

Public Comment Summary Report

Draft Final Report of the 2023 Africa Domain Name Industry Study

Open for Submissions Date:

Thursday, 21 December 2023

Closed for Submissions Date:

Thursday, 08 February 2024

Summary Report Due Date:

Thursday, 14 March 2024

Category: Other

Requester: ICANN org

ICANN org Contact(s):

Brian.gutterman@icann.org

Open Proceeding Link:

<https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/draft-final-report-of-the-2023-africa-domain-name-industry-study-21-12-2023>

Outcome:

In total, 14 Public Comments (12 on-time, 2 late submission) were submitted by a wide range of stakeholders across the community on the Draft Final Report of the 2023 Domain Name Industry Study (authored by Powersoft Africa and commissioned by ICANN org). Numerous constructive suggestions for improvement and clarification were provided by both organizations and individuals. All the Public Comments received will be carefully considered by the authors and ICANN org for inclusion in the final version of the report.

Using the invaluable multistakeholder process, which involves soliciting feedback from the global community to review and comment on the Draft Final Report, will significantly enrich the final version of the document. Ultimately, this report will serve as an important tool for the African Domain Name Industry community to enhance and foster its growth.

Section 1: What We Received Input On

A wide range of comments were received on the draft final report of the 2023 Africa Domain Name Industry Study. Much of the feedback focused on how the draft final report addressed the following key objectives of the study:

- Does the study identify and define the strengths and weaknesses in Africa's Domain Name System (DNS) industry ecosystem?

- Does the study develop recommendations to advance the industry and bring it closer to realizing its full potential?
- Does the study document relevant data and provide further analytical findings?

The feedback and comments received will be incorporated into the final report, which will serve as an essential tool for ICANN and other stakeholders involved in the Africa namespace. It will aid in the development of a roadmap that outlines the specific needs and priorities for the development and growth of both country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and generic top-level domains (gTLDs) in Africa.

Section 2: Submissions

Organizations and Groups:		
Name	Submitted by	Initials
Africa Community Internet Program	Taiwo Akinremi	ACIP
Registries Stakeholder Group	Registries Stakeholder Group	RySG
Registrars Stakeholder Group	Zoe Bonython	RrSG
Ministère de la Transition Numérique et de la Réforme de l'Administration Royaume Du Maroc	Ambassador Abderrazzak Laassel	
Ministère de la Transition Numérique et de la Réforme de l'Administration Royaume Du Maroc	M. Belaid Nouar, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)	
Individuals:		
Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Initials
Adebunmi Akinbo	Noncommercial Stakeholder Group	NCSG
Jean Paul Nkurunziza		
Ebenezer Dare		
Benson Muite		
Brian Longwe		
Francisca Ezeobebe		
Adam Neto		

Section 2a: Late Submissions

Organizations and Groups:

Name	Submitted by	Initials
-------------	---------------------	-----------------

Business Constituency (BC)	Steve DelBianco	
At-Large-Advisory Committee (ALAC)	Hadia Elminiawi	

Section 3: Summary of Submissions

The submissions received focused on both the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the draft final report by the respective submitters, as well as suggestions for improvement and enhancement. Many expressions of thanks were conveyed to the authors and ICANN org for producing the important draft final report and making it available for Public Comment.

Some common positive comments were as follows:

- The Study presents a rich and detailed resource on Africa's Digital environment and DNS Industry.
- The study effectively identifies and defines the strengths and weaknesses in Africa's Domain Name System (DNS) industry ecosystem.
- The report contents highlight the African DNS ecosystem, key features of the African DNS industry, key success factors, and provide an analysis of the domain name uptake across the continent and a growth outlook. Furthermore, the research team established a DNS observatory in Africa.
- Some appreciation was expressed for including data on infrastructure that supports the African DNS industry.
- The coverage of the contribution and challenges of non-traditional methods of Internet broadband such as satellites and TV White Spaces (TVWS) for remote communities, along with recommendations on how to improve these types of access for remote communities through better broadband policies and updates to regulation, was noted.
- The Study offers insights into the continent's domain landscape, analyzing its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT).

Some common suggestions for improvement were as follows:

- Some comments noted that some of the maps and territory references were inaccurate.
- Some suggested that references to opinions about Governments and other stakeholders should be checked for accuracy.
- Some suggested the report should be more focused on the DNS Industry in its analysis and recommendations.
- The report could further address the topic of community networks which are crucial for rural communities.
- In the final Study, the metrics adopted in the ranking of countries in Section 6.2 to determine which countries were the most successful in the African DNS ecosystem could be better explained for clarity on the approach used.
- Certain data points require further scrutiny due to potential discrepancies between the study and current realities.

Section 4: Analysis of Submissions

In analyzing the various comments and suggestions received, the following will be taken into consideration by the authors when updating the draft final report into the final version:

- The data, metrics, maps, territorial lines, and graphs will be thoroughly reviewed and checked to ensure accuracy.
- Any opinion statements about specific stakeholders (Governments, Domain Name Industry Actors, civil society, others) will be reviewed carefully for both accuracy and context.
- The structure of the report will be revisited, including the content and recommendations related to the trial observatory.

Section 5: Next Steps

All Public Comments received will be reviewed and considered by the authors and ICANN org. The final report will be modified, where necessary, to reflect community input. The final version of the report is scheduled for publication in March 2024.