

Koliwe Majama Activity Report

Meeting	ICANN 59 Policy Forum
Activity Title	Newcomer Report
Date	26 - 29 June, 2017
Venue	Johannesburg, South Africa
Strategic Objective	Induction into ICANN as a Newcomer on the Regional Pilot fellowship programme
Aim	To locate area of interest in ICANNs policy making processes in order to broaden engagement in ICANN multi stakeholder processes in the Southern African Region

Personal Objectives of the fellowship

My overall commitments and set targets when I got awarded the fellowship were as follows:

O1: Locate my interest area within the ICANN policy development processes

O2: Get acquainted and be a member of the ICANN Fellowship Alumni network

O3: Locate critical areas of participation in the current ICANN outreach initiatives for civil society and the Southern African Region

O4: Identify a stakeholder group or constituency to join

Context & Background

- Political / Social / Economic
- National / Regional / Global Internet Governance

Internet Governance (IG) came on the global agenda following two United Nations sponsored phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in 2003 and 2005 that muted the need for the leveraging of the use of the Internet through multi stakeholder process.

Essentially, multi-stakeholderism is about bringing all stakeholders together, including governments, civil society, public users and service providers, so as to build consensus on how best to regulate and develop the use of the Internet to enhance access by a wider citizenry and ensure that they use the platform to enjoy their basic liberties, particularly freedom of expression, access to information and freedom of association. ICANN is a critical player in the internet governance ecosystem and had also adopted the multi-stakeholder model in its interventions.

Based on the first fellowship session, it became apparent that it is through the community ICANN achieves multi thronged participation from different working groups, technical partners [Regional Internet Registries, Root server operators], Supporting Organisations [Generic Name Supporting Organisation, Country Code Name Supporting Organisation, Address Supporting Organisations and Name Resources organisations], the Commercial Stakeholder Groups [Commercial and Business Users Constituency, Internet Service Provider Constituency, Intellectual Property Constituency], the Non-commercial stakeholder group [comprised of the Non Commercial Users Constituency] and the Advisory Committees [At large Advisory Committee and the Governmental Advisory Council]

Coming from Africa, where very few countries have achieved the multi-stakeholder approach in their respective national internet Governance processes, attending the ICANN59 policy meeting was a great opportunity to identify and learn on the extent to which ICANN adequately engages members of its community to be part of the policy making processes, mobilisation and awareness at community level and in the general governance of the organisation.

The overall mission of ICANN is to ensure stable and secure operation of the internet's unique identifier systems. The Domain Name System (DNS), which can be described as the phonebook of the internet, remains central to the work of ICANN. In October 2016, the IANA transition was completed and ICANN officially broke away from the American government.

However, the internet governance framework

Based on my assessment and engagement during the policy meeting, issue I identified that may take up within the recent internet governance debates include:

- Digital Rights issues of Free Speech, Privacy, Due Process and Fair Use – within the Non Commercial Users Constituency
- Security issues/concerns related to ccTLDs [Country Code Top Level Domains]
- While Internet Exchange Points are pitted as a key in the reduction of pricing for access to the internet there are issues around their control by repressive governments.
- Deregulation of the internet sector as a means of opening up competition and contributing significantly to the increase in the number of people with access
- Regulation of content – ranging from sex [pornography], sexuality content , spam and what may be deemed 'political' information within certain jurisdictions -- within the Non Commercial Users Constituency

Sequence & proceedings of activities

- Sessions attended
- Prominent persons
- Critical issues raised and noted

ICANN59 Policy Meeting was held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The meeting, ICANNs second policy meeting, comprised mostly of outreach initiatives and meetings that focused on on-going policy issues and current development initiatives that the ICANN Community has been engaged in. Each evening offered opportunity for networking through different networking functions hosted by different stakeholders and communities.

While I had initially scheduled my meetings prior to my arrival, I found myself changing my schedule twice, firstly after the fellowship session on the first day and as I went by the days, my priorities and focus began to change as well.

