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**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR  
SEAT ONE: NORTHERN AFRICA**

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*The candidate information below has been limited to 1500 characters (brief motivation) and 3000 characters (professional background) respectively, as prescribed by the 2025 [Nomination Form](#). Only the information submitted within the above character limits has been published.*

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**Abdelaziz Hilali**



**Brief Motivation**

As an experienced academic and President of the Moroccan Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC Morocco), I have been deeply engaged in Internet governance across Africa for many years. My sustained commitment—both in higher education and in the broader Internet community—has provided me with strategic insight and a deep understanding of critical issues such as IP resource management, digital infrastructure development, and Internet sovereignty on the continent.

Through this candidacy, I seek to contribute meaningfully to AFRINIC's efforts to strengthen transparency, ensure institutional stability, and promote inclusive, community-based governance. I am particularly dedicated to advancing balanced regional representation, with a focus on North Africa, and to ensuring that African technical and institutional voices are fully heard and considered within AFRINIC's processes. I firmly believe that my expertise, experience, and collaborative vision position me to bring significant value to AFRINIC's Board as it continues to pursue its mission of fostering an open, secure, and accessible Internet for all Africans.

**Professional Background**

Professor Aziz Hilali is a respected academic and a long-standing contributor to international Internet governance. He holds a PhD in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from the University of Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France. Over a distinguished 41-year career,



he served as Professor at the National Institute of Telecommunications Engineers in Morocco, holding numerous academic and administrative leadership roles. He also contributed internationally as an Associate Professor at ENSIMAG in Grenoble.

In 1994, he co-founded the Moroccan Internet Society (MISOC), which he currently chairs. Under his leadership, MISOC recognized as the Moroccan Chapter of the Internet Society, and an ICANN At-Large Structure, has promoted digital literacy, Internet adoption, and national and international cooperation on Internet issues.

At the international level, Prof. