## Coalition for Digital Africa Partners’ Meeting #6

13 May 2024

[Link to Presentation Deck](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a5Ev6xhqsXYbZKGN_FDXAqWYVWN4wbxj/view?usp=drive_link)

**Attendance**

| **Partners** | **Representatives** |
| --- | --- |
| AFNOG | Adeola Alain Patrick Aina |
| AfTLD | Barrack Otieno, Joel Karibiu |
| ICANN | Pierre Dandjinou |
| ITU | Ali Drissa Badiel |
| ISOC | Dawit Bekele |
| LusNIC | Marta Dias |
| Smart Africa | Aretha Mare; Rodrigue Guigueme |

**Apologies:** Nodumo Dlamini (AAU), Afnic (Lofti Benyelles), ATU (Meriem Slimani, NSRC,

**Support from ICANN:** Mariana Marinho, Luna Madi, June Okal, Yaovi Atohoun, Laurent Ferrali

**Agenda**

* Welcome - Pierre Dandjinou
* Coalition Governance and Operational Updates
* Coalition Activities Highlights
* Coalition Presence at ICANN80
* Round Table - Partners’ Updates
* Next Steps

**Action Items**

* Coalition Partners may raise concerns by **~~Wednesday, May 15th~~ Friday, May 17th** regarding accepting the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO), and Lawyers Hub to join the Coalition.
  + If there is no objection, ICANN will proceed to accept their participation.
* ICANN and Smart Africa, along with APNIG (African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance), will explore opportunities for collaboration on the capacity development projects for governments and parliamentarians.
* F2F CDA Partners’ Meeting in Kigali in June 2024
* ICANN will provide via email by more information about CDA activities at ICANN80

**Meeting Notes**

1. **Coalition Governance & Operational Updates**
   1. Recruitment of the Coalition Secretariat is currently on hold. ICANN org staff will continue to provide Secretariat support.
   2. Feedback from Partners’ on CDA Operating Provisions & SteerCo Charter
      1. Partners can still provide input and share them with the Secretariat [info@cda.africa](mailto:info@cda.africa).
   3. New partners’ review:
      1. ICANN shared information about two new potential partners for the Coalition.
         1. Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO) (<https://www.cto.int/>)
            1. IGO with 19 African member states;
            2. Supports its members in delivering ICTs through: technical support, consultancy and advisory services; capacity development; and events and conferences.
            3. Proposed Coalition Project: Capacity development for policymakers, regulators and governments across African member states through proposed Digital Transformation Roadshow.
         2. Lawyers Hub (<https://www.lawyershub.org/>)
            1. Proposed Coalition Project: Capacity Development for lawyers and policy practitioners across Africa on the Domain Name System, and technology across Africa.
      2. Partners did not raise any concerns during the call. AfricaCERT has indicated that it has been a partner of CTO on different initiatives.
      3. **Any concerns may be raised to the Coalition Secretariat by ~~Wednesday, May 15th~~ Friday, May 17th**.
      4. If no concerns are raised, ICANN will proceed to process acceptance of these two organizations as CDA partners.
2. **Coalition Activities Highlights**
   1. New projects:
      1. Capacity Development for African Governments (Smart Africa, ICANN)
         1. Smart Africa Internet Governance Working Group Brainstorming Meeting on the sidelines of the ICANN80 in Kigali on 10th June 2024. The invitations will probably be sent out this week. Target audience: African members of ICANN’s Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
      2. Capacity Development for African Parliamentarians (ICANN, APNIG)
         1. Delivered two webinars for 30 African parliamentarians
         2. In-person training will occur on June 8th in Kigali
         3. ICANN, Smart Africa and APNIG will explore opportunities for collaboration between these two initiatives.
   2. 2023 Africa Domain Name Industry Study (ICANN sponsored)
      1. Final Report will be launched at ICANN80
   3. Expansion of ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS) Installations (ICANN, AAU)
      1. Received requests for financial support; ICANN is currently processing submissions
   4. Universal Acceptance (UA) Readiness in Universities (Partners: AAU, ICANN)
      1. Workshop held in Rabat, Morocco in April focused on testing UA patches on WordPress and developing new UA curricula to pilot in select universities
   5. ccTLD Capacity Development for ccTLDs (AFTLD, ICANN, ICANN, Afnic, NSRC, ITU)
      1. Participants: 10 ccTLDs
      2. June 8-9, Kigali - Afnic will conduct this workshop focused on business development and marketing for ccTLDs
      3. July 15-17, Nairobi - A technical workshop led by NSRC followed by a peer exchange at the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) and KeNIC (.ke)
3. **Coalition Presence at ICANN80**
   1. Pre-Meeting Events
      1. June 8 - Internet Governance Capacity Development for African Parliamentarians - organized by ICANN and APNIG (see comments above - 2(a)(i)
      2. June 8-9 - Capacity Development for ccTLDs (see above)
   2. ICANN80 (June 10-13).
      1. There will be a booth for the Coalition available for all partners to share information and materials. Partners are encouraged to be available at the booth.
      2. Partners Meeting (tentative date: Tuesday, June 11)
      3. Reception / Community Cocktail promoting the Coalition and launching the Africa Domain Name Industry Study (tentative date: Wednesday, June 12)
      4. Africa Space session (tentative date: Wednesday, June 12)
         1. ICANN is developing an agenda and it will include presentations from some CDA partners.
      5. Communications: We will be recording soundbites from CDA partners on Tuesday, June 11.
      6. More information to follow shortly.
4. **Round Table - Partners’ Updates**
   1. ICANN
      1. Other projects in the pipeline include: Africa Internet History; Universal Acceptance for Businesses
   2. AfricaCERT
      1. Working on a cybersecurity initiative with universities: looking at shared capabilities, scalable infrastructure.
   3. ITU
      1. Potential
      2. Global Cyber Drill - 23-24 April in Dubai. Event focused on promoting cybersecurity preparedness. There will be participation from the ICT Ministry of Ghana
      3. National Telecommunications Plan for ECOWAS countries - utilizing ICT to prevent natural disasters
   4. Smart Africa
      1. Transformation Africa Summit (<https://transformafricasummit.org/>) - Powering Africa’s Digital Prosperity: Beyond Borders, Beyond Limits - 28-30 August in Nairobi, Kenya
   5. LusNIC
      1. 2nd Lusophone IGF (<https://igf-lusofonia.pt/>) in Praia, Cape Verde - 11-12 September
      2. There will be capacity building and cybersecurity sessions in Portuguese
5. Next Steps
   1. Next Coalition Partners’ Meetings:
      1. Calls: February and April (dates TBD)
      2. F2F in Kigali in June 2024 - adjacent to ICANN80 (10-14 June)
   2. Continue to work to establish the CDA governance and operational structures
   3. Continue to implement projects
   4. Develop proposals for new projects in collaboration with Partners, where appropriate