Staff Report of Public Comment Proceeding

DRAFT ICANN AFRICA STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020 VERSION 3.0	
Publication Date:	26 September 2018
Prepared By:	Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) - Africa team

Public Comment Proceeding		
Open Date:	20 July 2018	Announcement
Close Date:	10 Sept 2018	Public Comment Proceeding
Staff Report Due Date:	24 Sept 2018	View Comments Submitted

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Section I: General Overview and Next Steps

The public comment period on the draft reviewed ICANN - Africa Strategy FY16-FY20 Ver3.0 opened on July 20, 2018 and ran for 40 calendar days. During this time, the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) Africa team actively mobilized and sent out reminders to the various community mailing lists informing and encouraging the community to come forward and submit comments on the document. The mobilization culminated with a public open webinar on August 24, 2018 to further explain the key areas of focus as proposed on the draft strategy. The Webinar was led by Pierre Dandjinou, Vice President (VP) – GSE Africa. The call recordings for the webinar are available here:

http://ftp.adigo.com/clients/icann/20180824_Comments_Africa_Strategy_Review_EN.zip [ftp.adigo.com]

http://ftp.adigo.com/clients/icann/20180824_Comments_Africa_Strategy_Review_FR.zip [ftp.adigo.com]

At the close of the public comment period on September 10, 2018, seven comments were officially received, three of which were submitted by individuals while the remaining four were submissions on behalf of ACs / SOs. While noting the low quantity of comments received, we also want to underscore and thank the community for the quality of their responses in general.

The team will now proceed to consider, anlyse and integrate the various views received and come up with the final document to be officially unveiled at the ICANN63 meeting in Barcelona. The official launch during ICANN63 is planned for the Africa Session on **Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM.**

Section II: Contributors

At the time this report was prepared, a total of seven (7) community submissions had been posted to the forum. The contributors, both individuals and organizations / groups, are listed below in chronological order by posting date with initials noted. To the extent that quotations are used in the foregoing narrative (Section III), such citations will reference the contributor's initials.

Organizations and Groups:

Name	Submitted by	Initials
At-Large Advisory Committee	Fatimata Seye Sylla	ALAC
Business Constituency	Steve DelBianco	BC
Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group	Rafik Dammak	NCSG
gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group	Samantha Demetriou	RySG

Individuals:

Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Initials
Dessalegn Yehuala		DY
Lawrence Olwale-Roberts	BC	LO
Patricia Akello		PA

Section III: Summary of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section intends to summarize broadly and comprehensively the comments submitted to this public comment proceeding but does not address every specific position stated by each contributor. The preparer recommends that readers interested in specific aspects of any of the summarized comments, or the full context of others, refer directly to the specific contributions at the link referenced above (View Comments Submitted).

- The comments received addressed a number of areas of concern by the respondents. They ranged from suggestions on the overall Engagement Work in Africa so far to the corresponding allocation of resources to the Africa Strategy especially the Africa Engagement Office.
- While commending the effort and dedication that went into preparing the documents, some comments suggested more details be included especially in terms of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and actual budgets and measurable impact that could be attributed to the strategy over the last five years of implementation. They noted that such details would increase the transparency and accountability for the benefit of ICANN org and the Community.
- There were also suggestions encouraging greater collaboration and involvement of all the constituencies [Supporting Organizations (SOs) / Advisory Committees (ACs)] within ICANN. Particular commenters felt that there has been more focus on particular SOs / ACs with little effort in engaging others.
- It was recommended that African participants should strive to organize subgroups within each of the SOs/ACs so that a continental view or opinion should be better elaborated and shared as African contribution to policy development within ICANN.
- There were also suggestions to also pay keener attention and allocate more resources to special topics and projects on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in tandem with the rich language diversity in Africa.
- Some comments raised questions on the actual title of the Strategy document itself, especially since it still only covers FY16-FY20, which is in fact only a year away.

Further, they also suggested a renaming of the document to only note the Version while the strategy remains constant to make it timeless.

- There was a recommendation to strive to make better use of the fellowship alumni, by first developing a full database of the alumni from Africa over the years and to actively reach out to them and involve them in outreach and other projects.

Section IV: Analysis of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section intends to provide an analysis and evaluation of the comments submitted along with explanations regarding the basis for any recommendations provided within the analysis.

- An in-depth look at the comments indicate specific questions and suggestions. There were questions on whether the review team was inclusive and balanced enough to include the representation of all ACs and SOs. This is because the names of the initial review team and their affiliations were not listed in the document. While we take note of these comments and suggestions, we also note that part of the overall public comment process is indeed to give an opportunity to the whole ICANN community to comment and hence add their voice into the document regardless of their location. This is in addition to limited resource and time constraints that could have hindered face to face participation of some of the invited representatives from ACs / SOs to attend the face to face review deliberations held on July 2, in Cotonou, Benin. We however would like to assert that the select review team was also composed of AC / SO leaders / representatives from Africa amongst other affiliations and considerations like Youth and Academia.
- There are also recommendations to include budgetary estimates and detailed KPIs for some of the highlighted projects in the proposed strategic plan. Our view is that such level of detail while welcome, would be more appropriate for an operation plan and not the strategic plan. Therefore, our take-away would be to ensure we continue preparing implementation reports that provide these suggested details as well as annual operational plans to be shared with the Community going forward.
- We also want to take note of the recommendation to ensure a more balanced engagement and collaboration with all ACs and SOs on the various outreach programs and projects highlighted in the strategy.
- In terms of the Title of the document itself and noting that FY20 is only one year away, we take note and would suggest a better title for the final document. It would be important to also understand that the Africa Strategy document is actually aligned to the overall ICANN org strategic plan which although is currently under review, is indeed still covering FY16-FY20.

Once more, we sincerely appreciate and thank the community members, SOs / ACs who took time and effort to participate in this public comment proceeding. Please find the full archive of all the comments submitted here: https://mm.icann.org/pipermail/comments-africa-strategic-plan-30jul18/