My Schedule of the meetings I attended can be located on :

<https://schedule.icann.org/koliwemajama>

My priorities then became following up on three areas:

1. Being a part of the Generic Name Supporting Organisations through the Non Commercial Users Constituency - By the time I left the meeting I had registered online and await response
2. As a blogger and writer, linking up with the ICANN Wiki team so that I can contribute meaningfully to ICANNs content online
3. Familiarise with the Rights Protection working group to explore the possibility of linking up with their work both at regional and global levels.

Topics Discussed / Results

- Topics Discussed
- Publication, Network, Exchange of Ideas, More Knowledge

The following is the list and summary of the sessions attended by the Newcomer:

DAY 1: 26 June 2017

- **Fellowship Program Daily Session**

This session was an eye-opening session for my ICANN experience. All along through the online webinars to induct the newcomers to the ICANN system, there were a number of barriers to actually understanding. These included either failure to connect to the conversation or failure to actually participate effectively. I also came to ICANN thinking that the organisation dealt with only technical aspects of domain registration, which as an alumni of the African School of Internet Governance (AfriSIG), I had previously shied away from.

However, the first session, which was compulsory for all fellows, was a good way to start the policy meeting. It opened up my eyes to the overview on ICANNs role in the Internet ecosystem and also gave an overview of the organisations multi-stakeholder model and ultimately demystified previous perceptions on whether or not I could actually fit into the ICANN family and contribute meaningfully.

- **Overall structure of ICANN**

This session was led by Next Generation Programme **Manager, Jen** and a member of the GDD Services Dennis Chang

They gave an outline of ICANNs structure as following:

- **The Community;** that is involved with the mission, activity and purpose of the organisation. The community is open, and anyone who can use the internet can be involved in the activities of the community. The community is also the volunteer base of the organisation a

Elements of the community were then expanded by a testimonial of active community participation by Sarah Kiden, a past Next Generation member and member of the African At large Community. She emphasised the need to have end users involved in policy issues at community level by creating conducive engagement for awareness raising and participation.

Esteban Lescano from the Internet Service Providers Constituency also gave a presentation and emphasised on the need to for fellows to realise that the work of iCANN was not only felt at global level, but strengthened at regional and national levels, especially.

- **The Board;** Are a group of people elected by the community and are the decision makers of the organisations.

Board member Martin **Butterman** elaborated that the role of the board is mainly to monitor the policy making process and approve the policy after it is submitted to them through an open and transparent process. He emphasised that the board acts by resolution.

- **The organisation;** that includes the secretariat whose role is to implement the decisions made by the community and overseen by the board.

President and Chief Executive Officer of ICANN, **Joran** gave his remarks. They key issues he raised include:

- The need for more localisation of content on the internet
- The need to increase participation in ICANNs issues stating that the organisation was an

essential part of the operation of the internet.

- Strategizing around the preservation of the openness and interconnectedness of the internet.

- **Experiences of past ICANN Newcomers**

The two presentations of past newcomers were given by Tunisian, Ines Hfadh [Ex Committee member of the NCUC] and Senegalese, Mamadou Lo [MAG member]. The take aways from the two presentations included the following:

- The fellowship programme is as good as ICANNs school and has over the years become very prestigious and opens up opportunities for personal and professional growth
- It is important for a newcomer to take their time in identifying their interest area and the respective communities that would represent the area adequately
- The networking and the continuous engagement in mailing groups, the ICANN repository are always updated and help individuals in the community to understand the organisation and on-going processes better.

Critical takeaways

Pointers to local/National interventions - Omar

- Give information that is specific and contextual
- Give perspectives and pointers that communities will understand
- Public comment periods are integral to policy making processes and as much as possible, should be taken advantage of

DAY 2 : 27 June 2017

1. Intellectual Property Constituency Breakfast Meeting

President of the IPC chaired the meeting, which was attended by lawyers, representatives from the entertainment sector such as Time Warner, Cyber policy specialists, Academics, Intellectual Property Organisations representatives.

