALAC policy activities, always look out for such calls and comments on the At-Large workspace or **volunteer** as **penholder** and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

For more information, please contact At-Large Staff or visit [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#)

ALS' Activities

100 students benefit LITSU's cyber awareness @BlueCrest University

By: Foldestine Paye

About 100 students have benefited from the Liberia Information Technology Students Union (LITSU) organised cyber awareness.



The event which took place at BlueCrest University in Congo Town on October 10, 2024, brought together a diverse group of guests, including representatives from LINSU, Hope Tech Inc, CYGEC, IGTS Africa, and students from UMU, AIIST, FMCA, Haywood Mission, among others.

Providing the introduction to the program, DMG HR Florence Gaye noted that the symposium is held in commemoration of Cybersecurity Month, celebrated each October. This global initiative aims to educate individuals and raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity.

"This is to protect our personal information while we navigate the digital world responsibly," she said, underlining the initiative's commitment to promoting safe online practices.

The Chief Executive Officer, Liberia Information Technology Students Union (LITSU), Foldestine Paye, emphasized government's vital role in fostering cybersecurity.



"We need robust legislation to combat cyber crimes," Paye declared, highlighting the need for legal frameworks to address these challenges effectively.

Paye stressed that collaboration between public and private sectors is crucial for developing comprehensive strategies to combat cyber threats. Mr. Paye acknowledged the youth as leaders of tomorrow, noting their profound engagement with technology. He stressed that cyber threats are real, stating, from identity theft and cyberbullying to scams and misinformation, the dangers are numerous. He emphasized the importance of educating themselves about these risks and knowing how to protect personal information.

He also urged them to use strong, unique passwords, think before you share, and always question the validity of online sources. Remember, once information is shared online, it can be challenging to retract.

ISOC Benin, partners host workshop on Autonomous System Numbers, promote access

Herve Setondji HOUNZANDJI

The Benin chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC Benin) and partners, recently hosted a workshop on Autonomous System Numbers (ASN), to raise awareness and build the capacity of information system managers in the Internet Protocol (IP) resource management, thereby ensuring resilience and security of networks in Benin.



According to the records obtained from the Africa Network Centre (AFRINIC) out of the estimated 4,130 companies established in Benin as at October 2023, only 16 organizations currently hold an ASN, thus highlighting the needs for information and awareness among stakeholders.

In his remarks, Président, ISOC Benin, Hervé Hounzandji, underscored the importance of the workshop and encouraged participants to ask all their questions, with objectives including presentation on ideal ASNs in Internet traffic management, identifying key ASN holders and analyse their motivations, address challenges related to management, scarcity and security, exploring the costs and benefits for businesses, as well as raise awareness about the role of regulatory entities such as the Internet Assigned Name Authority (IANA) and Regional Internet Registries (RIRs).

Other speakers at the hybrid event comprised of Fabrice Dako, President of Club DSI Benin, who emphasized the importance of strengthening IT governance skills among IT directors; Pierre Dandjinou, the Vice President, Global Stakeholders Engagement for Africa at ICANN, discussed ICANN.org roles and challenges related to digital infrastructure in Africa ; whereas Cedrick Mbeyet and Brice Abba (AFRINIC) outlined the process of obtaining ASNs and their technical and strategic benefits.



The workshop brought together 33 participants from the public and private sectors, who committed to sharing the knowledge acquired within their organizations to improve the governance and security of information systems in Benin.

ISOC Ghana, JTI connect Justices to digital landscape

Francis Amaning Acquah & Maud Adjeley Ashong Elliot

On November 1, 2024, Ghana's judiciary took a significant step forward in its digital transformation with a landmark workshop titled Justice in a Connected World: Navigating the Digital Landscape in Ghana.



Held at the Law Court Complex Auditorium in Accra, the Internet Society Ghana Chapter organised the event in partnership with the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) and sponsored by the ISOC Foundation.

Participants include justices, legal experts, and leaders in internet governance, cybersecurity, and digital justice to address pressing issues at the intersection of law and technology.

In opening remarks, Justice I. O. Tanko Amadu, Director, JTI and Justice of the Supreme Court highlighted the urgency of equipping the judiciary to handle complex legal challenges arising from cybercrime, data protection, and internet governance as Ghana embraces digitalisation.

Prof. Nii Quaynor, a pioneer in internet development across Africa, traced the evolution of the Internet in Ghana, emphasizing that robust internet governance policies to protect digital rights and national security underscore the need to align legal frameworks with the evolving digital landscape.

Mr. Carl Gahnberg of the Internet Society, gave insight on the Amicus Programme, an initiative promoting an open, secure, and globally connected Internet. He explained how expert "friend of the court" briefs support judicial decisions that protect the principles of accessibility and trustworthiness online.

Mr. Emmanuel Gadasu examined Ghana's legal frameworks on data privacy, cybersecurity, and intellectual property, clarifying that data handler responsibilities, individual rights, and protections for digital creators and emphasized the need for vigilance as digital activities grow.

Mr. Eric Akumiah addressed rising cybercrime concerns, providing insights into emerging cyber threats and legislative measures to combat them, calling for ongoing judicial adaptation to tackle digital challenges effectively. While a representative shared the Chief Justice's vision for a modernised judiciary, featuring innovations such as the E-Justice System, Virtual Court System, and Video Conferencing. These tools aim to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in judicial processes.

ICANN, NCC collaborate on DNSSEC validation in Nigeria

By: Amina Ramallan

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in collaboration with Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA) and other stakeholders recently hosted the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) validation in Nigeria, virtually.

This, they said, is anticipated to increase DNSSEC significantly in the country to about 50 per cent, by the end of 2025, reinforcing the integrity and security of the country's digital ecosystem.

The awareness webinar, which served as a platform to educate key industry stakeholders on the importance of DNSSEC in safeguarding users against threats such as cache poisoning and Internet Protocol (IP) spoofing attacks.

Also, the webinar featured expert presentations by the Head New Media and Information Security Department NCC, Engineer Babagana Digima, ICANN VP Stakeholder Engagement Africa, Mr Pierre Dandjinou and Technical Engagement Specialist for Middle East and Africa, Mr. Yazid Akanho, who provided an in-depth overview of DNSSEC and its role in bolstering internet security.



With over 150 participants in attendance, the webinar drew a diverse audience, including Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), government representatives and other key players in Nigeria's internet landscape.

By working closely with ICANN and engaging stakeholders across the digital ecosystem, the Nigerian Communications Commission is paving the way for increased validation of DNSSEC by 2025, thus stressing the importance of partnerships and stakeholder participation in driving digital transformation.

Fellow's Diary

Universal Acceptance takeaways @ICANN81-AGM

Emmanuel Oruk



As an ICANN81 Fellow, I learnt that the ICANN Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Istanbul between November 9 and 14, 2024, was used to renew its commitment through its Financial Year (FY) 2026-2030 strategy, focusing on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Universal Acceptance of Domain Names (UA) to advance digital inclusion.

UA for instance, aims to promote a multilingual Internet by coordinating efforts across ICANN's organization, its community, and the broader Internet ecosystem.

To make Universal Acceptance a reality, ICANN has outlined several key objectives, including strengthening messaging to support Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and UA, conducting outreach to tech developers and system administrators, integrating IDNs and UA into Internet governance policy discussions, and measuring progress, among others.

With my strong passion for IDNs and UA, I am confident in my ability to contribute to this capacity-building and awareness initiative, ensuring the realization of a multilingual Internet in my region.

Notably, the partnership with UNESCO and Association of African Universities is a crucial step toward spreading awareness and fostering capacity-building efforts across the African region regarding Universal Acceptance.

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