



Africa's map in the digital inclusion!

Ref: dotafrica/2011/05/08

08 May 2011

H.E. Mr. Abdoulie Janneh  
United Nations Under-Secretary General and  
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)  
P. O. Box 3005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Your Excellency,

***Subject: DCA's Reaction to CODIST II ICT Sub-committee Draft Report***

DCA notes with dismay that the recent meeting of the Committee on Development Information Science and Technology II (CODIST II) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa was unfortunately employed to influence thinking on the path that the DotAfrica initiative should take.

The ICT sub-committee's draft report on CODISTII contained the following recommendations for ECA *inter alia*:

- *Collaborate with ICANN and AfrinIC to raise awareness and build capacity among member States on issues related to Internet Governance and management of critical Internet resources particularly in the participation of Africa in the new generic Top-Level Domain names programme.*
- *Work in collaboration with AU to ensure that the .Africa. is owned by the African Union*

DCA believes that there was a deliberate insertion of '**AfrinIC and reference to the DotAfrica gTLD**' in a matter that does not fall within the purview/attention scope of CODIST II.

It is clear that this insertion was done by observers such as Dr. Nii Quaynor who were not accredited CODIST II delegates, but who deliberately introduced **this extraneous issue to CODIST II and influenced the true delegates to vote and adopt it.** This is a most unfortunate and condemnable occurrence which again exposes pernicious influence-peddling and abuse of office and privilege that is being perpetrated by Dr. Nii Quaynor and his cabal. This falls within a certain pattern of behavior that is aimed at using indirect methods to 'legitimize' Dr. Nii Quaynor's opinions on the direction of the DotAfrica initiative.

DotAfrica and CODIST are two separate matters, and with or without CODIST II, the DotAfrica initiative for the Africa gTLD mandate can be completed as a straightforward matter within the prescribed ICANN procedures and guidelines. **The profound truth is that the United Nations or any of its regional agencies such as the ECA are not in a position to influence this process as to give the African Union ownership of DotAfrica which clearly falls within the authority of ICANN.**



Again, the deliberate insertions into the CODIST II ICT Sub-committee's report reveals the apparent double-dealing and conflicts when juxtaposed with the recent press release by AfTLD after their Ghana meeting which talks about **an AUC-led process of endorsing a suitable bidder that will apply to ICANN for the new dotAfrica gTLD.** The same press release boasts of an overwhelming endorsement and vote of confidence for AfTLD's DotAfrica bid, meanwhile **the CODIST II ICT sub-committee's report stresses AfrINIC and not AfTLD on gTLD matters.** This observation again confirms DCA's belief that certain people are simply using AfTLD to pursue and accomplish a secret selfish agenda, and these people at a later stage will betray AfTLD.

Again, the reports obvious bias that ECA should work in collaboration with AU to ensure that DotAfrica is owned by the African Union again reveals a known position of Nii Quaynor whilst contradicting his support for AfTLD's prospective application for DotAfrica. **On what basis would the AU own DotAfrica and allow AfTLD to operate DotAfrica? Where is the legal basis for such action?**

The CODIST II ICT sub-committee's report again reveals that Dr. Nii Quaynor and his cabal are willfully manipulating inter-governmental organizations and authorities such as the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to achieve their own selfish ends. The DCA not only condemns such activities but rightfully believes that such individuals should be investigated and censured.

Finally, **the DCA hereby respectfully requests the UNECA, in the interest of institutional credibility, to expurgate** those aspects of the CODIST II ICT sub-committee's report (on page 7) that have been referred to above, since these were deliberately inserted in an official report so as to give them unwarranted legitimacy even on a matter that is so distantly unrelated to the objectives and meeting scope of CODIST II and its expected outcome.

Yours sincerely,

*Sbekele*

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[www.dotconnectafrica.org](http://www.dotconnectafrica.org)

Attach: copy AfTLD Press Release

cc: Chairperson of the African Union Commission, AU Commission Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia