

Ongoing Engagement in Africa

**ICANN**  
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# Launch of the New Africa Strategy



Pierre Dandjinou

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- **It has been five years since the first ICANN Africa Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015 was adopted.**

**On May 5, 2018; the GSE Africa team released the 5-Year implementation report of the ICANN Africa strategy in the sidelines of AIS18.**

**See full report here:**

**<https://www.icann.org/news/blog/implementing-icann-s-africa-strategy-since-2013-an-overview-in-numbers>**

**The strategy remains the cornerstone of ICANN's engagement in Africa.**

## A two pronged approach

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### Awareness

Promote Awareness and Meaningful Participation of Africa in ICANN & the wider IG Ecosystem in partnership with other I\* and Af\* Organizations.



### Build Capacity

Transform the DNS & Internet Industry in Africa by Facilitating capacity development and Cultivating an environment for the emergence of an Africa grown domain name industry and business.

**Our Regional Engagement Centre in Nairobi is Central in Supporting our work in Africa**

## Through the Strategy, we have launched a number of initiatives...

### Flagship Projects

- ⊙ DNS Forums
- ⊙ DNSSEC Roadshows
- ⊙ Africa DNS Market Study
- ⊙ The DNS mentorship and internship Program
- ⊙ Supporting deployment of more Root Server Instances

### Engagement Events

- ⊙ Leveraging Regional Meetings
- ⊙ Participation on Sub regional events.
- ⊙ IGFs (Regional and selected National IGFs ),
- ⊙ Maintenance of regular channels of communication including the African discussion lists

### Engagement with Academia

- ⊙ Workshop at the Association of African Universities - AAU Annual conference
- ⊙ YouthComm Workshops
- ⊙ Outreach to Research and Education networks.
- ⊙ Outreach to Higher Education Institutions

### Emerging Issues

- ⊙ Cybersecurity related issues,
- ⊙ Some ccTLD Governance Issues Still persist
- ⊙ New Technologies and Changing Global Policy landscape –IoT, AI, GDPR – is Africa Ready

### GSE Africa Staff

- ⊙ VP – Pierre Dandjinou
- ⊙ Manager – Yaovi Atohoun
- ⊙ Manager – Bob Ochieng

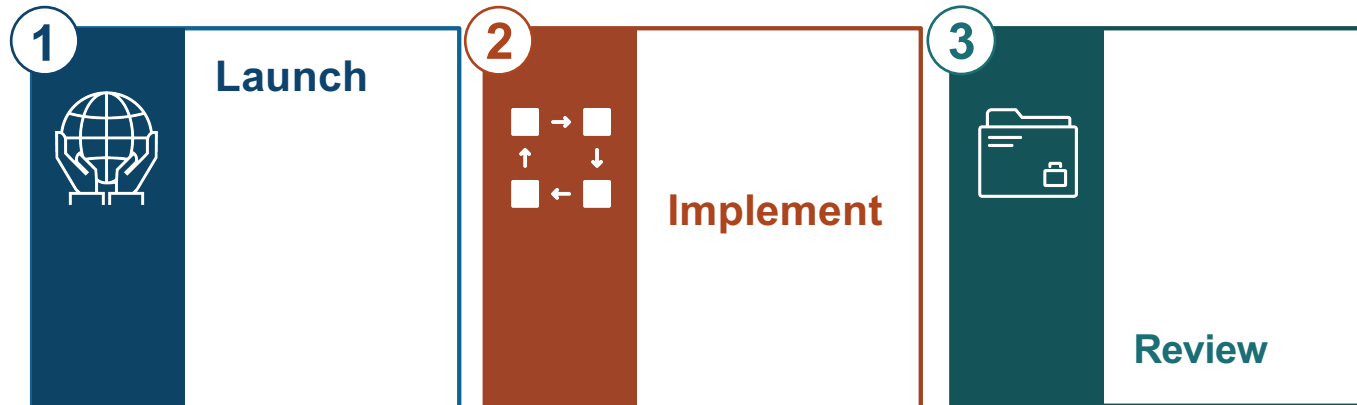
### Challenges / Opportunities

- ⊙ Implementation of an Africa DNS Observatory
- ⊙ Overall participation by Africa in the empowered community
- ⊙ IDN adoption and Universal Acceptance

# An Evolving Document...

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The Africa Strategy remains a living document, with regular reviews to keep realigning it not only to the ICANN Vision and Mission, but most importantly, to the ever evolving community needs and realities on the ground.



For example, ICANN org has undergone important transformations in the last 3 years such as the IANA stewardship transition (Oct 2016) ICANN.

- **1st Review held in November 24-25, 2014: Mauritius**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Review meeting held in July 2, 2018: Cotonou Benin:**

**On July 30, 2018, we published the revised draft ICANN Africa strategic plan FY16-20 Ver 3.0 for public comments. (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2018-07-30-en>). The public comment period remained open until Sept 10, 2018.**

## Key Outcomes of the 2<sup>ND</sup> Review Meeting (July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018) which have informed the Objectives of the Draft Strategy Ver3.0

- ⦿ The group reiterated that the Africa Strategy document is a strategy for ICANN by Africa, but Africa must also fully take its ownership. It was also highlighted that this strategy is merely dealing with the DNS industry, and hence does not cover the entire Internet ecosystem in Africa.
- ⦿ There should be renewed focus in promoting Capacity Building initiatives that would ensure Africa as a community fully and effectively participates in the ICANN ecosystem.
- ⦿ Going forward, more attention and resources should be dedicated to quality of the participants and not necessarily quantity.
- ⦿ In regard to the DNS industry, the group proposed that ICANN should have a differentiated approach to Africa owing to its uniqueness and in the spirit of public interest.



