

AFRALO NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 | English

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

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Chair's Remarks

Hadia Elminiawi

Successful elections and UA Day 2025: A collective win



Dear AFRALO Members,

Welcome to our second quarter newsletter!

I'd like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to everyone who expressed interest in joining the AFRALO leadership team. Your active participation has not only enriched the election process but also reaffirmed how essential your continued engagement is to AFRALO.

I would also like to thank you all for trusting me with another term as AFRALO Chair. Additionally, I extend my warm congratulations and welcome to our newly elected leadership team, namely Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong, AFRALO; Aziz Hilali, ALAC and Bram Fudzulani, AFRALO ALAC NomCom.

UA Day 2025 – A Collective Achievement

Thank you all for your outstanding events and contributions to UA Day 2025. Between 2023 and 2025 over 15 African countries hosted UA Day events – ranging

from grassroots forums to regional summits. Your efforts continue to play a critical role in advancing Universal Acceptance (UA) awareness, adoption, and policy development across the continent.

I would like to highlight the AFRALO UA Day Regional event, held on 7 May and to sincerely thank Mr. Mutegeki Cliff and Dr. Jabhera Matogoro for their leadership in making the event a success.

The event featured two main parts, namely, the Public Policy and Technical Adoption of Universal Acceptance (UA); and on UA in the local DNS industry, featuring DotAfrica and highlighted Sustainable Capacity Development with the Association of African Universities (AAU).

During the event, a special tribute was paid to Miss Nodumo Dhlamini, the late Director of ICT and knowledge Management at the Association of African Universities (AAU). The AAU team prepared a presentation and video in her honor, and participants were invited to share their memories and reflections on her life and contributions.

Calls to action from the event included “host a UA related event; Engage with policymakers; Test your organization’s UA readiness; Collaborate with universities, schools, startups and the community to promote and adopt UA; Make strategic investments, ensure coordinated access and explore new; models such as ‘build-operate-transfer’ models to drive UA adoption across Africa.”

Spotlight: ISOC Togo

In this edition, I am proud to highlight Emmanuel Vitus and ISOC Togo who organized what may have been one of the largest UA Day events. Held at the Ecole Polytechnique of the University of Lome, the hybrid event was initially planned for 50 participants but quickly grew due to overwhelming interest. The event engaged 850 participants, 300 onsite and 550 online. Including 35 lecturers, 22 of whom were full professors in computer science and related fields. Yaovi Atohun from the Africa GSE team joined in person. 223 new members joined ISOC Togo on the day with more than 70% expressing interest in joining ICANN activities and UA related working groups. Congratulations to ISOC Togo on this incredible achievement!

FY26 Community Regional Outreach Program (CROP) Launches: The Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Community Regional Outreach Program (CROP) space is now ready for your use.

When identifying applicable geographic regions and countries within regions: please use the [GSE list of countries and regions](#), rather than the less detailed listing of official ICANN Public Meeting regions.

The FY26 CROP space can be found [here](#).

FY26 CROP links are also available via the [CROP Confluence page](#)

Wishing you a pleasant read and please stay engaged!

Warm regards,
Hadia Elminiawi

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About AFRALO

African Regional At-Large Organization

... Engaging Africa for Development

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.

AFRALO aims to:

- 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)

AFRALO currently consist of [77 ALses](#) located in 33 countries and territories, as well as [16 Individual members](#) and 3 Observers.

To learn more about the ongoing work of AFRALO, you are welcome to check out the AFRALO [workspace](#).

Special Feature

Former AFRALO chair, Seun Ojedeji makes history @PIR board

The immediate past chairman of the Africa Regional At-Large Organisation (AFRALO), and renowned technology executive, Mr. Seun Ojedeji, has been appointed to the Public Interest Registry (PIR) Board of Directors.

With this appointment Ojedeji makes history to be the first Nigerian to join the PIR Board.

Ojedeji, the representative of Open-Source Foundation of Nigeria at AFRALO, has expertise in Internet governance, Domain Name System (DNS) operations, and nonprofit leadership expected to enhance the PIR's advocacy efforts on behalf of the internet community.



His appointment underscored dedication to shaping the future of the internet and promoting digital rights. The PIR board oversees the .ORG domain, serving over 10 million non-profit organizations worldwide.