Issues raised during the meeting include:

- Impact of copyright violations on trust and confidence of content producers on the internet
- The importance of Trademarks
- The need to explore the impact of Copyright law on content generation

Critical takeaways

- I found debates on the need to come up strategies and ideals to protect content produced for online distribution interesting and worth following up. Already, I have made contact

with **Time Warner** for further engagement with the hope of writing something on my blog [www.koliwemajama.co.zw]

2. ICANN Wiki Editathon

This session was open to content producers interested in adding content relevant to ICANN on Wikipedia.

The hour practical long session was led by the duo that initiated the platform that include **Dustin and** It included a tutorial on creating a profile on the platform , which included an article and uploading of a picture which the artist would use to make the trademark caricature.

During the session, I managed to add content on the Digital divide, with a special focus also on my special interest area of the Gender digital divide with a focus on the African region. The contribution is available on this link [add link]

I also began the content on the Empowered community **[link]** which I will further familiarised with at the **[specific meeting]** and intend to complete by the end of August.

3. At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) review update meeting

Given my background in media rights people-centred, I was keen to familiarize with ALAC processes at ICANN 59. This is because ALAC have at the centre of ICANNs public interest advocacy. ICANNs Incoming Director, Leon Sanchez and a community member, **Seu** Ojedeji, chaired the meeting.

On the agenda of the meeting was the following:

ITEMS report – Was discussed in respect of mapping a review process that included feasibility assessment and a plan for the implementation of the recommendations in the report. It was announced that the analysis would be submitted to an Effectiveness committee in the board before the final ascension by the full board. I have accessed the response¹ to the report, and will go through it to familiarize.

At Large structures outline – This session featured Sarah Kiden who spoke about the structures. She noted that there were 52 structures on the continent currently She emphasized importance of

1 <https://community.icann.org/display/ALRW/Final+Report%3A+Review+of+the+At-Large+Community>

the engagement of communities especially during the course of public comment period and during regional AFRALO sessions. AFRALO Chairperson Aziz Hilali gave the Closing remarks.

Key Takeaway

The role of the Internet Society in the At Large Community apparent to me became very clear in that meeting. Having been a member of ISOC since 2016, I had not actually seen the importance of joining a national ISOC Chapter, but while in the meeting, I joined the Zimbabwe ISOC Chapter and immediately sent an enquiry on activities in the pipeline. I have since been in touch with newly elected Policy Advocacy, Natasha Msonza, and have started considering how to latch onto especially ICANN outreach activities.

The public comments period has been extended from 21 to 40 days.

4. Next Generation presentations

I attended the presentations by the NextGen presentations by the following

Mauricia

Joash Mututi

Josephine Eyre *Our internet a place for internet freedom or control*

Nelson Kwaje *Internet shutdowns*

Nomsa

Nomsa's friend.

5. African DNS market Study

Following a side-line meeting with secretariat member, **Bob Ochieng and Communications officer, Luna**, on possible issues to blog a month after ICANN59. Luna suggested that I attend the sharing of the DNS market study so that I can identify topical issues to follow up on.

Lead Consultant, Loren Braithwaite who is also the Chairperson of South African Communications forum led the team in the presentation of the methodology and findings of the by study which was undertaken collaboratively by **APC, Posix, WSA** She stated the following:

- The study had sort to involve all of Africa's 54 countries and six (6) Indian and Atlantic Ocean Islands

- The recommendations largely sought to advancing the industry
- Questionnaires were distributed to registries, registrants, registrars, resellers, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Internet Exchange Point,(IXPs) Managers
- The cost of accessing internet remains higher in Africa, at 15% of an average person's monthly income, than the cost of a European accessing the internet in Europe, which is currently at 1% of their income.
- 75% of the 400 million indexed pages globally are associated with only 7 African countries in respect of content wise.
- 26 of the 54 countries on the continent have only one registrar, who is usually the national registry
- The estimated cost of Africa's DNS market is \$52million per annum.

The rest of the presentation, which focused on the finding more broadly on the findings and recommendations of the report was given by committee members, William Starke and Mark Elkins.

They noted the following:

- There are too many hindrances to the growth of the continent DNS market.
- Lowering the cost of domain names is very important in the maximisation of the value of the market. The average cost of a cTLD registration on the continent is USD84.00 while registering a [dot]com costs only USD10.00.
- There is need to strengthen Freedom of Expression campaigns, particularly online, so that local content creation it encourages and forms becomes a significant industry driver.

The two African countries that have successfully capitalised on the sale of ccTLDs are South Africa and Kenya, but the latter has a significantly higher internet penetration rate.

- There is need for transparent and appropriate regulatory and governance mechanism for the industry
- There is need for registrars to add value to the sale of ccTLDs such as personalised email services and automated website development.

Key Takeaways

- An Authorization **Code** (also called an Auth **Code** or **EPP Key**) is required when transferring domains from one registrar to another. The transfer Authorization **Code** is created when the domain is first registered and can be obtained from the current Registrar for your domain.

- Malawi has a 3R Model - Registry, Registrar and Registrant

6. Fellowship Program Daily Session

Day 2's session was a policy development briefing given by Robert Hogarth [Position in ICANN] He emphasized that the whole process was hinged on

1. **Inclusive participation** and the tools for that participation include;

- Working Group models
- Meetings in person or teleconferences with the relevant stakeholders
- Public comment periods
- Collaboration mechanisms
- Publishing blogs related to the policy issue
- Joining webinars with the relevant stakeholders

2. A bottom up multi-stakeholder approach that is both open, as anyone can walk into a session to contribute and transparent, as information is always readily available on the website as transcripts and/or other communication platforms that the organisation uses.

DAY 3: 28 June 2017

1. At -Large AFRALO ALS Capacity Building Session 3

This AFRALO session had two items on its agenda, namely to explain the concept and structure of the Empowered Community and also included a General Assembly (GA) plenary. In his welcome remarks, the moderator, **Aziz Hilali** said the community was home for individual Internet African users, community that have interest in ICANN and shaping the future of the Internet.

The Empowered Community

Senior Director and Special Advisor for strategic policy planning, Mary Wrong, walked us through the following about the Empowered community:

- The new community is a non-profit association/structure that decides on ICANN's positions
- It has decisional participants drawn from ALAC, ASO, ccNSO, GAC and the GNSO who select administrative representatives
- The empowered community administration represent the community decision to proposals and usually have to go back after initial presentation and seek input
- The community exercises its rights in terms of the ICANN bylaws
- The role of the **Decisional participants** is to :
Approve/Reject budgets - IANA + Public Technical Identifiers (PTI)
Approve some activities

Remove a board director

Recall the entire ICANN board

The information received from this session will allow me to input with better clarity, to the ICANN Wiki.

2. General Assembly

The highlight of the General session were:

1. The debate on whether or not individual member would be accepted in the structure, which I found very difficult to follow and intend to monitor closely for greater understanding.

2. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between AFRINIC + AFRALO

- Internet Exchange points in countries - Cooperation within sub-regions- Local content support

3. Booth session

Internet Governance Forum Secretariat session

I was particularly interested in the session at the booth as I have attended one two national, one regional and two global IGFs. It was a good experience interacting with the global IGF secretariat representative, Chengetai Masango and get to ask questions on the mechanisms for monitoring impact of the NIGFs. My question relating to the effectiveness of the current monitoring mechanism on the NIGFs seems to have offered an opportunity for reflection as I received an email on [date] from the IGF secretariat enquiring on how best they could intervene to ensure that the monitoring of the NIGF is strengthened in Zimbabwe, especially as the country is expected to host its IGF, before the Regional African IGF, which according to Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) member, Michael Iishebo, will be held before November, 2017 when the Global IGF is expected to be held in November in Geneva, Switzerland.

