

ICANN DRAFT LETTER

This letter is to confirm that the African Union Commission fully supports the application for .Africa submitted to ICANN by UniForum SA (NPC) trading as Registry.Africa in the New gTLD Program. As the Commissioner I confirm that I have the authority of the African Union Commission to be writing to you on this matter. The African Union Commission is the Secretariat of the Union entrusted with executive functions. The structure represents the Union and protects its interest under the auspices of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government as well as the Executive Committee. The African Union Commission is made up of Portfolios. They are: Peace and Security; Political Affairs; Trade and Industry; Infrastructure and Energy; Social Affairs; Rural Economy and Agriculture; Human Resource, Science and Technology; and Economic Affairs.

The primary objective of the gTLD is summarised as follows: "To establish a world class domain name registry operation for the .Africa Top Level Domain (TLD) by engaging and utilising African technology, know-how and funding; for the benefit and pride of Africans; in partnership with African governments and other ICT stakeholder groups".

Our mission is to establish the .Africa TLD as a proud identifier of Africa's online identity, fairly reflecting the continent's rich cultural, social and economic diversity and potential. In essence we will strive to develop and position the .Africa TLD as the preferred option for individuals and businesses either based in Africa or with strong associations with the continent and its people.

The .Africa TLD represents a unique opportunity for Africa to develop and enhance its domain name and Internet eco-systems and communities by collaborating with each other to:

- identify, engage and develop African-based specialist skills and resources;

AUC LETTER

This letter serves to confirm that the African Union Commission (AUC) fully supports and endorses the application for the .Africa (dotAfrica) TLD string (Application ID 1-1243-89583) submitted to ICANN by UniForum SA (NPC) trading as Registry .Africa in the New gTLD Program. Furthermore as the relevant government authority for the purpose of the above application, the AUC hereby confirms that it represents the interests and support of 54 African governments.

As you may be aware, the AUC is comprised of various Portfolios, namely Peace and Security; Political Affairs; Infrastructure and Energy; Social Affairs; Trade and Industry; Rural Economy and Agriculture; Human Resources, Science and Technology; and Economic Affairs.

As the Commissioner, I confirm that I have the authority of the African Union Commission and African member states to be writing to you on this matter. The African Union Commission is the Secretariat of the African Union entrusted with executive functions. The AUC represents the African Union and protects its interest under the auspices of the Assembly of the Heads of States and Government.

In terms of the .Africa (dotAfrica) TLD, the AUC operates under a specific mandate from African Member States as outlined in the Abuja Declaration (Third Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Communications and Information Technologies, held in Abuja, Nigeria in August 2010).

In terms of the above ministerial declaration the AUC has been requested to "set up the structure and modalities for the Implementation of the dotAfrica project". This has in turn commenced an extensive and on-going governmental engagement process by the AUC concerning the .Africa (dotAfrica) TLD, as is evidenced by, amongst others:

- share knowledge and develop DNS thought-leadership; and
- implement world class registry standard and contribute towards their continued development.

The African Union Commission has worked closely with the applicant in the development of this proposal.

The African Union Commission supports this application, and in doing so, understands that in the event that the application is successful, UniForum SA (NPC) trading as Registry.Africa will be required to enter into a Registry Agreement with ICANN. In doing so, they will be required to pay fees to ICANN and comply with consensus policies developed through the ICANN multi-stakeholder policy processes.

The African Union Commission further understands that, in the event of a dispute between the African Union Commission and the applicant, ICANN will comply with a legally binding order from a court in the jurisdiction of the African Union Commission.

The African Union Commission understands that the Geographic Names Panel engaged by ICANN, will, among other things, conduct due diligence on the authenticity of this documentation. I would request that if additional information is required during this process, to contact my office in the first instance.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this application.

[475 words]

- The individual government letters of support and endorsement for the AUC initiated application process; and
- The overwhelming government support and participation in the GAC (Government Advisory Committee) processes concerning Early Warnings and Advice.

The primary objective of the .Africa (dotAfrica) gTLD string is: "to establish a world class domain name registry operation for the .Africa Top Level Domain (TLD) by engaging and utilising African technology, know-how and funding; for the benefit and pride of Africans; in partnership with African governments and other ICT stakeholder groups."

Our collective mission is to establish the .Africa (dotAfrica) TLD as a proud identifier of Africa's online identity fairly reflecting the continent's rich cultural, social and economic diversity and potential. In essence we will strive to develop and position the .Africa (dotAfrica) TLD as the preferred option for individuals and business either based in Africa or with strong associations with the continent and its people.

The .Africa (dotAfrica) TLD represents a unique opportunity for Africa to develop and enhance its domain name and Internet eco-systems and communities by collaborating with each other to:

- Identify, engage and develop African-based specialist skills and resources
- Share knowledge and develop DNS thought-leadership; and
- Implement world class registry standards and contribute towards their continued development.

The AUC has worked closely with the applicant, UniForum SA *t/a* Registry.Africa), concerning the preparation and lodgment of the TLD application and will continue to do so throughout the launch and regular administration of the .Africa (dotAfrica) TLD.

The AUC supports this application, and in doing so, understands that in the event that the application is successful, UniForum SA (NPC) trading as Registry .Africa will be required to enter into a Registry Agreement with ICANN. In doing so, they will be required to pay fees to ICANN and comply with consensus policies developed through the ICANN multi-stakeholder policy processes.

The AUC further understands that, in the event of a dispute between the African Union Commission and applicant, ICANN will comply with a legally binding order from a court in the jurisdiction of the AUC.

The AUC understands that the Geographic Names Panel (GNP) engaged by ICANN, will, among others, conduct a due diligence on the authenticity of this documentation. I would request that if any additional information is required during this process, the GNP to contact my office in the first instance.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this application.

[669 words]