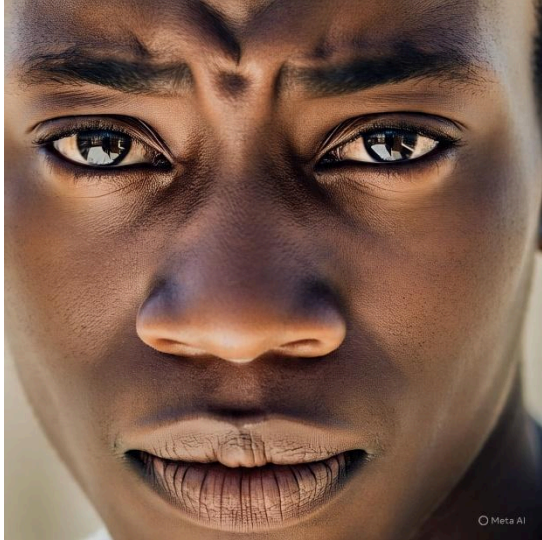
Ojedeji's appointment is a testament to his exceptional leadership and commitment to the internet community.

Congratulations to Seun Ojedeji!

eHealth ... Tribute to late Olevie Kouami

Remmy Nweke

Eye strain and vision problems



Health experts have identified that prolonged computer use can lead to various health issues, including eye strain and vision problems caused by dry eyes, blurred vision and headaches.

To mitigate this, experts also advised consideration of following the proper ergonomics, taking regular breaks, practicing eye care, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and setting boundaries around screen time.

Some causes of eye strain and vision problems comprised of blue light emission, bearing in mind that computers and laptops emit blue light, which could cause eye strain and disrupt sleep; prolonged focus such as staring at screens for extended periods could lead to fatigue and strain.

Additionally, poor lighting, which is a sign of insufficient or harsh lighting could cause eye strain, just as incorrect display settings: Brightness, contrast, and colour temperature could contribute to eye strain; as well as

dry eyes, which reduces blinking while working on computers could lead to dry, irritated eyes.

However, symptoms could arise from dry, irritated eyes, blurred vision, headaches, eye fatigue, discomfort or pain in the eyes, as well as difficulty in focusing.

Experts said prevention and relief could come from following the 20-20-20 rule, that is "Every 20 minutes, look away from your screen and focus on something 20 feet away for 20 seconds."

Computer users are advised to adjust display settings to optimize brightness, contrast, and colour temperature by way of ensuring usage of good lighting, stressing that soft, indirect lighting could reduce eye strain; Blink regularly entails making a conscious effort to blink while working.

They pointed out that usage of eye drops could create artificial tears and help with dry eyes; Take breaks from screen time, as well as consider eye protection like with blue light filtering glasses or screen protectors will be of immense help.

ALAC Policy Updates

- [ALAC Closed Generics Advice to the Board](#)
- [ccNSO Proposed Policy for a Specific ccTLD Related Review Mechanism](#)
- [ccNSO PDP4 Initial Report on the \(de-\) selection of IDNccTLDs](#)
- [GNSO Guidance Process Applicant Support Guidance Recommendation Initial Report](#)

ICANN Updates

- [ICANN Seeks Input on the Complete Draft Next Round Applicant Guidebook](#)
- [ICANN Announces First Cohort of Grant Program Recipients](#)
- [ICANN Opens Search for Heads of E&IT, Government Engagement, Human Resources](#)
- [ICANN83 Schedule Now Available](#)

- [ICANN Seeks Feedback on New Policy Status Report](#)
- [ICANN Webinar Will Introduce Complete Draft Applicant Guidebook](#)
- [ICANN Publishes Fiscal Year 2025 Third-Quarter Management Financial Results](#)
- [ICANN Seeks Comments on Updated Code of Conduct](#)
- [ICANN Board Adopts FY26–30 Operating Plan and FY26 Operating Plan and Budget](#)
- [ICANN Call for Nominations: Universal Acceptance Expert Working Group](#)
- [ICANN83 Prep Week Schedule Now Available](#)
- [ICANN Board seeks feedback on Transfer Policy Review Working Group Final Report](#)
- [ICANN Seeks Feedback on FY26–30 Africa Regional Plan](#)
- [ICANN Customer Standing Committee Seeks Input on Process to Amend IANA SLAs](#)
- [Reminder: ICANN RSP Pre-Evaluation Program Closes 20 May 2025](#)
- [ICANN Invites Applications for the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy 2025](#)
- [Call for Expressions of Interest: ICANN 2026 NomCom Chair and Chair-Elect](#)
- [ICANN Request for Proposal: Internal Audit Services](#)
- [ICANN Address Supporting Organization Seeks Input on Updated Governance Document](#)
- [Preview the ICANN and IANA FY26 Operating and Financial Plans](#)

ALAC Meeting Updates

MONTHLY MEETINGS: ALAC holds a series of meetings including monthly for the membership, bi-monthly leadership team meeting and Face-to-face sessions at ICANN international meetings.

