

08 February 2022

Mr. Seun Ojedeji
Chair, AFRALO

RE: AFRALO-AFRICANN Statement “Data Security”

Dear Mr. Ojedeji,

Thank you for the AFRALO/AFRICANN letter regarding Data Security at ICANN72. We would like to compliment AFRALO for submitting this statement, which addresses the important issue of data security in the context of the African region. We note that the statement defines data security broadly, including the topics of “Security and integrity of the Internet name system, the security of the registrant’s data and the security of the user’s data as it relates to the DNS.”

The topics of DNS abuse and DNS security threats have been, and continue to be, widely discussed and debated within the ICANN community. The security and stability of the DNS are core to ICANN’s mission.

This topic is fully aligned with ICANN’s [Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025](#) as well as [ICANN’s Africa Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025](#), particularly with regard to the Regional Goals, namely:

- Promote the adoption of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) in Africa.
- Help reduce the gap in cybersecurity skills in the region.
- Support public-private partnerships and initiatives for the protection of critical Internet resources.
- Promote the implementation of open Internet standards in the region.
- Improve the stability and resiliency of the Internet in Africa.
- Provide technical expertise to initiatives aimed at establishing legal frameworks in Africa to combat DNS-related cybercrimes.
- Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through better engagement with various stakeholders and root server operators.

The Board appreciates the thoughtful input from the AFRALO-AFRICANN community and looks forward to continuing to work with the community and users on all needed improvements.

Please find attached highlights of ICANN org specific actions related to the recommendations raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maarten Botterman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors