



THE AFRICA DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM FORUM 2025 (#AF - DNSForum2025)

Theme: Resiliency of the DNS in Africa

Date: 10 December 2025

Venue: Accra, Ghana

Background

The Africa Domain Name System Forum is an annual open event for stakeholders in the Domain Name Industry in Africa, organized by Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AfTLD), the Africa Registrar Association (AfRegistrar) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

The first edition of the DNS forum was initiated in Africa, and was held in Durban, South Africa in 2013. Since then, the model has been replicated in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, the Middle East, Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific. In Africa, the forum has also been held in Abuja, Nigeria (2014), Nairobi, Kenya (2015), Marrakech, Morocco (2016), Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania (2017), Cotonou, Benin (2018), Gaborone, Botswana (2019) and Nairobi, Kenya 2022.

The 2025 Africa Domain Name System Forum will be held in Accra, Ghana alongside the Africa Engagement Forum organized by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Objective

The objective of the forum is to help the domain name industry in Africa to grow at a competitive rate and ensure that the continent is on par with the rest of the world. Domain name uptake in Africa is still very low despite combined efforts by various stakeholders to develop the industry. The Africa Market Study Published by ICANN in 2016 and 2021 placed the overall domain name registration in Africa at slightly over five (5) Million names, this out of a population of over one (1) billion people. This means that the Names Industry in Africa still suffers low penetration compared to other regions. The organizers believe that collaboration is necessary, to ensure the emergence of a strong and resilient DNS ecosystem in Africa. Additionally, the forum will help to highlight opportunities and challenges faced by entrepreneurs and stakeholders in the domain name industry in Africa.

Participation

The forum targets ccTLD registries, registrars (local and ICANN accredited), resellers, Incubators, registrants, DNS experts, government representatives, ICT service providers, universities, financial institutions, Insurance companies, Intellectual Properties Specialists, lawyers, Law Enforcement Agencies, business Sectors, consulting businesses, academia and domain name system investors drawn from the African continent and other parts of the world.



Organizing Partners

About ICANN

ICANN's mission is to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet, you need to type an address – a name or a number – into your computer or other device. That address must be unique, so computers know where to find each other. ICANN helps coordinate and support these unique identifiers across the world. ICANN was formed in 1998 as a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with a community of participants from all over the world.

About AFTLD

Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AFTLD) is the association of country code Top Level Domain registry (ccTLD) managers in the Africa Region. The main objective of AFTLD is to provide a forum for ccTLD managers from the Africa Region to discuss issues regarding management of ccTLD registries. AFTLD then presents their common position on key global issues in the Domain Name System (DNS) industry in international meetings

About AfRegistrar

AfRegistrar association is the association that includes all ICANN Accredited Registrars based in the African Continent. It also includes all actors that are serving the DNS in Africa (Registrars, Resellers and incubators).

AfRegistrar represents the common view of Registrars to ensure that African people will be served based on the international standards of trust and compliance to ensure that African people are using domain names in a safe, trusted and secure environment.



Agenda (Draft, WIP)

Time	Activity	Facilitators
7.30 am - 8.30 am	Registration and Tag collection	ICANN Meetings team
9.00 – 9.45	Opening Ceremony	AFTLD, AfRegistrar, ICANN
9.45 - 10.00 am	Keynote	Enhancing the resilience of the Domain Name System in Africa Kurt Erik Lindqvist President and CEO ICANN
10.00 am - 10.30 am	Break	
10.30 am - 11.50 am	Session 1:	Panel: Investing in, and Funding the DNS Business in Africa
11:50 PM to 1:00 PM	Session 2:	Panel: New Regulation Challenges and DNS User Experience in Africa
1.00 PM - 2 PM	Lunch Break	All
2.00 PM - 3.00 PM	Session 3	Panel: The domain name industry in the age of AI: threats or opportunities?
3.00 PM - 4.30 PM	Session 4: National Showcases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana DNS Forum • Kenya Internet Summit • Benin DNS Forum • Uganda DNS Forum
4.30-5:00	Coffee Break	All
5.00-6.00	Session 5	IP addresses and DNS: The AfriNIC Case
6.00-6.30	Closing ceremony	
7.00	Cocktail	



Expected Outcomes

- Providing insights into new developments in the Domain Name Ecosystem in Africa and globally
- Identification of strategic action points key to the growth of the domain name ecosystem in Africa
- Promote the 3R Model for the competition and open market and avoid monopoly.
- Strengthening stakeholder engagement in the Africa Domain Name ecosystem
- Encouraging the emergence of new local actors in the DNS market
- Attract more investors and businesses into the DNS industry in Africa
- Greater awareness of the factors impeding the growth of the Africa Domain Name ecosystem among the relevant stakeholders through the dissemination of critical information
- Improve Regulation Mechanism for Data Protection and African DNS Market
- Enable networking among African ccTLD registries
- Facilitate the promotion of local content