**AFRALO Statement on the coming Brazil Internet Governance Conference (April 2014**)

The internet services have experienced exponential growth in Africa.  This has allowed millions of Africans to connect to the internet and benefit socially and economically.

Only 16% of the continent’s 1-billion people are online. Africa is now in a better position to benefit from the internet as a catalyst for economic and social development especially as it is currently experiencing a huge growth of international bandwidth and capacity. However, this economic and social growth cannot prosper without trust built within an inclusive internet governance mechanism, at regional level and worldwide.

That’s why AFRALO supports the Montevideo statement for the future of the Internet issued by the Internet Technical Organizations and emphasizes the need to globalize ICANN, including its IANA function, as an organization that serves the internet communities especially in emerging and developing Africa.

In order to sustain the current and future growth of the Internet in Africa, AFRALO supports the upcoming Brazil Internet Governance Conference based on the below principles:

* The conference and stakeholders participating should express their continued commitment to keep the internet open and accessible for the benefit of all people,
* Importance of keeping a globally coherent Internet, and avoid Internet fragmentation at a national or regional levels,
* The conference should not be an alternative or replacement of the current Internet Governance forums to ensure coordination with the global IG discussions.

Finally, AFRALO is committed to actively participate and support the “/1Net” initiative, to make the necessary outreach in its community of African At-Large Organizations and to continue advocating for the Internet multi-stakeholder model.