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## THE AFRICAN NETWORK INFORMATION CENTRE (AFRINIC)

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AfrinIC, the Internet Number Registry for Africa, is one of the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) world-wide which form the Number Resource Organization (NRO). AfrinIC operates as a non-governmental and not-for-profit member-based organisation. Since its inception, in 2005, AfrinIC ensures a fair distribution and management of Internet number resources in the African region.



"Since its existence, AfrinIC is experiencing a rigorous growth in its membership level, as well as a significant rise in awareness among the African community and beyond."

### CORE VALUES

- We operate with transparency, professionalism, and efficiency.
- We are committed to integrity in all that we do, always and everywhere.
- We recognize and value individual contribution and teamwork.
- We recognize cultural and language diversity in our region.
- We are a technology driven organisation that encourages continuous learning and innovation.
- We value collaboration and cooperation with related organisations.

### MISSION

To serve the African community by providing professional and efficient management of Internet number resources, supporting Internet technology usage and development, and promoting Internet self-governance.

### VISION

Spearheading Internet technology and policy development in the African region.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

AfriNIC policies are developed through a bottom-up process agreed upon by the community. The discussions are conducted via both public meetings and e-mail discussion lists. There are no prerequisites for participation in the process and anybody can propose and take part in the discussions on policy matters related to Internet resource management in the AfriNIC region of service. AfriNIC's policy development process is consensus-based and is:

### Open

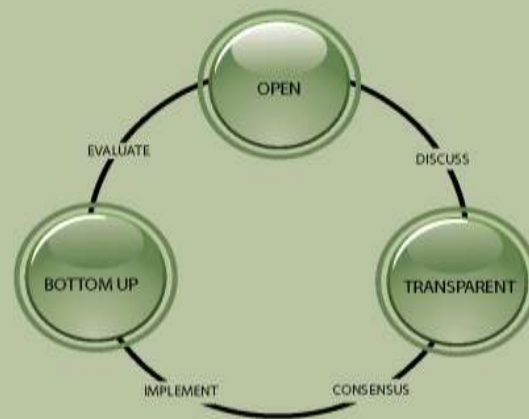
- Anyone interested can get involved, propose and discuss policies. No accreditation is needed; it is therefore all inclusive and accessible.

### Transparent

- Meeting notes, presentations and discussions are publicly accessible. Everything is documented and published.

### Bottom-up process

- The Internet Community drives policy development, i.e. proposes, discusses and approves policy.



## ACTIVITIES

### Meetings

AfriNIC has two Open Public Policy face-to-face meetings every year. Such meetings provide an opportunity for the community-at-large to participate in knowledge sharing, social networking, and policy discussions. These meetings are held in different countries in the African region and are often hosted by AfriNIC members or government-type organisations.

### Training

AfriNIC's training program has been designed to help Network Operators in the African region to better understand the management of Internet resources, to understand how to migrate to IPv6, and other subjects, such as reverse DNS setup and DNSSEC. One objective of the training program is to conduct a workshop in each African country by the end of 2010. In 2008, AfriNIC launched an IPv6 Virtual Lab to support countries in the deployment of IPv6. The virtual lab is expected to reduce the overall cost of training for institutions, universities and companies.

### Internet governance

To further support Internet technology in the African region, AfriNIC is also active in the promotion of Internet Governance and the multi-stakeholder model for making decisions that affect further development of the Internet. As at date, AfriNIC has organised two Internet Governance workshops in West Africa and has plans to continue these efforts in other regions.

AfriNIC also participates in global Internet Governance related activities to include the Internet Governance Forum by organising and participating in workshops during their annual events.

### Community Support and Outreach AfriNIC Root Server Anycast Program

AfriNIC launched the Root Server Anycast Copy Program in 2008. The project aims to improve the overall performance and visibility of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) by helping countries deploy a copy of the root server. These root server copies are intended to make accessing the Internet easier and faster, improve performance, become more cost efficient and reduce the cost to the end-user.

## PARTNERSHIPS

AfriNIC works closely with various regional and International partners. As part of the global Internet Resource Management system, AfriNIC has strong partnerships with the other four Regional Internet Registries: APNIC (Asia and Pacific [www.apnic.net](http://www.apnic.net)), ARIN (North America [www.arin.net](http://www.arin.net)), LACNIC (Latin America and the Caribbean [www.lacnic.net](http://www.lacnic.net)), RIPE NCC (Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia [www.ripe.net](http://www.ripe.net)). AfriNIC is also in partnership with other leading organisations, such as the Internet Numbers Authority (IANA [www.iana.org](http://www.iana.org)), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN

[www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF [www.ietf.com](http://www.ietf.com)) and the Internet Society (ISOC [www.isoc.org](http://www.isoc.org)).

In addition, AfriNIC is a sector member of International Telecommunications Union Development (ITU-D [www.itu.int/ITU-D](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D)). Regionally, AfriNIC collaborates with other African organisations, such as AfNOG ([www.afnog.org](http://www.afnog.org)), AfTLD ([www.aftld.org](http://www.aftld.org)), AfriSPA ([www.afriSPA.org](http://www.afriSPA.org)) and the Association of African Universities (AAU [www.aau.org](http://www.aau.org)).



## BRIEF HISTORY

- In 1997, the proposal for a Regional Internet Registry for Africa was submitted during the INET workshop in Malaysia.
- A year later, a steering committee was setup after a consultation meeting (Benin) to work on the structure and proposed business plan.
- In 2000, the first AfriNIC observers were appointed to the ASO AC. Following a recommendation of the steering committee, an initial Board of Trustees was appointed based on a sub-regional representation in 2001.
- The first Board was chaired by Dr. Nii Quaynor with the mission to formalise the organisation and work towards its accreditation as a Regional Internet Registry.
- After a selection of host countries, AfriNIC was incorporated in Mauritius in 2004, and held its first policy meeting shortly after in Dakar.
- In 2005, ICANN granted AfriNIC accreditation as the fifth Regional Internet Registry.
- During its setup AfriNIC has received support from several organisations continent-wide.
- The Governments of South Africa, Egypt and Mauritius have also supported this effort through funding the incubation period.

## STRUCTURE

The AfriNIC organisational structure is set to encourage a bottom-up self-governance management model where policies and other organisational functions are determined by the community and members in general. AfriNIC is regulated by a Board of Directors elected by its members from the 6 African-sub-regions. The day-to-day operations are under the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer.



## AfriNIC IN AFRICA

### AfriNIC in Mauritius

Since 2005 AfriNIC has been headquartered in Ebene Cyber City in Mauritius.

### AfriNIC in South Africa

AfriNIC's core IP network infrastructure is located in Johannesburg, South Africa, and supported through Internet Solutions (SA) Pty Ltd. AfriNIC also maintains a presence at the Johannesburg Internet Exchange.

### AfriNIC in Egypt

There is a fully operational disaster recovery centre which is co-located with the network infrastructure of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) in Cairo, Egypt.

### AfriNIC Staff

AfriNIC started with two staff members but has since grown to 17 as of October 2009. We have a diverse team with various professional backgrounds and from different nationalities. Currently we have staff from Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, and the U.S.