Appendix : **Email from Global IGF Secretariat**

4. Non Commercial Users Constituency Session (NCUC)

The moderator of the session Renata Aquino Ribeiro, who I have met at several was Internet Governance forums

Following the decision to join the NCUC, it was very exciting for me to for the first time attend and experience my first NCUC session. This is also because I had missed the outreach activity that had been held a day before the official opening of the policy meeting in Braamfontein.

The sessions were chaired by Kathy Kleiman and Stephanie Perrin. The following issues were discussed:

1. **Geographic Top Level Domain Names - Bruan Martins Dos Santos [Brazil]** whose recommendations were as follows:
 - It is important for countries to have a repository of names of geographical relevance, these include geographical, linguistic and cultural names
 - Activists must be wary of the impact of government overseeing the allocation of names as there may be repercussions on freedom of expression

2. **Auction proceeds - Elliot Noss [CEO, Tucows]**

- Announcement made on the cross community working group that would oversee the disbursement of new gTLD proceeds that amount to +USD 100 000 000 in various projects
- The disbursement will be guided by ICANNs mission and principles and it is hoped that the proceeds would benefit especially underserved communities, At the same time there was opportunity to reflect on what the priorities are, especially between ICT for development and collaborations

3. **Pharmaceuticals Online - Tim Smith (General Manager Canadian International Pharmaceuticals Association)**

In his presentation he spoke to the following issues:

- The use of [dot] pharmacy universally as a security measure was in fact discriminatory and anti- competitive as people outside the USA
- Ensuring that there is a criteria to deal with rogue online pharmacies
- Ensuring that there us a criteria for licensing in the countries that the online pharmacies work in
- The need to emphasise on the use of the Brussels Principle for safe online pharmacy disbursement so that there is a clear code of ethics for ensuring safe health practices for online pharmacies globally.

4. **Introduction of ICANNs new Director of consumer safeguards - Bryan Schilling**

- As this is a new role, Bryan introduced himself and announced the formation of a working committee would also have to be decided upon.

4. Consumer choice and Consumer Trust review - Mr Jonathan Zuck [Chairperson of the Choice and Review team]

- As I have not read the review, it was difficult to follow this conversation. I would still need to access the report to understand exactly what direction the discussions are going and their background.
- The team said that they felt that the preliminary recommendations may have not been clear; and that there was anticipation if an intervention that would determine the efficiency of the safeguards. This, he said would be essential for the re-evaluation of the some of the recommendations.

Key Takeaways

- One person's abuse is another person's free expression based on context, but there is a for balance so that consumer protection does not impinge on free expression
- It is important that ICANN does not regulate, impose rules and restrict on services on the internet or the content that such services carry or provide.
- After the meeting Renata, has since been in touch with me and asked me to have a look at

DAY 4: 28 June 2017

1. Coach closing session - Arsene Tungali

Assigned coach, Arsene Tungali convened a meeting with co-newcomer Edem Kobla Nunekpeku and I so that we could touch base on our experiences, which I have outlined in the report above.

He also gave us an outline on what he expected from the reports and emphasised the need to be meticulous in the writing of the report as it would contribute immensely to the awarding of any future fellowships.

He encouraged us to participate in the ICANN activities by joining a constituency, take time to observe participate in working groups and also participate in dialogues so that we keep up to date with what is happening in the organisation.

2. Fellowship closing session

Farewell remarks and the sharing of experiences by the fellows.

Evaluation with Reference to the Project Aim / the Indicator

The sessions and the networking and sharing were a good first time experience for me. I am particularly excited about the prospects of being a member of the NCUC and also the contacts already made that will be helpful in building my profile around the issues that ICANN has prioritised.

My attendance of the ICANN59 Policy meeting has given me the grounding I need to understand the work of ICANN, and also be able to identify where, as a member of civil society I fit in. My intention is to participate, both globally and implementation and monitoring of policy and regulation.

22/07/2017

Place/Date



Signature - Fellow