

**A MOTION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF AFRALO OPERATING PRINCIPLES BY PASTOR PETERS OMORAGBON EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT NURSES ACROSS THE BORDERS INTERNATIONAL, AT THE AFRALO GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE ICANN 59<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE HOLDING AT THE SANDTON CONVENTION CENTER JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 28 2017.**

**Preamble:** This motion is moved PURSUANT to Article 7.5 of AFRALO Operating Principles: *“At any meeting where at least one half (1/2) of members are present, a motion to amend, change, or repeal the Operating Principles may be initiated. Two-thirds of the whole membership must consent for the motion to carry “*

Article 6.5: **(To be amended)** *“ No one of the officer positions mentioned above can be held by the same person for more than 2 consecutive terms of office.”*

**Draft Proposed Amendment:** *No one member/organization of AFRALO can represent the organization either as an Officer or Representative of AFRALO in ANY of the ICANN/ALAC constituent bodies or Policy organs for more than TWO Consecutive terms of office. Provided that, such member/organization could AFTER a Six Years cooling period and with evidence of ACTIVE participation in AFRALO programs/events vie for ANY other position apart from that previously held in the past for another ONE Term Only.*

**Historical Background and Rationale:**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2007, 8 notable Africans appended their signatures to the MOU as Founders/on behalf of African Internet Users with the leadership of ICANN, which gave birth to AFRALO. The fundamental aim of AFRALO contained in the MOU was *“...to give individual internet users interests throughout Africa a voice in ICANN and to make an impact on its policies...”* and under section 5 of the MOU: *“strengthen users’ participation in ICANN decision- making structures,”* section 7: *“build internet policy making capacity in the region”* and 8: *“reach out to internet Users on the issues and scope of ICANN.*

The first objective of AFRALO Operating Principles is Article 4.1: “to provide a forum and promote and encourage African Internet users’ participation and involvement in ICANN in an effective, open, accountable and transparent manner;

Growth and development are measured by one’s *advancement* (promotion) from one lower level to a higher level. That is why a child born 20 years ago should not and cannot function as a one year old. Ditto for any organization or group that recognizes leadership roles and positions. It is a Right of any member of a group to *aspire* (by *inspiration-encourage*) to positions of leadership once they meet the criteria.

From available records in ICANN archives, the leadership and representational space within AFRALO has been conscripted and rotating within the same circle of members to the disadvantages of other members. As at date, 53 member At-Large Structures now constitute AFRALO and the numbers are increasing regularly. If the organization is *advancing* in numbers (growth) the members should also manifest this *growth* by setting standards that will advance this growth (amendment). There is an African parable that says: “*if there is ONLY one wealthy man in a community, that man is a poor man*” Meaning, your wealth is only measured by the number of people you have inspired (encouraged) to grow and develop with/by your wealth.

**It is retardation if AFRALO cannot grow or produce officers/representatives outside the same circle in 20 years.**

AFRALO in 2017 should be celebrating 20 years of active involvement with ICANN SINCE 2007. Today, AFRALO needs to be restructured if it must meet or be able to fulfill the above objectives contained in the MOU with ICANN in 2007 and Article 4.1 of its Operating Principles with consideration and adoption of the proposed draft amendment.

## **Advantages:**

1. It will inspire growth, development and broadening of the knowledge of ICANN policies and programs amongst members.
2. It will encourage more active participation by members.
3. It will advance and promote the diversity and fertilization of ideas within AFRALO and by extension ICANN.
4. This will help to build institutional capacity of each organization with the experience and knowledge to be gained therein.
5. This will further fulfill the provisions of the MOU and Operating Principles as enumerated above.
6. If adopted the democratic structures of AFRALO will be strengthened further.
7. If adopted AFRALO could become a benchmark for other RALOs to strengthen their democratic credentials as opposed to the monopoly currently playing out in these RALOs.

## **Reference:**

Of the other 4 RALOS, LACRALO is operating just like AFRALO in terms of succession. EURALO has just one member that has been transcending all offices and representation within its leadership. APRALO has a TWO TERMS time limit for its officers. As for NARALO the position of the Chair, Secretary and ALAC Representative is not TERM LIMITED except their NOMCOM Rep who can only serve for two terms.

## **Appreciation and Recognitions:**

**Nurses Across the Borders** is proposing that AFRALO evolve a process of recognizing and giving Awards to deserving members/organizations that have contributed and will contribute to the growth and development of AFRALO within ICANN. To this, we appreciate the contribution of Mohammed El Bashir, Mr. Tijani Ben Jemaa, Haziz Alil, Baduoin Schombe and Madam

Fatimata for all the works in developing AFRALO to its current standard.

Signed  
Pastor Peters OMORAGBON  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017.