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# Public Comment Summary Report

## Africa Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030

**Open for Submissions Date:**

Friday, 25 April 2025

**Closed for Submissions Date:**

Friday, 06 June 2025

**Summary Report Due Date:**

Friday, 20 June 2025

**Category:** Operations

**Requester:** ICANN org

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**Open Proceeding Link:** <https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/africa-regional-plan-for-fiscal-years-2026-2030-25-04-2025>

**Outcome:**

The Public Comment Proceeding for the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan resulted in three submissions. All comments received were supportive of the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan and offered valuable feedback. After reviewing the comments, ICANN org notes that the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan addresses several of the key points raised in the comments received, while other comments will be addressed in the Annual Action Plans, and through future engagement activities with the African regional community.

ICANN org extends its appreciation for the time, effort, and participation of the African Regional Plan Working Group 2025 (ARPWG 2025) for their invaluable input during the development of the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan.

This document provides an overview of the comments received and ICANN org's initial analysis.

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## Section 1: What We Received Input On

ICANN org has always sought input from the community in Africa to guide the implementation of activities in the region. Following the adoption of ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY26-30, a Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan was produced by the ARPWG 2025.

This Public Comment Proceeding sought community input on the suggested regional activities and desired outcomes, as set out in the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan.

## Section 2: Submissions

### Organizations and Groups:

| Name                        | Submitted by    | Initials |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| ICANN Business Constituency | BC Policy staff | BC       |
|                             |                 |          |

### Individuals:

| Name                | Submitted by                             | Initials |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Cliff Agaba Mutegei |                                          | CM       |
| Felix Opilli        | Non-Commercial Users Constituency (NCUC) | FO       |

## Section 3: Summary of Submissions

A total of three submissions were received during the Public Comment proceeding, one of which is from a community group and two from individuals, as highlighted in Section 2 above. This section highlights the comments received on the Draft FY26-30 Draft Africa Regional Plan, with all submissions available in full on the [Public Comment page](#).

Commenters expressed overall support for the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan and appreciated its focus on strengthening collaboration across various stakeholder groups. The commenters recognized the alignment between the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan and ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY26-30 and underscored the importance of the multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

The BC highlighted the importance of meaningful stakeholder engagement, tailored capacity development, and private sector inclusion across the Africa region. Moreover, the BC encourages localized strategies to improve DNS adoption, Universal Acceptance, and cybersecurity resilience.

FO outlined some suggestions to enhance the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan's to ensure greater inclusivity, accountability, and alignment with Africa's unique digital landscape; and to

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drive sustainable growth and position Africa as a leading voice in the multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

CM strongly supports the inclusion of Universal Acceptance (UA) as a strategic priority in the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan. He commented that while governments across Africa are increasingly digitizing services, most public systems still do not recognize IDNs and support multilingual email addresses. Therefore, CM recommends African governments to lead by example by adopting UA-Readiness standards in public digital infrastructure.

## Section 4: Analysis of Submissions

The submissions received reflected broad support for the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan and provided input and recommendations to further improve to further improve the collaborative work undertaken by the ARPWG 2025 and the GSE Africa team.

Some comments relate directly to the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan, while a few others offered valuable insights related to specific initiatives.

### ***Regional Engagement Needs: New Proposed activities to be integrated in relation to ICANN's strategic objectives***

The GSE Africa team, through its regional engagement activities, recognizes that each stakeholder has unique needs; and the GSE Africa team seeks to align these needs with ICANN org's priorities for FY26-30 to ensure effective delivery. For instance, the primary aim of the ICANN Africa Engagement Forum is to foster greater African community participation in Internet policymaking by promoting their involvement in ICANN's activities. This forum aims to strengthen engagement between ICANN and the African community, fostering collaboration and partnerships to address opportunities and challenges in the region. Business entities have long been recognized as key stakeholders in these engagement efforts.

### ***Integrating UA-Readiness into Government ICT Procurement and Digital Policies (addressing comments related to encouraging and supporting African Governments to adopt UA-readiness standards in public digital infrastructure)***

Regional engagement on UA is a priority in the region. Capacity development and awareness in relation to UA are being conducted during various national and regional events (such as ICT related meetings and Internet governance conferences) with a diverse group of stakeholders. UA Day events rally local, regional and global stakeholders to spread awareness and encourage UA adoption through a mix of virtual, in-person, and hybrid informational and training sessions.

It is noted that the integration of UA-readiness in government ICT procurement and digital policies will be feasible once tangible progress has been achieved in UA adoption.

### ***Collaboration with partners***

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The [Coalition for Digital Africa](#), is a collaborative initiative launched by ICANN in 2022, to strengthen Africa's Internet infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity, promote digital inclusivity, and support effective Internet governance. Through strategic partnerships, the Coalition is working to build a more secure, accessible, and resilient digital ecosystem across the continent.

ICANN established and serves as the Secretariat of the Coalition, playing a central coordinating role. It contributes technical expertise, facilitates collaboration among partners, and leads projects that advance shared goals, such as promoting Universal Acceptance (UA), supporting the adoption of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and improving access to the Internet in local languages and scripts. The Coalition supports locally driven activities in collaboration with governments, the technical community, and other stakeholders. These include capacity development workshops, support for ccTLD operators, initiatives to foster meaningful participation in multistakeholder Internet governance processes.

## Section 5: Next Steps

After the publication of this summary report, ICANN Org will take into consideration the Public Comments received, and where relevant, incorporate the input received into the Draft FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan. Thereafter, ICANN org will publish the Final FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan.

Additionally, work is also in progress on the Action Plan for the Fiscal Year 2026 to guide the activities in the first year of the Final FY26-30 Africa Regional Plan, which will be published once it is ready.

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