Helpful Meeting Tracks:

- ALAC Monthly Meetings: community.icann.org/x/_pQi
- ALAC Leadership Team Bi-Monthly Meetings: community.icann.org/x/noAi
- At-Large Face-To-Face Sessions in ICANN International Meetings: community.icann.org/x/KJli

AFRALO Meeting Tracks:

- AFRALO Monthly Meetings: community.icann.org/x/JgUt

The agenda and call details are available at: <https://community.icann.org/x/KwA5Dg>

AFRALO Monthly Calls have been scheduled for **first Wednesdays** of every month, so look out for details.

Do well to join!

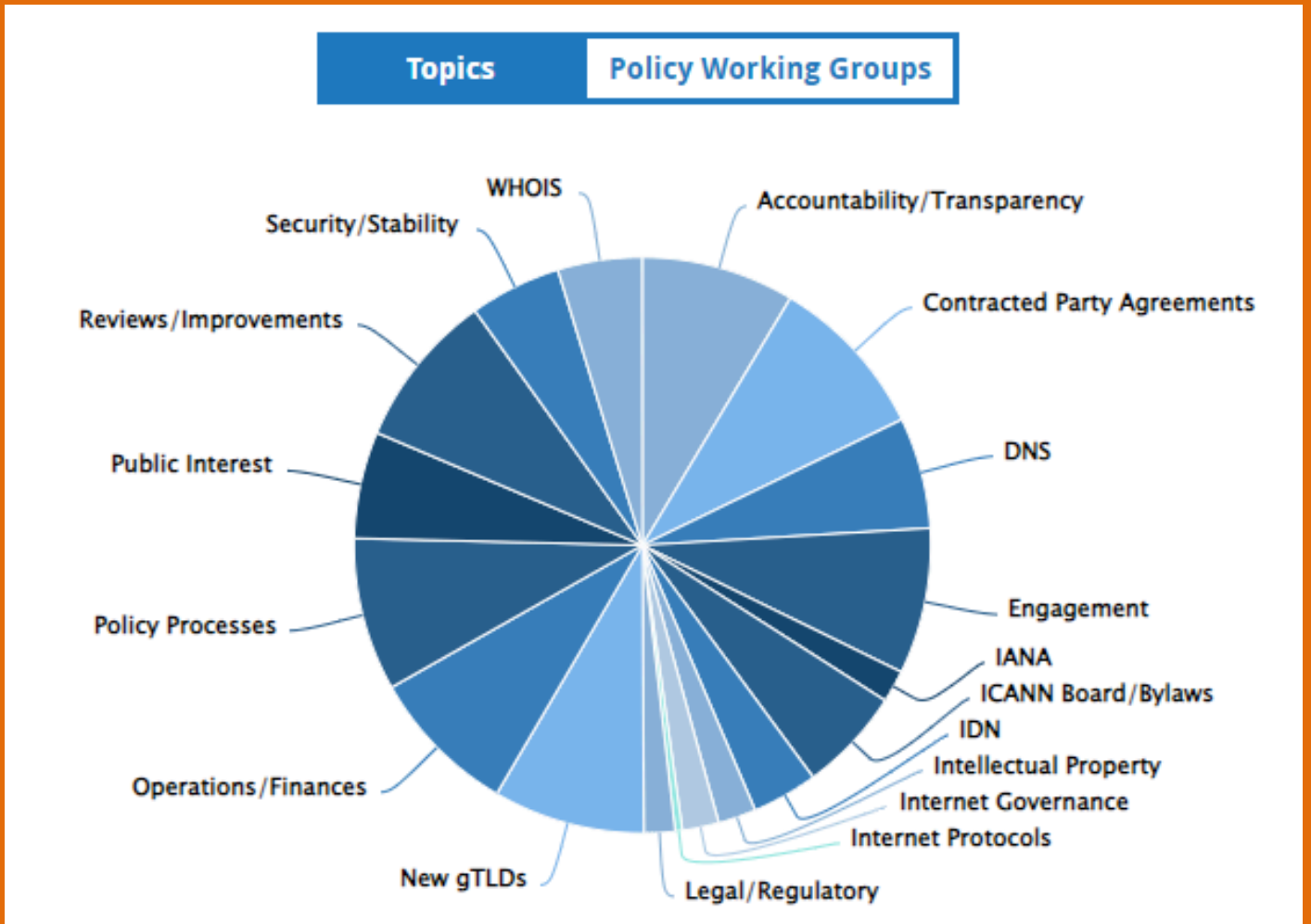
ALAC Policy Comments & Advice

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](#)

