Date: 15 December 2023
To: Sally Costerton and ICANN Board
From: Silvia Vivanco
Re: Joint AFRALO-AFRICANN ICANN78 Statement entitled "Internet Resource
Management and Governance in Africa"

Dear Sally and ICANN Board members,

On behalf of AFRALO's Chair, Hadia Elminiawi, kindly find attached the joint AFRALO-AFRICANN ICANN78 Statement entitled "Internet Resource Management and Governance in Africa", which was discussed and approved at the ICANN78 meeting for submission to the ICANN Board for information purposes.

The statement includes recommendations to ICANN org as follows:

- *Regional collaboration and Policy Harmonization*
- *Promote IPv6 Adoption and Transition*
- *Strengthen AFRINIC's oversight and Monitoring.*
- *Public-Private Partnerships for infrastructure Development*

Thank you very much!

Silvia

Silvia Vivanco
Senior Manager, At-Large Regional Affairs

Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting
ICANN78 AGM Meeting

Hamburg on October 24, 2023

-=- Statement -=-

TOPIC:" Internet Resource Management and Governance in Africa"

We, the African ICANN Community members participating in ICANN 78 and attending the joint AFRALO/AfrICANN meeting on Tuesday October 24, 2023 in Hamburg, Germany, discussed **Internet Resource Management and Governance in Africa** as a means of accessing the Internet as an important topic for AFRALO.

We acknowledge that ICANN has been at the forefront to ensure the distribution of the Internet Numbers via its IANA Functions as outlined in the ICANN Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025.

In this statement, we present an overview of the topic and consequently our suggested recommendations for the African Internet community to advocate for their countries to make internet resources and availability and accessibility a strategic policy to accelerate digital transformation while improving the quality of internet services to citizens, which depend on IP addresses.

State of IP number governance in Africa

===

As of 2022, Africa's digital landscape has seen some notable advancements, yet it still lags behind other continents in terms of internet connectivity. Current data from ITU suggests that internet penetration in Africa has risen to approximately 40% as of 2023, up from 35% in 2021. However, in comparison to regions like Europe, which boasts penetration rates upwards of 89%, it's evident that Africa still has a long way to go.

Every aspect of the digital experience, from data downloads to hosting local websites, relies on a range of Internet resources, with IP addresses playing a crucial role. Unfortunately, the availability of IPv4 Internet resources per capita in Africa is the lowest worldwide. According to AFRINIC, the regional Internet registry for Africa, on average, 34 African Internet users share a single public IPv4 address. Additionally, it is worth noting

that AFRINIC has only received 3.28% of the total IPv4 address space managed by the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs).

As of 2023, there are only 1.29 million IPv4 addresses left in the AFRINIC pool, despite the fact that over 50% of the population in the AFRINIC region still lacks connectivity. Furthermore, the scarcity of available IPv4 addresses is becoming a magnet for fraudulent and illicit activities. This situation emphasizes the need for proper IP management and governance, as it raises concerns that a substantial portion of Africa's population could face even greater marginalization in terms of access to the internet.

Given these challenges, it's crucial for African internet users to rally around digital inclusion through the management and governance of IP numbers as a priority. Advocacy is vital. Countries across the continent need to acknowledge the strategic importance of increasing access to internet resources, and they must integrate these goals into their national policies. Doing so can accelerate digital transformation, enabling a more prosperous and connected future for all of Africa's citizens.

Recommended Actions
==============================

Regional Collaboration and Policy Harmonization:

Action: Considering the challenges of IP number governance are continental and require a unified approach, encourage ICANN and its stakeholders to collaborate with AFRINIC on internet resource policies and strategies that prevent and mitigate fraudulent activities like illicit IPv4 trading of IP addresses allocated by IANA to AFRINIC.

Promote IPv6 Adoption and Transition:

Action: Considering the diminishing availability of IPv4 addresses necessitates a shift to the more expansive IPv6, encourage ICANN to invest in the AFRINIC''s education and training programs to promote the transition to IPv6 on the continent.

Strengthen AFRINIC's Oversight and Monitoring:

Action: Considering the limited IPv4 resources necessitate robust oversight to prevent misuse, encourage African Internet Users to be more involved in the elaboration of Internet number distribution policies and collaborate with AFRINIC to enhance its oversight capabilities. This could involve developing a Multi-Stakeholder platform that helps in monitoring and reporting discrepancies and ensuring all IP allocations align with the region's best interests.

Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development:

Action: Considering effective management and expansion of internet resources require substantial investments, ICANN should assist AFRINIC to leverage partnerships between governments and private entities to finance and facilitate the deployment of internet infrastructure, ensuring wider reach, improved connectivity speeds, and enhanced service reliability across the continent.