



17 February 2026

RE: ICANN83 AFRALO-AFRICANN Statement: “Africa DNS Abuse Mitigation Initiative: Empowering Stakeholders Across Ecosystems”

Hadia Elminiawi  
Chair, African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)

Dear Hadia,

I would like to thank you and your AFRALO/AFRICANN colleagues for your [letter and recommendations](#) related to DNS abuse and mitigation in the African ecosystem set out in the ICANN83 AFRALO-AFRICANN Statement: “Africa DNS Abuse Mitigation Initiative: Empowering Stakeholders Across Ecosystems”.

As noted in the statement, DNS abuse is a multidimensional phenomenon. Given the Internet’s pivotal role, ICANN has identified that strengthening of the stability and security of the Internet’s unique identifier systems is a strategic priority and a key focus of the organization for fiscal years 2026-2030.

ICANN is playing an active role in DNS abuse mitigation. As you are aware, in May 2020, ICANN org began the process of consolidating its various internal efforts related to DNS Abuse under a coordinated, cross-functional program built on three foundational pillars: first, being recognized as a trusted and neutral source of information; second, providing tools to the community to help mitigate DNS security threats; and third, enforcing contractual provisions that support the mitigation of DNS Abuse. The various initiatives under these pillars — further outlined on ICANN’s DNS Abuse Mitigation Program webpage at <https://www.icann.org/dnsabuse> — reflect the need to address abuse within the remit of ICANN’s Bylaws and policies as defined by the ICANN community to constitute DNS Abuse, and in accordance with applicable local laws and regulatory requirements.

The DNS, as an addressing system, is a neutral technical layer vital to the proper functioning of the Internet. This layer is not designed to serve as a first-line mechanism for addressing abusive content on underlying websites or services. The DNS exists and operates independently from the content layer. Addressing abuse on the Internet should not negatively affect the security, stability, or reliability of this essential infrastructure layer, which is fundamental for Internet use.

Your correspondence outlines valuable recommendations that align with several subgoals and proposed initiatives in ICANN’s Africa Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2030, such as promoting a multistakeholder and collaborative approach, empowering stakeholders at all levels, advancing DNSSEC and DNS security best practices, encouraging African ccTLD registries and registrars to adopt and publish clear DNS Abuse policies, and strengthening cross border cooperation on DNS Abuse mitigation. You will appreciate that these subgoals and initiatives have been developed through a bottom-up process and with strong consideration of local realities.



ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement team in Africa is present on the ground and committed to engaging with and supporting our African stakeholders. Further, I would like to reassure you that ICANN will continue working with all interested parties to help mitigate the impact of DNS Abuse on the Africa Internet ecosystem and to strengthen trust and security across the continent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tripti Sinha".

Tripti Sinha  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors