

5 September 2018

Mohamed El Bashir  
Chair, African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)

Dear Mr. El Bashir:

Thank you for your statement, dated 27 June 2018, from AFRALO and AfrICANN's joint meeting at ICANN62, which has been posted to the ICANN Correspondence [page](#). We appreciate your contribution to the ongoing discussions regarding the impact of the European Union's (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the processing of registration data in the domain name space and its importance to ICANN stakeholders in the Africa region.

Regarding your comments on unified access to nonpublic data, on 18 June 2018, [ICANN shared](#) for community input the draft [Framework Elements for a Unified Access Model](#). A second iteration of the [Framework Elements](#) document was published 20 August 2018. This possible model would provide a process for third parties with a legitimate purpose to request access to non-public WHOIS data. ICANN continues to seek the community's input on this possible model. Our goal is to provide a transparent and uniform system for requesting non-public WHOIS data. Your feedback will be important as we continue our dialogue with the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) in order to seek legal clarity for any such access mechanism, and will serve as an important input for the Expedited Policy Development Process that is considering the [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#). Lowering the legal risks for data controllers/contracted parties is necessary to develop a workable unified access model.

In addition, as required by the procedure to adopt a temporary policy/specification, the ICANN Board of Directors voted to approve the [Temporary Specification for gTLD registration Data](#). The Board must reaffirm its temporary adoption every 90 days, and may continue to do so for no more than one year.

The ICANN org will continue to work with the community and keep it apprised with regular updates on ICANN's [data protection/privacy webpage](#).

Sincerely,



Theresa Swinehart  
Senior Vice-President, Multistakeholder Strategy and Strategic Initiatives