AfriNIC-1 Report

23 - 24 May 2004

Dakar Senegal

Executive summary

The AfriNIC-I meeting was held on 23 – 24 May 2004 in Dakar (Senegal) at NGOR DIARAMA hotel. This meeting was the first public policy meeting of the emerging African Internet Registry. There were about 125 participants from 30 different countries including actual LIRs, AfriNIC founding members, supporting organizations and representatives from RIRs, ICANN and various governments.

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The meeting started on Sunday afternoon at 15:30 with a speech from the IT special adviser of the president of Senegal, Mr. Ousman Sy, followed by a word of welcome delivered by the chairman of AfriNIC Board of Trustees Dr. Nii Quaynor.

1.0 Key activities

The meeting as a first public policy meeting was focused on the proposed set of policies that will govern AfriNIC allocation in its service region and its Annual General Meeting where a new board was elected.

The first day of the meeting was reserved for updates from the community and AfriNIC status while the second day was split between policy discussions and the AGM (afternoon).

2.0 AfriNIC status update

After a brief recall on AfriNIC background and its recent activities by Dr. Nii Quaynor, the acting Chairman of the Board, Mr. Adiel Akplogan gave an update on AfriNIC activities since January 2004. His report included AfriNIC's institution in the different hosting countries with a focus on South Africa and Mauritius, the countries scheduled for the first phase of AfriNIC's setup.

According to Adiel Akplogan, AfriNIC has made very sensitive progress since May 2003. The Phase 0 of the transition plan which is related to technical and administrative preparations for AfriNIC operations to Start (co-evaluation of requests with RIRs) is almost complete.

Adiel also indicated that the next milestone for AfriNIC now is to apply for recognition from ICANN. He reassured the meeting that everything will be done to make it happen as quickly as possible.

3.0 Joint RIR statistics and update from the international community

The second part of the afternoon of 23rd May was dedicated to updates from representatives of the International community (RIRs, NRO, ASO, ICANN).

Presentations made include the joint statistics of IP numbers allocation around the different regions, including a compiled statistic of Africa region's allocations. There were also presentations from representatives of different RIRs on activity updates in their regions and in the African region they cover. Their presentations were followed by an update on the NRO.

The first day of the meeting was ended by a presentation from ICANN Vice-president Paul Verhoef. He gave an update on ICANN activities and expressed ICANN support to AfriNIC and its availability to be able support any activity in our region intending to increase awareness on Internet self-governance process and the role of different stakeholders in the process.

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4.0 Policy discussions

The morning of Monday 24th was dedicated to discussions on AfriNIC policies: IPv4, IPv6, ASN and reverse delegation. The policy discussions w preceded by two presentations on 'IPv4 life time' and problem of intensive usage of NAT.

The Policy discussions started with a brief presentation by Ernest Byaruhanga about the policy development process proposed for our region. He said that the process is composed of 6 steps starting with the policy proposal and ending with the final adoption by the Board.

After each presentation the floor was given to the community to comment on these policies.

Many practical questions and comments were received especially about the transition from the actual LIR status to the AfriNIC's one for those already operating a local registry.

At the end there was a global consensus on all of them.

5.0 AGM

The AfriNIC Annual general meeting was held in the afternoon of May 24th. There were two main focuses for the AGM:

1- Adoption of different Organizational documents
2- Election of a new Board.

6.0 AfriNIC administration documents

Three presentations were made in this area. The first one was related to the proposed amendment to AfriNIC original bylaws to comply with Mauritius Company Act and the final structure of the Organization.

7.0 Ammendment to the original bylaws

Four important changes were proposed:

1. The status of the company as registered in Mauritius (Company limited by Guaranty)
2. Change of 'Board of Trustees' to 'Board of Directors'
3. Change the way the 7th member is appointed
4. Board members seat numbers for election purposes.

All the proposed changes were endorsed and adopted by all the members present.

AfriNIC will now be governed by the article of constitution available at: www.afrinic.net/bylawstexte.htm.

8.0 Budget for 2004

To comply with the new article of constitution and the previous bylaws, AfriNIC project manager Adiel Akplogan presented AfriNIC budget for 2004.

