**AFRALO STATEMENT ON ICANN GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS**

This statement from AFRALO is the outcome of the discussions undertaken by the African ALS regarding the region’s view on the Geographic Regions Review Working Group

We, AFRALO members appreciate the work done by the geographic regions review working groupand the key questions raised during this exercise.

Africa is a region fighting for unity to promote economic and social development. As such, AFRALO members think any division of the African continent would jeopardize the efforts deployed to realize this objectiveand will not meet communities approval. History has divided the continent by language and the actual efforts are for reunification at all levels.

AFRALO recommends ICANN to keep the integrity of the African continent with all the countriesas actually recognized by the United Nations and the African Union and other regional bodies.

With its 54 countries and its cultural diversity (multiple languages, different types of populations, high demography, different political systems, variety of climates and vegetations, etc.) Africa, by itself, is a complex community model in which the members learn to respectfully communicate and leave together, in harmony.

For equity reasons, AFRALO recommends that ICANN finds mechanisms to provide due representation to actors from each continent according to the United Nations recognized respective number of countries, regardless of the number of languages.

To ease participation and inclusiveness of all stakeholders, ICANN should make sure the community diversity of each continent is reflected in its representation with a selection process and a work plan elaborated within a bottom up participatory framework. Each region should be organized to involve the diverse stakeholders in all ICANN policy development processes regardless of language and technical level.