



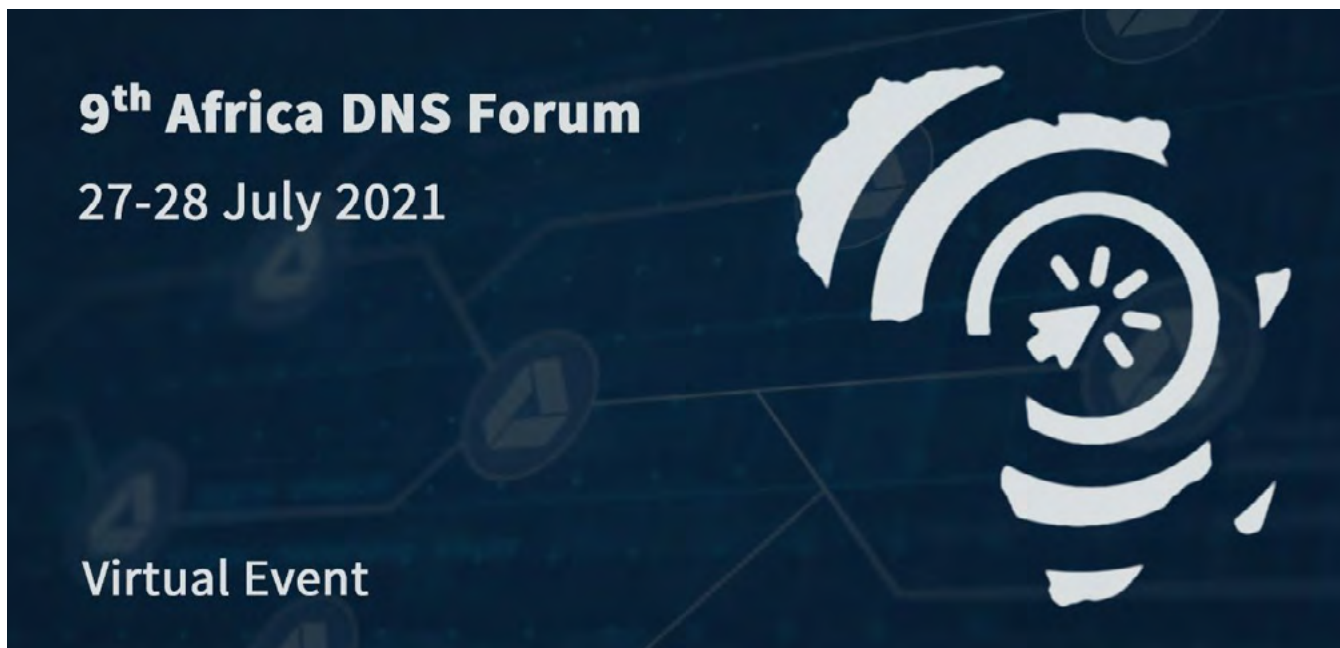
AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT

1 JULY 2021–30 JUNE 2022

ONE WORLD, ONE INTERNET

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Ninth Africa DNS Forum



The Ninth Africa Domain Name System (DNS) Forum, organized by the Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AfTLD), the Africa Registrar Association, and ICANN org, was held virtually 27–28 July 2021, with the theme of “Evolving the DNS Ecosystem in Africa.” The key 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. The forum attracted 140 participants.

Call with African ccTLDs

On 31 August, 2021, ICANN org’s Global Stakeholder Engagement Africa team hosted a webinar with African country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators as part of its strategy to regularly engage, particularly with African ccTLD operators, on a number of thematic topics to keep them informed and also to seek their feedback. The ccTLD community is a critical stakeholder group in Africa and in the DNS ecosystem; hence, working closely with them remains a key engagement objective for ICANN in Africa.

The meeting was hosted virtually via Zoom and attracted 43 participants representing roughly 30 ccTLD registries across Africa. The webinar was simultaneously interpreted in French and English.

Partnership with AfTLD to Promote Universal Acceptance in Africa



This joint effort between ICANN and AfTLD was designed to raise awareness of Universal Acceptance (UA) challenges in the region, to help build capacity to address those challenges, and to assist ccTLD operators and other stakeholders in developing and implementing robust Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and UA-related systems and policies.

The joint training program consisted of monthly webinars starting in December 2021. The online sessions, delivered by leading industry experts and practitioners, addressed various topics related to UA and IDN, each targeted at relevant regional audiences, including policymakers, technical administrators, ccTLD managers, registrars and their resellers, local regulators, and businesses. Three webinar series were delivered.

EVENTS AND PROJECTS

This table lists ICANN org’s events and projects in Africa throughout FY22, organized by how the activities furthered ICANN’s strategic objectives and goals.

