

28 May 2026

RE: Request for Clarification Regarding Reported April 2025 Smart Africa Meeting on AFRINIC, Afrinic Election, TOOLKIT, CAIGA, and African Internet Governance

Mr. Amin Dayekh
AFRINIC Resource Member

Dear Amin,

Thank you for your [email](#) inquiring about a meeting convened by Smart Africa on or about 24 April 2025. I can confirm that while ICANN was invited to send a team member to observe that meeting, we declined to participate because we did not want to impact ICANN's neutrality relating to AFRINIC and seeing its governance restored. As you might be aware, ICANN did not endorse any candidates in AFRINIC's elections (either in June or September 2025) and was careful to not be a part of meetings where plans for or endorsement took place. Further, ICANN did not and would not coordinate with external bodies, including Smart Africa, on proposals for AFRINIC's election design or processes.

Many people have been actively following the issues surrounding AFRINIC, and team members across ICANN have received a variety of documents and information on a number of topics from a number of sources. ICANN is extremely careful in its engagement and communications, and is keenly aware that any overstep could negatively impact our ability to act. I am not aware of any situations where my team acted beyond the neutral role expected.

During the AFRINIC election process my team actively sought from AFRINIC clarity on its progress through direct communication with [the Receiver](#) appointed to run the election and later through [an application for court intervention](#). In the announcement regarding ICANN's legal intervention published on 20 June 2025, ICANN detailed a history of communication with the Receiver regarding transparency and fairness in the AFRINIC elections. I confirm that ICANN did not perform this work in coordination with Smart Africa.

You and I have previously exchanged messages regarding ICANN's involvement in the development of Smart Africa's IG Blueprint and the proposal for the CAIGA that is laid out within that document. As noted in that exchange, ICANN detailed its involvement in a 25 November 2025 [letter](#) to Rafik Dammak on the same topic. ICANN's MoU with Smart Africa was [published](#) in 2024, and accompanied by a 13 November 2024 announcement on [ICANN's website](#) as well as the [Coalition for Digital Africa \(CDA\) website](#). ICANN's support in the development of the IG Blueprint did not include funding for any work that Smart Africa might have done surrounding AFRINIC's elections or candidate development, shortlisting, nominations, or anything of the sort.

I thank you for your continued interest in seeing AFRINIC restored to its full governance and operational potential.

Best regards,



Kurt Erik Lindqvist
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

cc: Tripti Sinha, Chair of ICANN Board of Directors