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

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Chair's Remarks
Hadia Elminiawi

Dear AFRALO members,

Greetings and welcome to the January-March 2024 edition of the AFRALO Newsletter. As we step into the new year, I extend warm wishes to each of you for a prosperous and successful year ahead. In this issue, I am excited to share updates on upcoming events and initiatives that are sure to keep you engaged.

ICANN79 Prep week will be held from 20 February to Thursday, 22 February. Prep week will include updates on various topics including Universal Acceptance (UA), Internationalized Domain Name (IDN), Contractual Compliance, Finance and Planning, Name Collision Analysis Project Study2, Policy and Advice, Registrant Program, Implementation of Specific Reviews, Work Stream2 Recommendations, ICANN Reviews and GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development. Additionally, there will be a guide for newcomers and a session dedicated to ICANN Board Engagement with the ICANN Community.

Don't miss the ICANN79 meeting scheduled from March 2nd to 7th. I would like to draw your attention to the Africa Space work session, which is scheduled for Monday, March 4th at 14:30 UTC, moderated by Pierre Dandjinou. Also, mark your calendars for the AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting on March 6th at 19:00 UTC. Additionally, you are all invited to the DNS Women session, whether in person or remotely on Wednesday, March 6th, at 20:15 UTC.

Recently the ALAC has ratified public comment statements regarding the ICANN FY25 Plan, the draft PTI FY25 Operating Plan and Budget and the draft 2023 African Domain Name Market Study Report drafted by AFRALO.

I am glad to share as well that the AFRALO Review Operating Principles Working Group (AFRALO ROP WG Review) has commenced its work with Isaac Maposa and Abdeljalil Bachar Bong as co-chairs of the group.

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to the availability of the ICANN Grant Program Applicant Guide. The grant platform will open for applications submission on March 25th, 2024, and close on May 24th, 2024. For more information about the program please visit the ICANN Grant Program webpage

In this edition, I would like to express my gratitude to Bram Fudzulani and Chokri Ben Romdhane who have commenced their work as AFRALO representatives in the Continuous Improvement Program Project. Additionally, let's extend our appreciation to Remmy Nweke who now serves as the representative of AFRALO for the 2024 ALAC Appointee Selection Committee (AASC).

Looking ahead:
AFRALO UA strategy proposal has been accepted and we are currently in the process of establishing the UA strategy working group. If you are interested in joining, please email either me or Raymond Mamattah.

ICANN80 policy forum will take place in Kigali- Rwanda. We aim to increase participation from the region, particularly from university students and researchers.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the AFRALO newsletter and stay engaged!

Best wishes,
Hadia Elminiawi
AFRALO Chair

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About AFRALO

African Regional At-Large Organization
… *Engaging Africa for Development*
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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 **74 ALSes** located in 32 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**.

Regional GSE Update
Pierre DANDJINOU,
Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement – Africa

Universal Acceptance Curriculum Loading **…**

It is a pleasure for me to share on key activities the GSE-Africa team has embarked on after the Xmas and new year holidays. Most of them are related to the Coalition for Digital Africa.

CDA Roadshow – Eastern Africa

Over two weeks in January/February I undertook with my team an extensive three country, highly impactful and successful Coalition for Digital Africa roadshow across Eastern Africa - Ethiopia, Rwanda and Kenya; we met with our key stakeholders across academia, government and international governmental organizations, civil society and At Large Structures, technical community, business and private sector and country code top level domain registrars and managers. ICANN also hosted two breakfast meetings for stakeholders in Kigali, Rwanda and Nairobi, Kenya, during which substantive information and knowledge were passed

on, while our partners spent the time discussing issues related to their participation in ICANN work.

Among the critical discussions with partners were increased capacity building, cybersecurity, National Domain Days, the Coalition for Digital Africa projects and initiatives, academic engagement, the ICANN 80 meeting in Kigali, the High-Level Governmental Meeting, and other opportunities for collaboration that are unique to each partner.

The Africa Domain Name Market Study

We appreciate the contribution from AFRALO to the Public Comments process. The special AFRALO Webinar on the topic to better understand the draft report and to provide later inputs are well appreciated. We hope to have the study report finalized in the course of March 2024 and subsequent communication and action items related to the study, including the Africa domain name observatory project will follow.

Universal Acceptance of Domain Names and Email addresses:

Technical topics related to Universal Acceptance are important to be included in Curricula for our higher education institutions in Africa. The community through the Universal Acceptance Steering Group has developed a draft curriculum where input could still be provided, in collaboration with the Association of Africa Universities which held two webinars on the topic. We have more than 150 lecturers, Dean of faculty to discuss how these courses could be integrated in the current curricula so that students have the necessary knowledge about Universal Acceptance in order to take it into consideration in their professional implementations.

We want to take the opportunities to thank all the fellows preparing to attend the ICANN79 meeting in Puerto Rico. We believe that they will take advantage of their special program and also participate in many other sessions. We will have our ICANN Space working session as usual and hereby invite you all to attend this session while in Puerto Rico or remotely.

We will continue our engagement with various stakeholders in many regional activities and we will be reporting in the next edition of the newsletter.

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

- **[ICANN Publishes Fiscal Year 2024 Second Quarter Management Financial Results](#)**
- **[ICANN Announces Recipients of the ICANN80 Fellowship](#)**
- **[Middle East DNS Forum 2024: Shaping the Future of Digital Infrastructure](#)**
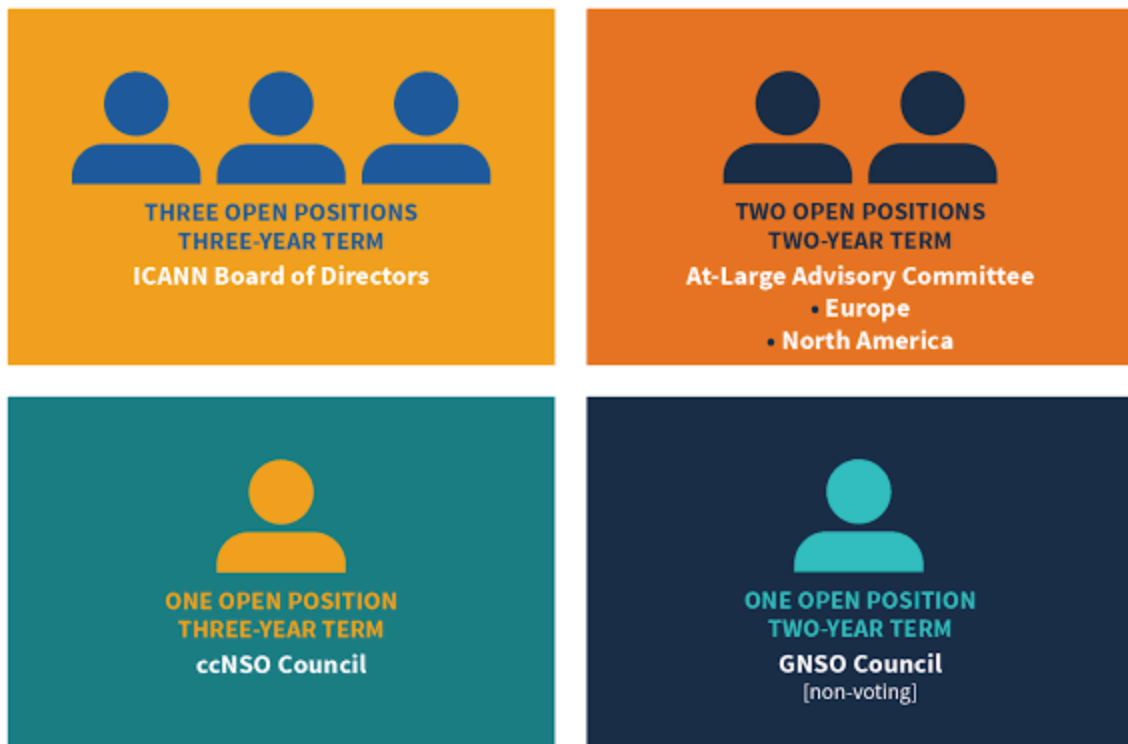- **[Request for Proposal: ICANN Support Applicant Review Panel](#)**

NomCom Report

Seun Ojedeji, NomCom Rep

#ICANN invites interested candidates to apply for key leadership positions. Those selected will work to fulfill ICANN's mission of a single interoperable, stable, and secure Internet. Apply here by 15 March 2024 23:59 UTC: https://lnkd.in/dqcuxAZw

The 2024 Nominating Committee Will Fill Seven Open Leadership Positions

THREE OPEN POSITIONS
THREE-YEAR TERM
ICANN Board of Directors

TWO OPEN POSITIONS
TWO-YEAR TERM
At-Large Advisory Committee
• Europe
• North America

ONE OPEN POSITION
THREE-YEAR TERM
ccNSO Council

ONE OPEN POSITION
TWO-YEAR TERM
GNSO Council
[non-voting]

e-Health
… in memory of Olivie Kouami

Cardiac Arrest: Men beware!

By Remmy Nweke

In fulfillment of the pledge to introduce e-Health column in memory of late Olivie Kouami, we are taking off with cardiac arrest or locally known as 'heart attack' though some medical experts insisted, a heart attack is not the same as a cardiac arrest.

According to the British Heart Foundation (BHF), "A heart attack is when one of the coronary arteries becomes blocked. The heart muscle is robbed of its vital blood supply and, if left untreated, will begin to die because it is not getting enough oxygen."

On the other hand, BHF stated "A cardiac arrest is when a person's heart stops pumping blood around their body and they stop breathing normally," stressing that many cardiac arrests in adults happen because of a heart attack. This is because a person who is having a heart attack may develop a dangerous heart rhythm, which can cause a cardiac arrest.

At the just concluded 2024 African Cup of Nations held in Cote d'Ivoire, there were reports that some five male Nigerians suddenly died during the semi-final matches at various locations between Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire.

