



“THE PAILLES DECLARATION”

AT THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM FOR AFRICAN POLICY MAKERS AND REGULATORS IN AFRICA

17th to 19th March 2009

“A ccTLD for Every Country in Africa”

We, the participants at the Internet governance forum for African policy makers and regulators in Africa held in Pailles, Mauritius, from 17th to 19th of March 2009, organised by the ATU,

Expressing our sincere and deep gratitude to the Government of Mauritius, the Information and Communications Technology Authority (ICTA) of Mauritius, ICANN, AfriNIC and ISOC, Organisation Internationale De La Francophonie for supporting this forum,

Recalling that a ccTLD:

- is the unique identity of a country in cyber space
- facilitates e-commerce
- facilitates e-governance
- enhances the management of cyber security
- enhances the development of technical human capacity in a country
- enhances the ability to create and avail local content online
- ensures affordability of domain names
- enhances the development of effective national policies and legal framework, among others

Recalling that governments should facilitate the setup of the ccTLD in their country's in line with the following best practice principles:

- A ccTLD should be recognised and protected under national policies and laws
- ccTLD models should be self-sustaining. A ccTLD should have a not-for-profit status, unless otherwise agreed by the local Internet community.
- The facilitatory role of the government should include providing startup capital, building capacity, among others

- A ccTLD should be hosted locally where possible

Agreeing that African countries should pursue re-delegation of their ccTLDs;

1. Re-delegation Process

Having determined that a ccTLD is a critical national resource for every country in the information society, it was agreed that countries should apprise themselves with the process of re-delegation and that every country should:

- a) facilitate the identification of relevant stakeholders in their country in a transparent manner. Generally, stakeholders include the government/state, private sector, academia and civil society.
- b) agree on the structure of the entity to manage the ccTLD
- c) set up the entity that will manage the ccTLD

The above formed entity should meet the ICANN/IANA requirements for re-delegation as follows:

- provide information showing the change serves the local interest in the country;
- provide documentation demonstrating the technical and administrative capabilities of the organization receiving the re-delegation;
- provide a description of the legal status of the organization;
- provide the names of contacts in any in-country government agencies who have a say in the delegation/re-delegation;
- provide a detailed description of how existing ccTLD operations will be transferred to the proposed new operator, in the case of a re-delegation;
- provide documentation showing that the new operator will operate the domain in a fair and equitable manner; and,
- provide the approvals of the current contacts for the TLD, in the case of a re-delegation.
- apply for the re-delegation using the Change Request Template available on the IANA website (www.iana.org)

2. Capacity Building

It was agreed that countries should:

- continuously share best practices at the regional and international level;
- actively participate at the local, regional and international Internet governance forums among them ICANN, GAC of ICANN, IGF, ITU, ATU, AFTLD, AfriNIC, ISOC among others; and,
- continuously development capacity.

3. Awareness

As for awareness, it was agreed that:

- a ccTLD is a country's unique identity on Cyberspace;
- every government entity should have an online presence using the ccTLD name space;
- governments should strategize on making the ccTLD a national brand; and,
- all stakeholders should work together to develop a competition strategy that will include branding and marketing.

4. Content

As for content, it was agreed that:

- government is the largest repository of relevant local content and as such every government should move towards the digitization of this content and avail it online in relevant local languages, using the ccTLD name space; and,
- relevant local content should be hosted locally.

5. Critical Internet Infrastructure

ccTLD DNS servers and Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) were identified as Internet infrastructure that is critical for the operation of a ccTLD. Consequently, it was agreed that:

- every government should facilitate the setting up of a local Internet Exchange Point (IXP); and,
- the ccTLD database forms critical data and that the government should ensure that data escrow (database backup) is in place.

6. DNS Security and IPv6

The forum agreed that ccTLDs should:

- Ensure the security of the ccTLD DNS servers;
- Participate in the development of policies for IPv6; and,
- Participate in the deployment of IPv6.

7. Way Forward

i. The Role of ATU

The role of the ATU on the way forward was indentified as follows:

- That the ATU should continuously apprise and sensitize policy makers on the importance of ccTLDs
- That the ATU should continuously partner with other Internet governance bodies in human capital development
- That the ATU should continuously participate at the national, regional and international Internet governance forums, including ICANN, GAC of ICANN, AfriNIC, AftLD, among others
- That the ATU should continuously organize Internet governance forums at the regional level

- That the ATU should, in partnership with other Internet governance entities, including ICANN, ITU, ISOC, AfriNIC and AfTLD, develop common guidelines for the development and support of ccTLD's in Africa.
- That the ATU should hold follow-up forums on an annual basis to take stock of progression in the continent

ii. The Role of Governments

It was agreed that governments should take the lead in creating the multi-stakeholder framework that will take the responsibility of undertaking the re-delegation of their ccTLD's.

iii. The Role of Other Stakeholders

The role of the other stakeholders, including private sector, academia and Civil society, on the way forward was indentified as follows:

- Liaise with government in the re-delegation process;
- Actively participate in the Internet policy development process;
- Actively participate in Internet governance forums at the national, regional and international levels;

