20 August 2010

Mr. Rod Beckstrom
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
Admiralty Way , Marina Del Ray, California

<u>**Request for an open discussions on African Union –ICANN agenda**</u>

Dear Mr. Beckstrom:

Thank you ahead for your attention.

As you may be aware DotConnectAfrica (DCA) is planning to apply for the ".Africa" TLD.

I met last week with the African Union Commission in Addis Abba to discuss various aspects of the process as they see it. In the meeting were the management of infrastructure division, which is well aware of our interest in applying for the domain.

*They informed us that there has been an ongoing consultation and discussion, with ICANN on defining a regulatory framework for the "dotafrica" name. **Naturally DCA is not privy to the discussions between the AU and ICANN, however as a stakeholder and applicant it is important that we know the impact on the process**. Recall I stated at ICANN Nairobi 37 during the public meeting on the mic, DCA has received the endorsement of the African Union and several other key governmental organizations. We have also exhibited the formal endorsement from AU, which we received nearly one year ago in August 2009.*

Whilst not wishing to preempt any discussions with ICANN, I left the meeting with the impression that there is potential for a misunderstanding to develop over the roles of ICANN and the AU in the assignment of the ".Afirca" TLD. In addition, this dialog by AU did not mention any of other key relevant continental organizations and governments, that which works with AU and has endorsed DCA.

***Will ICANN in this case also expect to meet with each of these to discuss similar issues to those of the AU?** It would appear that the potential for confusion is significant unless all parties follow the open, consultative and multi-stakeholder approach that ICANN promotes.*

As ICANN follows an open and transparent process, DCA seeks clarification from ICANN on the impact of any discussions with AU on the process as defined in the latest version of the rule book.

Yours truly.

Sbekele

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