



Africa Engagement Forum

25-27 July 2023
Accra, Ghana (Hybrid)

Theme: Engagement for a Flourishing Digital Africa

Agenda V2: Last Updated – 23 June

Day 1 – 25 July 2023

TIME (UTC) Session	SESSION	SESSION DESCRIPTION
14:30 –15:30	Opening Ceremony	<p>Keynote address: What is Africa’s Digital Potential, and What Will it Take to Realize it?</p> <p>Andile Ngcaba Founding Partner & Chairman, Convergence Partners</p> <p>Remarks on topics of interest to ICANN touching on ongoing/planned projects in Africa.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pierre Dandjinou Vice President Stakeholder Engagement – Africa, ICANN● Baher Esmat Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement – Middle East and Managing Director – Middle East and Africa, ICANN● Sally Costerton Interim President and CEO and Sr. Advisor to President and SVP, Global Stakeholder Engagement, ICANN● Prof Olusola Bandele Oyewole Secretary General of Association of African Universities (AAU)
30 minutes break		

16:00 – 17:00	The Africa DNS Market Study: Preliminary Findings	<p>This session will present some of the initial findings in the <i>Africa DNS Market Study 2023</i>, a Coalition for Digital Africa Initiative, conducted by the project consultant, Powersoft. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on the key findings.</p> <p>Moderator: Prof Nii Quaynor Chair Ghana dot Com</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project consultant, Powersoft
END OF DAY 1		

Day 2 – 26 July 2023

TIME (UTC)	SESSION	SESSION DESCRIPTION
09:00 – 10:30 (90 min)	ICANN Community Updates	<p>This session will be focused on receiving feedback / reports / status updates including from various Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees on ongoing work, policy development processes, and hot topics relevant to Africa. It is an opportunity to invite the African community to participate on such topics and in working groups. This will be followed by brief updates from the Af*(organizations) leaders.</p> <p>Moderator: Seun Ojedji Chair AFRALO</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC): Francis Olivier Cubahiro Vice Chair GAC • Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO): Biyi Oladipo Vice Chair ccNSO Council • Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC): Benjamin Akinmoyeje Executive Committee Africa

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC): Emmanuel Vitus Secretariat • At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC): Raymond Selorm Mamattah Member • African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC): Benjamin Eshun Board Chair • African Network Operators Group (AFNOG): Nancy Dotse, Secretariat • Association of ICANN Accredited Registrars in Africa (AfRegistrar): Mouhamet Diop Chair • Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AFTLD): Serge Sanou Chairman of Executive Committee (President)
30 minutes break		
11:00 – 12:30 (90 min)	Panel Discussion: Africa and the next round of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs): challenges and opportunities	<p>This session will provide a status update on ICANN’s work regarding the implementation of the next round following the adoption of the Subpro Final Report as adopted by the ICANN Board. Followed by a panel discussion on past experiences in applying for a new gTLD (2012 Round), and expectations and potential opportunities for the African market with regard to gTLDs.</p> <p>Moderator: Mouhamet Diop Chair Afregistrar</p> <p>Introduction: Bob Ochieng New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Senior Director, ICANN</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucky Masilela CEO, ZA Central Registry • Thabo Mashegoane Chair, Africa ICT Alliance • Adeola Raji Manager Cloud Services, Upperlink. • Mohamed Mnif CEO, Tunisian Internet Agency
90 minutes break		

<p>14:00 – 15:30 (90 min)</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Coalition for Digital Africa</p>	<p>In December 2022, ICANN launched the Coalition for Digital Africa, an initiative aimed at expanding the Internet in Africa. Conceived by ICANN, the Coalition is an alliance of like-minded organizations committed to building a robust and secure Internet infrastructure to bring more Africans online.</p> <p>This session will provide an update on the status of the Coalition projects as well as discuss deeper opportunities for partnerships to fully leverage the potential and spirit of the Coalition.</p> <p>Moderator: Serge Sanou Chairman of Executive Committee (President)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pierre Dandjinou Vice President Stakeholder Engagement - Africa, ICANN • Professor Olusola Oyewole Secretary General, Association of African Universities • Professor Nii Quaynor Chair, Ghana dot Com • Boubakar Barry CEO, WACREN
<p>30 minutes break</p>		
<p>16:00 – 17:00 (60 min)</p>	<p>Informational session: Technical Key Highlights for Africa</p>	<p>In this session, the ICANN Office of the Chief Technical Officer (OCTO) will provide insight on ongoing Technical Engagement activities in Africa and highlight key successes, and some of the lessons learned to date.</p> <p>Speaker: Yazid Akanho Technical Engagement Senior Specialist, ICANN</p>
<p>END OF DAY 2</p>		

Day 3 – 27 July 2023

TIME (UTC)	SESSION	SESSION DESCRIPTION
09:00 – 10:30 (90 min)	Informational Session: Presentation on ICANN Key Topics	<p>The GSE Africa team has been implementing the ICANN Regional Engagement Plan 2020–2025. In this session, the team will provide a mid-point report of the status of the implementation plan.</p> <p>The session will also provide special updates on selected ICANN hot topics / projects that the community should follow very keenly.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yaovi Atohoun Stakeholder Engagement and Operations Director - Africa, ICANN → Status report of the Implementation of the Africa Regional plan ● Giovanni Seppia Vice President, Implementation Operations, ICANN → Grant Program (remote) ● Elena Plexida Vice President, Government and IGO Engagement, ICANN: MSM of IG → Geopolitical perspective ● Patrick Jones Vice President, Global Stakeholder Engagement, ICANN → DNS privacy issues ● Q/A
30 minutes break		
11:00 – 12:30 (90 min)	Community Forum	<p>During this session, the audience will have a chance to engage ICANN org with a Q&A session touching on various topics of relevance to the African Community.</p> <p>It's an opportunity for the African community to have a deeper understanding and more focused engagement with the various ICANN functions.</p>

		<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baher Esmat Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement - Middle East and Managing Director Middle East and Africa, ICANN • Pierre Dandjinou Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement - Africa, ICANN • León Sánchez Board Member, ICANN • Patrick Jones Vice President, Global Stakeholder Engagement, ICANN
12:30 – 13:00	Closing Ceremony	<p>Key takeaways and next steps</p> <p>Host: Yaovi Atohoum Stakeholder Engagement and Operations Director – Africa, ICANN</p> <p>Speaker: Pierre Dandjinou Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement – Africa, ICANN</p>
END OF THE FORUM		