Mapping At-Large Policy Issues



ALS' Activities

Senegal steps towards digital inclusion with UA Day 2025 workshop

Fatimatu Seye Sylla



The UA Day 2025 workshop, a joint effort by NGO Bokk Jang, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), and various public and private entities, took place at UCAD 2.

The Executive Summary highlighted the workshop's goal of advancing Universal Acceptance (UA) among Senegalese engineers and developers, addressing technical challenges (IDN & EAI), and fostering digital inclusion.

At the opening and welcome address by Ms. Fatimata Seye Sylla, she emphasized digital inclusion and acknowledged partners and the organizing committee, along with presentations by 'Digital Veterans.'

Facilitation and Coordination were led by Mr. Cedrick Adrien Mbeyet, which covered an introduction and technical challenges (IDNs and EAIs) and the Evaluation of UA-Compliant Platforms by Mr. Nabil Benamar.

A practical implementation workshop allowed participants to work on making web applications UA-ready.

The Adoption Plan in Business & Institutions included case studies presented by Mr. Cedrick Adrien Mbeyet and Mr. Arthur Nanitelamio.

At the end, participants reiterated that UA Day 2025 was a pivotal moment in Senegal's UA adoption strategy, with international experts and diverse attendees contributing to a productive dynamic.

Two key recommendations were made to address digital inclusion challenges, namely the awareness actions through mini-workshops and academic integration of a UA module in computer science curricula.

The results and impacts demonstrated strong inter-university mobilization with 67 participants from 5 universities and 8 companies, extensive media coverage across over 26 platforms, and the creation of first UA integration outlines, including training modules and roadmaps for server configurations.

ISOC Togo hosts UA Day 2025 @École Polytechnique

The Togolese Chapter of the Internet Society, a member of AFRALO since 2022, organized an official Universal Acceptance Day (UAD) session at the École Polytechnique of the University of Lomé (EPL), in partnership with ICANN and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG).



The event held with the theme "Empowering the Next Generation: Preparing Togo's Future IT Leaders for a Globally Inclusive Internet," attracted some 300 in-person participants, including computer science students, as well as teacher-researchers, tenured professors, pedagogical managers, and technical coaches. At the same time, 540 students took part in the remote sessions, due to logistical constraints.

The day began with the dissemination of institutional messages, including that of Tripti Sinha, Chair of the ICANN Board of Directors. Yaovi Atohoun, ICANN Regional Representative, was present in Lomé and led an awareness session on the challenges of universal acceptance. The afternoon was devoted to a technical workshop led by Professor Nabil Benamar, president of the UASG working group, with the participation of EPL teachers.

The President of the Togolese Chapter, Emmanuel Agbenonwossi, said the objectives of the initiative is underlined in the commitment of the Chapter in the promotion of open standards.

The Director of École Polytechnique and his team welcomed the holding of this activity, and announced the gradual integration of modules related to universal acceptance into the academic curriculum.

ISOC Cameroon organizes 3-day workshop on online child safety

HERVE Hounzandji



The Internet Society Cameroon Chapter recently hosted a three-day workshop in Ngaoundéré, focused on equipping civil society organization leaders with the skills to protect children online.

The event, held from April 19 to 21, 2025, was supported by the Internet Society Foundation.

The workshop aimed to strengthen participants' capacities in safeguarding children on the internet by educating them on online risks, promoting good digital security practices, and introducing reporting and support mechanisms.

Some of the key takeaways include that participants engaged in discussions on region-specific challenges and shared local experiences.

They also committed to raising awareness in their communities about digital parenting and protecting young web users.

The workshop emphasized the importance of collaboration in creating a safer online environment for children.

This initiative demonstrated ISOC chapter commitment to promoting online safety and digital responsibility in Cameroon.

By empowering leaders in the civil society sector, ISOC Cameroon is working towards creating a more secure online space for all users, particularly vulnerable populations like children.

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