



## **BOTSWANA to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Domain Name System Forum**

Nairobi, 5th February 2019

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Africa Domain Name System Forum (AFDNS) will be held in Gaborone Botswana from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The forum will be hosted by the Botswana Communication and Regulatory Authority (BOCRA).

The Africa Domain Name System Forum is an annual open event for stakeholders in the Domain Name Industry in Africa, organized by Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AFTLD), the African Registrars Association, and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

The objective of the three-day event is to help the Africa Domain Name Industry grow at a competitive rate; and ensure that the continent is on par with the rest of the world. Over the years, the AFDNS forum has lived up to its expectations, identifying key national and cross-border issues that continue to challenge the growth of the industry

The Africa DNS Forum brings together Top-Level Domain registries, registrars, and stakeholders from Africa and around the world to share, learn, interact and discuss ways of how the African Domain Name Space can be improved, by sharing experiences and best practices in the domain name industry at a global level, and of the emerging business opportunities.

The forum is open to anyone interested in issues pertaining to the domain name industry and the business opportunities it can provide, and engage with key players and experts in the field. We expect participation from over 200 participants representing government, private sector, civil society, media and the technical community from the region and globally, interested in investing in the Africa Domain Name industry. Discussions will cover the state of the domain name industry in Africa, opportunities and challenges faced by businesses, entrepreneurs and Internet users across Africa.

This will be the seventh forum following events in Durban, South Africa (2013), Abuja, Nigeria (2014), Nairobi, Kenya (2015), Marrakech, Morocco (2016), Dar Es Salam, Tanzania (2017) and Cotonou, Benin (2018).

Stakeholders from Africa and beyond interested and involved in the domain name industry are welcome to contribute and participate in the event.

### **About AFTLD**

AFTLD is recognized as the representative of country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers from Africa. It is an active participant in the ICANN ccNSO, and also actively participates in various Internet governance fora with the African continent and beyond, including the IGF, where it has run a number of workshops. With collaboration in Internet governance and development a cornerstone of the bottom up policy development processes that make the Internet truly a multi-stakeholder



phenomenon, AftLD works in collaboration and partnership with other Regional Top-Level Domain Organizations (RTLDOs), these being APTLD, CENTR and LACTLD.

[www.aftld.org](http://www.aftld.org)

### **About AfRegistrar**

AFREGISTRAR association includes all ICANN Accredited Registrars based in the African Continent, The AfRegistrars shall fulfill the role, responsibilities and functions of the AFREGISTRARS as defined within the ICANN Bylaws as referenced at [ICANN-BYLAWS].

[www.afregistar.org](http://www.afregistar.org)

### **About ICANN**

ICANN's mission is to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet, you need to type an address – a name or a number – into your computer or other device. That address must be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN helps coordinate and support these unique identifiers across the world. ICANN was formed in 1998 as a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with a community of participants from all over the world.

<https://www.icann.org/get-started>

BOCRA was established through the Communications Regulatory Authority Act, 2012 (CRA Act) to regulate the communications sector in Botswana, comprising telecommunications, Internet and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), radio communications, broadcasting, postal services and related matters.

BOCRA is also designated to:

- To manage and operate the .BW ccTLD in an efficient and non-discriminatory manner to ensure fairness in the use and allocation of the .bw name space;
- To accredit agencies to provide secure electronic signatures as per the Electronic Communications and Transaction Act (No. 14 of 2014);
- To establish, as Certifying Authority, an approved process for the production and certification of electronic documents records systems for purpose of integrity.

<https://www.bocra.org.bw>

Contacts: [secretariat@aftld.org](mailto:secretariat@aftld.org)