## Cont...

- ⦿ There needs to be additional focus on mentoring the youth with increased outreach to youth and academia.
- ⦿ ICANN should also tap in the diversity of fellowship alumni and ccTLDs and leverage them to further support engagement in their various countries and activities.
- ⦿ While it remains imperative to have a balanced approach to engaging all the relevant stakeholders in Africa since they possess different strengths, not everybody maybe relevant or interested.
- ⦿ There still exists very little business community involvement. We need to find out why.
- ⦿ Lastly, it is also important to appreciate the progress made so far in the overall DNS and Internet ecosystem in Africa, i.e. today we have many functional REN, increased number in ICANN accredited registrars, and overall ICANN visibility across Africa.

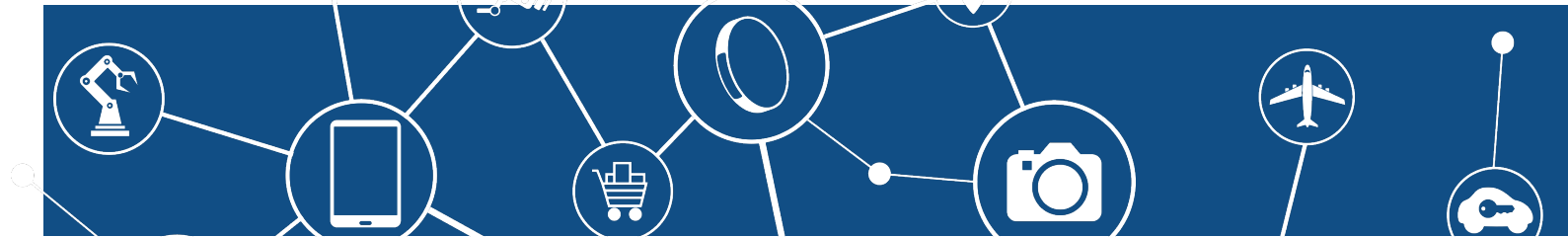
## Highlights from the Public Comments

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- ⦿ At the close of the public comment period, seven comments were received, three of which were submitted by individuals while another four were submissions on behalf of ACs / SOs (ALAC, BC, NSSG, RySG)
- ⦿ Low quantity of comments received, but underscore and thank the community for the quality of the responses in general.
- ⦿ Most of the comments urged us to ensure balanced Engagement and closer collaboration with all SOs / ACs
- ⦿ There were also suggestions that we include more details especially in terms of KPIs and actual budget projections for the listed projects in subsequent Operational Plans.
- ⦿ It was recommended that African participants should strive to organize subgroups within each of the SOs/ACs so that a continental view or opinion should be better elaborated and shared as African contribution to policy development within ICANN

## Refined & reviewed list of Ten Objectives

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- The overall outcome was a re-evaluation of the current strategic objectives.
- The team arrived at the conclusion that majority of the current objectives were indeed still valid and good for Africa.
- Two new objectives (9 & 10) were formulated.
- And a final list of 10 objectives were agreed by the review team. (Please refer to page 8 and 9 of the report.)

# We now have 10 Objectives...

1

**Strengthen ccTLD Development in Africa,**  
Build Capacity in DNS technical operations and provide assistance and support as requested. Ref ICANN

- Promote adoption of The DNSSEC
- Strengthen ccTLDs in Africa

2

**Enhance local, regional and international cooperation with DNS stakeholders and Promote best practices of DNS operations**

- Promote best practices for DNS Operations in Africa.
- Promote strategic partnerships between global & local entrepreneurs

3

**Support and facilitate competition in Domain Name business.**

- Promote new Top-Level Domain (TLD) registries and registrars
- Build business environment that favors consumer trust and choice
- Build African entrepreneurship program in the DNS area

4

**Encourage resiliency of local DNS infrastructure like IXPs and Anycast servers**

- Deploy more root servers in Africa
- Promote Anycast Servers deployment in Africa

5

**Regionalization of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and ICANN operations in Africa.**

- Regionalization of other core ICANN operations in Africa
- Strengthen the physical presence in Africa to conduct outreach to help reflect ICANN's global image
- Promote globalization of ICANN and its operations through a phased internationalization of IANA functions

## Objectives Cont...

6

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8

**Facilitate an Enabling environment** for the emergence of DNS Industry in Africa. Ref ICANN

9

**Support capacity building and development of Internet governance in Africa**

10

**Strengthen the Economic Impact of the DNS Industry in Africa.**

- Promote long term financial stability and sustainability of African registries
- Promote the development of affordable DNS products in Africa
- Promote the adoption of best practices and harmonized policies in the African name space

# Engage with ICANN



## Thank You and Questions

Visit us at [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)

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