EVENTS	PROJECTS
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THE DNS AND THE DNS ROOT SERVER SYSTEM	
<i>Goal 1.1: Improve the shared responsibility for upholding the security and stability of the DNS by strengthening DNS coordination in partnership with relevant stakeholders</i>	
<p>The GSE Africa team participated in a number of events as speakers, panelists, and sometimes as a sponsor. These events included the eighth “Interpol Africa Working Group Meeting on Cybercrime for Heads of Units” and an ICANN webinar titled “DNSSEC Deployment Guidebook for ccTLDs.”</p>	<p>ICANN partnered with AfTLD to raise awareness of UA challenges in the Africa region, to help build capacity to address those challenges, and to assist ccTLD operators and other stakeholders in developing and implementing robust IDNs and UA-related systems and policies. A total of three training series were held resulting in more than 60 participants being trained on UA deployment.</p> <p>At the same time, one ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS) Instance was successfully deployed in Zimbabwe.</p>
<i>Goal 1.3: Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through greater engagement with relevant hardware, software, and service vendors</i>	
	<p>A survey on the state of DNSSEC in Africa sought responses from any organization running a DNS service in the Africa region. The main objective was to understand the state of DNSSEC deployment in Africa and the key issues hindering greater deployment and adoption of DNSSEC in Africa.</p> <p>The survey was widely circulated through various mailing lists, with 46 organizations responding. Of the respondents, 63 percent were DNS registry operators.</p>
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ICANN’S MULTISTAKEHOLDER MODEL OF GOVERNANCE	
<i>Goal 2.1: Strengthen ICANN’s bottom-up multistakeholder decision-making process and ensure that work gets done and politics are developed in an effective and timely manner</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICANN GSE participated in a number of events either as speakers or panelists, in addition to sponsoring some of the events. • Organized an ICANN72 readout. • Participated in the Africa Lawtech Conference 2022. 	<p>A survey of ICANN org African engagement activities between July 2016 and March 2022 captured the satisfaction levels on the work undertaken by ICANN org in Africa, and solicited feedback on areas that need further development and improvement. Survey respondents totaled 36 and respondents were from 14 countries in the African region.</p>

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EVENTS	PROJECTS
<p><i>Goal 2.2: Support and grow active, informed, and effective stakeholder participation</i></p>	
<p>In this period, the GSE Africa team participated in a number of events either as speakers or panelists and sometimes as a sponsor of some of the events. These events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West African School of Internet Governance (SIG) and West Africa Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2021 • Formation des Formateurs de la gouvernance de l’Internet (FFIG) 2021 (Africa School of Internet Governance in French) • Symposium technologies de l’information et de la communication-Afrique 2021 • Arusha Women SIG 2021 • Kenya SIG and Kenya IGF • Call with the African community on ICANN future meetings • Association of African Universities Workshop for National Networks for Education and Research (NRENs) • West African IGF 2022 <p>Regional, Subregional, and Youth Internet Governance Forums and schools of Internet governance remain key initiatives in our efforts to build capacity and inform so that we have effective stakeholder participation.</p>	
<p>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: EVOLVE THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER SYSTEMS IN COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH RELEVANT PARTIES TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL INTERNET USER BASE</p>	
<p><i>Goal 3.1: Foster competition, consumer choice, and innovation in the Internet space by increasing awareness of, and encouraging readiness for Universal Acceptance, IDN implementation, and IPv6</i></p>	
	<p>ICANN and AfTLD partnered to promote Universal Acceptance in Africa, with support from AFRALO. A total of three training series were held resulting in more than 60 participants being trained on UA deployment.</p>
<p><i>Goal 3.2: Improve assessment of, and responsiveness to, new technologies which impact the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet’s unique identifier systems by greater engagement with relevant parties</i></p>	
	<p>Supporting and participating in some national DNS forums has been a key project during FY22. These included the Kenya National DNS Forum, the Africa DNS Forum 2021, the Benin DNS Forum 2021, and the South Africa DNS Forum 2022. These events contribute to the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet, and raise the visibility of the DNS at the national level.</p>

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EVENTS	PROJECTS
<p align="center">STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: ADDRESS GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES IMPACTING ICANN’S MISSION TO ENSURE A SINGLE, GLOBALLY INTEROPERABLE INTERNET</p>	
<p align="center"><i>Goal 4.1: Identify and address global challenges and opportunities within its remit by further developing early warning systems, such as ICANN org’s Legislative and Regulatory Development Reports</i></p>	
<p>In an effort to remain visible and continue engagement with governmental delegates, the GSE Africa team attended the 63rd Meeting of the AFRALTI Governing Council, the Connected Kenya Summit 2022 and the ITU WTDC 2022. These events provided an opportunity to engage IGO and government representatives present.</p>	
<p align="center"><i>Goal 4.2: Continue to build alliances in the Internet ecosystem and beyond to raise awareness of and engage with global stakeholders about ICANN’s mission and policymaking</i></p>	
	<p>ICANN held a series of webinars for the African ccTLDs, which provided the opportunity to share on various initiatives such as DAAR and to provide information on voluntary financial contributions from ccTLDs.</p>

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