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Press Release
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For Immediate Release

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Cybercity, Ebene, Mauritius, 18 October 2012

The African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) today signed letters of agreement to facilitate the deployment of anycast instances of L Root DNS server, operated by ICANN, in the African region. The cooperation includes AFRINIC helping to identify hosts for the installations as well as providing financial and technical support where needed, to the hosts.

This agreement is signed just as the African community, in the new initiative it is taking to ICANN has highlighted regional infrastructure resiliency as one of the main pillars of Internet development in the region.

The letters of agreement were signed by Adiel Akplogan and Fadi Chehadé respectively Chief Executive Officers of AFRINIC and ICANN in Toronto, Canada, where ICANN's 45th public meeting is taking place.

"This agreement comes in at a perfect time here in Toronto when ICANN has unveiled a new initiative to increase presence and participation across our region" said Adiel Akplogan. "Besides policy related discussions and participation, Africa needs to strengthen the resiliency of its Internet Infrastructure in order to attract local contents investments."

"This very important agreement is a further reflection of the hard work of the Africa stakeholders and their spirit of engagement," said Fadi Chehadé, President and Chief Executive Officer of ICANN. "Our commitment to this sort of cooperative effort is framed by the initiative of the Africa Support Working Group, which is aimed at increasing African participation in ICANN."

ICANN, as the operator of the L-Root Server, will work cooperatively with AFRINIC to identify

candidate sites within the region of Africa that meet the criteria for the hosting of anycast instances of the L-Root server operated by ICANN.

As part of AFRINIC's mission, the organisation is committed to promoting Internet development within the region, and has demonstrated commitment to enhancing the stability, reach, strength and response times of the DNS system regionally as well as globally. AFRINIC has currently several projects to accomplish those objectives. Amongst these, the African Root Server Copy Programme (AfRSCP) project aims to increase the number of DNS root servers instances in the African region as well as its own DNS Anycast platform where AFRINIC hosts its own DNS services but also make it available at no cost for ccTLDs in the region.

Notes to Editors

About AFRINIC

The African Network Information Center (AFRINIC) is the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for Africa, responsible for the distribution and management of Internet number resources such as IP addresses throughout the African region.

AFRINIC's mission is to provide professional and efficient distribution of Internet number resources to the African Internet community, to support Internet technology usage and development across the continent and to strengthen Internet self-governance in Africa by encouraging a participatory policy development.

About the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)

Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) are independent, not-for-profit membership organisations that support the infrastructure of the Internet through technical coordination. There are five RIRs in the world today. Currently, the Internet Assigned Numbers Association (IANA) allocates blocks of IP addresses and ASNs, known collectively as Internet number resources, to the RIRs, who then distribute them to their members within their own specific service regions. RIR members include Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telecommunications organisations, large corporations, governments, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders, including end users.

The RIR model of open, transparent participation has proven successful at responding to the rapidly changing Internet environment. Each RIR holds one to two open meetings per year, as well as facilitating online discussion by the community, to allow the open exchange of ideas

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from the technical community, the business sector, civil society, and government regulators.

About the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN

ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. For more information please visit: www.icann.org.

For more information, please visit: www.afrinic.net or contact: **press [at] afrinic.net**

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