Its possible to have similar stories across the continent, hence its apt that we keep to the pledge of this e-Health column in memory of our late French Editor, Olivie Kouami, who died suddenly at the last quarter of 2023.

The United States-based Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was quoted as saying that heart attacks occur every 40 seconds, especially in men.

So, heart attack, also known in the medical parlance as 'myocardial infarction' is the damage to the heart muscle caused by a loss of blood supply due to blocks in the arteries, according to a cardiologist at Delhi Heart and Lung Institute, Dr. Kabir Sethi.

He said that any stage where cardiac arrest occurs, an urgent medical attention is usually recommended by healthcare providers, because it could be dangerous or life threatening if untreated.

Also, he said that cardiac arrest is treatable by a medical professional, but often requires lab test or imaging, which could cause the treatment to linger for several days or weeks.

Dr. Sethi was emphatic that cardiac arrest is common for those between the ages of 60 and older and happens more among males.

Symptoms:
Dr. Sethi noted that symptoms and severity varies from person to person, yet some may not notice symptoms and if at all a very mild signs. Therefore, very crucial to examine the symptoms.

The most common warning symptoms, the cardiologist said, may include sign of discomfort in the chest region, pressure or tightness in the chest, pain or discomfort in the arm, back or neck region- usually on the left side, excessive sweating, shortness of breath, either on exertion or at rest.

He also listed nausea, vomiting, and dizziness as possible causes.

Chest pain is the most common warning sign of a heart attack. But there could be other symptoms, too, like lightheadedness, nausea, and shortness of breath. Symptoms could be severe or mild, and are often different from one person to the next. Some people may not even notice any warning signs of a heart attack.

Last line:
Above all, he advised that any sign of discomfort related to above symptoms, should be reported to the nearest medical practitioner who would recommend a specialist and treatment. Insisting that a heart attack and a cardiac arrest are both emergency situations that require urgent medical attention.

ALAC Meeting Updates

MONTHLY MEETINGS: ALAC held its last monthly meeting on Tuesday, **23 January 2024 from 19:00 – 20:00 UTC**.

The agenda and call details are available at: https://community.icann.org/x/V4IvEQ

ICANN79 Planning Committee
19:00 UTC: ICANN79 Planning Committee https://community.icann.org/x/04D6EQ- Zoom Link: https://icann.zoom.us/j/96279337738?pwd=Ky9yRXhhdjBxVjc0c1VaL3plMjZrZz09

At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG)
14:00 UTC: At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) Call https://community.icann.org/x/CoASEg - Zoom Link: https://icann.zoom.us/j/765717566?pwd=UTJCdWRSZVdJNEhOYW02OVBqQVQ1Zz09

AFRALO monthly call:

The last **AFRALO Monthly Call was** on Wednesday, 14 February 2024 at 18:30 UTC**.**

The agenda and call details are available at : https://community.icann.org/x/bIZXDg
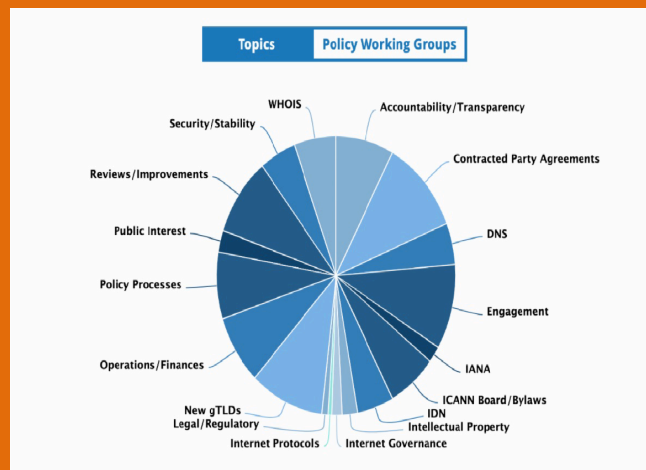
Do well to join!

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

Kigali in the wind @ICANN80
By Remmy Nweke

Remember that towards the third quarter of 2023, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) announced that Kigali, capital of Rwanda, was selected as the location for the ICANN80 Policy Forum, which will be held between June 10–13, 2024 at the Kigali Convention Centre.

The last ICANN Public Meeting held in Africa was in June 2019 and ICANN is looking forward to returning to the continent this year, 2024, after almost five years absent.

Recall that ICANN holds three Public Meetings each calendar year in different regions of the world to enable people from around the globe to participate in-person or online.

ICANN Public Meetings are a central part of ICANN's multistakeholder model, and provide a venue for progressing policy work, conducting outreach, exchanging best practices, negotiating business deals, and interacting with members of the ICANN community, Board, and organization.

Usually comprising over 100 different sessions, these meetings are an important opportunity for individuals and representatives from ICANN's various stakeholder groups to introduce and discuss issues related to the ICANN policy development process.

As members of AFRALO, ALSes are expected to participate by attending either in-person or remotely, whereas meetings are open to everyone, and registration is free.

So, is Africa ready! Are you ready!

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