**AFRALO / AfrICANN joint meeting**

**Dublin, Wednesday 21 October 2015**

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**Statement**

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We, the African Internet Community participating in the ICANN 54th public meeting and attending the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting held in Dublin on Wednesday 21 October 2015, debated the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN Accountability processes.

We acknowledge the comments submitted by AFRRALO last September about the proposals put for public comment by the IANA Coordination Group (ICG) and the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG).

We have been following the outcomes of ICG recent face to face meeting held in Los Angeles on 18-19 September 2015, and would like to congratulate the ICG on continuing its progress towards finalizing the final IANA transition proposal. We are pleased to see that the ICG has taken in consideration most of the issues raised in the AFRALO comments on the draft final proposal.

Nevertheless, we still have important concerns related to the coordination between the operational communities when making critical decisions like the separation of related IANA operations from the current IANA function operator; we believe such decisions, if not well coordinated, could have major impact on the security and stability of the Internet. Though we understand that some informal relationship exist among the operational communities, we believe it will be helpful if the 3 communities formerly commit to coordinating with each-other whenever the need arises.

We would like to congratulate the CCWG for the huge work done so far. We notice that the finalization of its work may be delayed and would hope that the group manages to deliver its final report on time in accordance with the transition time-lines.

Although NTIA has recently extended its contract with ICANN to 30th of September 2016 to enable the community to finish its work on the transition plan and ICANN Accountability, we urge the CCWG and its stakeholders to work in good faith in order to finalize its recommendations without further delays.

While we welcome the ICANN Board comments on the second report of CCWG, especially those related to the budget veto, the recall of individual board Directors, and the enforceability of the proposed community powers, we believe that their proposal of exercising the community powers through the Chairs of SOs and ACs is not appropriate: we already expressed our disagreement about this issue in our statement on the first CCWG report.

We reiterate our proposal of merging the powers of spilling the whole Board and recalling individual board members in a single one where the community as a whole can recall ICANN Board directors after giving the justification of this decision. They can recall from one to 15 Directors, means the whole directors except the CEO. This will solve several problems such as an equal treatment of all the Board directors (SO/AC appointees and the NomCom appointees), the replacement of the recalled directors avoiding a reduced interim board. It will also make it simpler to reduce the number of the proposed powers.

Besides, spilling the whole board is not really reasonable since at any time, there are on the board directors who we just appointed, others in the middle of their term, and some about to leave. Recalling those we just appointed is a non sense. However we will support it if that becomes ultimately required.

We would like to stress the importance of the IANA stewardship transition process and the ICANN accountability mechanisms to the African Internet community as a safe guard for the future of the Internet growth and development in our continent which is currently experiencing the highest Internet access rates in the world.