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**For Immediate Release**

## **Agreement Signed to Expand L-Root Servers across Africa**

### **Expansion Aimed at Improving Africa's Internet Infrastructure**

**Toronto, Canada...** The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Africa Network Information Center (AFRINIC) have signed an agreement pledging to work collaboratively to identify potential locations for the expansion of L-Root servers in Africa, which will mark an important improvement to the infrastructure of the Internet in Africa.

"This agreement comes in at a perfect time here in Toronto when ICANN has unveiled a new initiative to increase presence and participation across our region" said Adiel Akplogan, AFRINIC's Chief Executive Officer. "Besides policy related discussions and participation, Africa needs to strengthen the resiliency of its Internet Infrastructure in order to attract local contents investments."

"This very important agreement is a further reflection of the hard work of the Africa stakeholders and their spirit of engagement" said Fadi Chehadé, President and Chief Executive Officer of ICANN. "Our commitment to this sort of cooperative effort is framed by the initiative of the Africa Support Working Group, which is aimed at increasing African participation in ICANN."

The Africa Support Working Group presented its three year initiative during ICANN's 45<sup>th</sup> public meeting in Toronto, Canada. The agreement between AFRINIC and ICANN marks the first implementation of the Africa Initiative.

Under the signed agreement, AFRINIC will work with ICANN to strengthen the resilience of the Domain Name System (DNS) by helping to identify potential additional physical locations that host L-Root.

Using geographically diverse locations for name servers strengthens the global Internet because a dispersed system cannot be taken offline by a problem at any single instance of a given DNS root server.

"L-Root" refers to one of thirteen computers that anchor the globe's Domain Name Service (DNS). Where computers locate one another on a network by numeric address, humans find it easier to use and remember names (for instance, users typically remember "ICANN.org" more easily than its IP address, 2620:0:2d0:200::7.) The Domain Name System matches domain names with their correct numeric addresses on the Internet.

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To download high resolution photos of the ICANN/AfriNIC agreement, go here:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/sets/72157631798881324/>.

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**About ICANN:** *ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. For more information please visit: [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org).*