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There were some concerns expressed by the community on the proposed budget especially the administrative one. There were questions about the cost of translating AfriNIC documents and website into languages other than English, if the amount of money provisioned for training will be enough to fulfil one of AfriNIC's goals (which is to make awareness on IP resource management on the continent) and if that budget can really cover all the travel expenses including Board members travel to achieve that goal.

Mr. Adiel Akplogan explained that this budget is mostly built based on expected funding from various donors. The budget presented reflects our expectations and covers the most important activities needed at this stage. For instance he explained that translation is something AfriNIC is looking at very closely, but to make the bootstrap process faster and easier he thought that it would make more sense to allocate available resources to strengthen the organization and get the formal recognition. The 2004 budget is mostly designed to allow the organization to achieve its main goals for this year in compliance with ICP-2 criteria and get the formal recognition as a Regional Registry by ICANN.

The representative of Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie with the French minister of Foreign Affairs used that opportunity to express their willingness to support AfriNIC translation activities as they are already providing the translation of the current meeting.

Finally the Budget was adopted through consensus by all the members present at the meeting.

9.0 Fees schedule

Following to the budget presentation, the Project Manager presented AfriNIC's Fees Schedule. The proposal was based on splitting of AfriNIC membership in to 5 categories which are:

• Extra small
• Small
• Medium
• Large
• Extra large

These different categories are determined by the total amount of IPv4 address allocated to the LIRs. Moreso, there are 5 other categories applied to End-User resource holders (companies which are not ISP or Operators and use the allocation/assignment for their own Infrastructure only) including ASN only.

This presentation opened a very long discussion about the fees that AfriNIC proposes to charge its Extra Small members. The main concern came from a few South African members present. They expressed their concern about the price which seems to be higher than what they are paying now with ARIN. Most of them suggested AfriNIC to increase the price of the bigger LIR and decrease the smaller one.

It was explained by the PM that these prices are not higher if we do not consider the Extra-small category applied by ARIN for micro allocation. It is important to note that

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the Micro allocation policy doesn't mean the same thing in AfriNIC region. In our region there is a difference between end-user allocation (non-ISP) and Extra-small category. The Project Manager also explained that AfriNIC is non-for-profit organization which at least needs to be sustainable and stand on its own feet like all the other RIRs. Therefore, it needs to secure necessary funds to face the cost of its operations at the end of the incubation period (2 years). As also explained in the presentation, the fees are subject to revision each year by the board with Members' endorsement. It is very important for us to make some sacrifice at the beginning to build a sustainable organization. "As soon as we are more financially strong we can look at the way to revise the price" stated the PM. Going into the same direction as the PM, the CEO of RIPE NCC explained that the most important thing now for AfriNIC is to ensure sustainability.

After a long discussion and questions on the fees issues, the chair of the AGM (Dr. Nii Quaynor) asked if it makes sense to endorse the Fees schedule for now and see in the future how to take into account the concerns expressed by the community. A large majority of the meeting agreed to move ahead with those prices as they are. There was one member against (ZANet – William Stucke) and one abstention (Unoforum ZA) represented by one of the Interim board member – Theo Kramer.

10.0 AfriNIC membership process

The community was also updated with the process AfriNIC will use to approve membership and allocate resources. The process is mainly split in 3 steps for Members-only and 6 for LIRs.
For LIRs they are:

1. Completing the AfriNIC Membership Application Form
2. Signing the appropriate Agreement
(RSA - or Membershipp-only)
3. Payment of Fees
4. Evaluation of First Allocation request
5. Approval of first allocation
6. Evaluation of first sub-allocation (Optional)

For Member-only, the process will end after step 3 when the candidate fills and sends the membership form with the Member-only agreement followed by the payment of the associated fee.

11.0 Resolutions from 22nd may board meeting

To close the first part of the AGM and introduce the election of the new board, the chairman of the acting board read the resolutions taken during the last Board Meeting held in Dakar on 22nd May and announced the official dissolution of the Interim Board.

12.0 Board election process

To comply with the new constitution and the board election process previously posted and agreed to be used the project manager proposed a resolution to

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AfriNIC's full members allowing the extension of the voting rights to category of organization indicated in the election process.

The Question was: "Do you agree to extend the voting rights to organizations that are already established as LIRs and those which had expressed their support by a writing letter sent to AfriNIC?."

