



AfTLD Position on Top Level Internationalized Domain Names :

AfTLD realize the importance of introducing the Internationalized Domain Names "IDN" to the DNS system to ensure the language and cultural diversity in the internet, and we are also aware of importance of careful adoption of IDNs in-order to keep the stability and functionality of the global DNS system .

We appreciate ICANN recent steps toward implementing IDNs and the results of the recent IDN test on the DNS Root, and we urge ICANN to rapidly set the needed global technical standards to ensure the functionality of the current IDN deployments and future deployments on the DNS root .

We Support ApTLD IDN proposal and urge ICANN to setup a setup global coordination policies and guidelines for IDN deployments, as the global internet community is waiting for the IDN introduction, we think its important that ICANN speedup its Policy Development process in the areas related to IDNs and to allow a limited scale IDN testing for ccTLD registries already have IDN deployments .

We feel that ccTLDs and the local internet community should decide on the public policy issues related to the implementation of IDNs in their native and local languages, the local internet community should initiate multi-stakeholders dialogue to discuss and agree on the issues related to the use of their Language(s) in the domain name system .

We hope that 2008 could be the year of Launching IDN ccTLDs and a new mark in history of the internet development.

Background :

AfTLD is the regional organizational body for ccTLDs operating in Africa, Africa has over 2,000 indigenous languages, of Africa has over 2,000 indigenous languages, of which about 100 have more than a million which about 100 have more than a million speakers. Of this hundred, about six or seven are spoken by more than ten millions. The African internet community is working on issues such as local content development and including the African Languages in Unicode to ensure that this African cultural and language diversity will be available on the internet .