**AFRALO / AfrICANN joint meeting**

Singapore, Wednesday 11 February 2015

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**Draft Statement**

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The African ICANN Community members participating in the ICANN 52nd International Public meeting in Singapore and attending the joint AFRALO / AfrICANN meeting on Wednesday 11 February 2015 discussed the issue of ICANN accountability in light of the NTIA intention to withdraw its stewardship on the IANA functions.

After reviewing the existing accountability mechanisms (ICANN Bylaws, Affirmation of Commitments, Jurisdiction of the State of California, Jurisdictions of the other nations where ICANN has a presence and Contracts), the participants found these mechanisms in need of improvements to satisfy the Internet community stakeholders’ expectation.

They think that any improvement or new accountability mechanism should:

* Be based on a multi-stakeholder approach, assuring all kind of diversity (culture, language, gender, age, …)
* Be implemented in a timely manner once definitely adopted
* Avoid bringing more changes than the required and appropriate ones to the organizational structure of ICANN
* Preserve the multi-stakeholder nature of ICANN
* Avoid giving privilege to one or more stakeholders over others
* Keep and enhance the bottom-up decision making model
* Empower the community to ensure ICANN remains accountable to its stakeholders
* Ensure and improve the security, stability and resiliency of the DNS system
* Serve the public interest above any other kind of interest, be it political, financial, or other.
* Improve the trust of all interested parties in the organization

The AFRALO/AfrICANN joint meeting participants strongly believe that all stakeholders should participate in the ICANN accountability process on equal footing.