We got 5/5 YES to that question (only 5 on the 7 full registered AfriNIC members on May 24th 2004 were present in Dakar) meaning that the election process can be followed as it is and the right to vote is extended to:

a - Any organization that formally expresses its support to AfriNIC (No Proxy allowed)
b - Any already established LIR/ISP (reg-ID and Member ID required)
c - Any organization that fills the membership form and pays the membership-only fee before the AGM.

Prior to the AGM , the project Manager and members of the Board election committee presented the election process as proposed and used for the 2004 election.

The election was run to elect representative of the 6 sub-regions in Africa (Northern, western, Central, Eastern, Southern and Indian Ocean). According to the new constitution, board members will be renewed by pair each year to allow continuity. The pairs are determined at the start-up point (2004 AGM) by compiling the number of LIR per sub-region (conf. www.afrinic.net/bylawstexte.htm and

13.0 The election

The election took place after each candidate present at the meeting introduced himself to the community and stated his motivation for running for the board position.

During the presentation period:

• M. Yawo NOAGBODJI candidate from Western Africa sub-region resigned to run for the election and asked the members to vote for Pierre Dandjinou as from his point of view, Pierre better represents what is needed for AfriNIC at this stage.

• M. Pierre Mutumbe Kansangedia candidate from Central Africa and also Interim board member also expressed his willingness not to be considered for the Primary position and asked members to vote for his colleague Didier R. Kasole.

• Kamak Okba candidate for Northern sub-region who was not present asked Rachida Jouari to be his proxy for the election.

32 persons present at the meeting were able to vote by fulfilling one of the voting rights criteria. From them only 30 expressed their vote.

The result after the vote and the ballot counted by the BEC was:

* Northern
Kamal Okba: 24

Moktar Hamidi: 5
One abstention

* Western sub-region
Pierre Dandjinou: 21
Adesola Bickersteth:0
Sunday Folayan: 9
Yawo Noagbodji: Resigned for Pierre Dandjinou

* Southern
Grant Walker: 0
Alan Barrett: 18
Alan Levin: 10
Theo Kramer: 2

* Indian Ocean
Vivi Padayatchy: 19
Kenneth Yiptong: 11

* Central
Didier R. Kasole: 29
Pierre mutumbe: decided to serve as Alternate
One abstention

* Estern
Charle Musisi: 7
Badru Ntege : 6
Brian Longwe : 17

According to these numbers, the new elected board is composed as Follows :

Kamal Okba (N)	Pierre Dandjinou (W)	Alan Barett (S)	Viv Padayatchy (IO)
Moktar Hamidi (N)	Sunday Folayan (W)	Alan Levin (S)	Kenny Yiptong (IO)

Didier R. Kasole (C)	Brian Longwe (E)
Pierre Mutumbe (C)	Charles Musisi (E)

-- Congratulations to the newly elected Board --

After the result of the election was announced to the community by Raul Echeberria (member of the BEC and CEO of LACNIC), the 6 newly elected board members with their alternate were presented to the audience.

14.0 First board meeting

The new elected board had its first meeting just after the election. Two resolutions were taken during the meeting:

001 – The board resolved that, as result of a unanimous agreement of its members, Mr. Pierre Dandjinou from West Africa will chair the board during the duration of its mandate.

002 – The board resolved to appoint Mr. Adiel A. Akplogan as CEO of AfriNIC Ltd. And according to new article of constitution he becomes the 7th member of the Board of Director where he will serve as Secretary.

15.0 End of the AGM and the meeting

Before the closing session chaired by the new chairman of the board, Adiel Akplogan gave a symbolic gift to all the leaving Interim board members with a warm expression of gratitude to Dr. Nii Quaynor, the former chairman of the Board for his hard work and initiative to set up AfriNIC.

The meeting ended at 19:00 with a speech from the chairman of AfriNIC followed by a last word from the Minister of Telecommunication of Senegal, the hosting country.

16.0 Thanks and gratitude

AfriNIC would like to express its full gratitude to the sponsors that made this event a success:

o ISOC Int'l with Afilias
o Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie
o ISOC Senegal the local host

Thank you all for you support and hope to work with you for a long time.

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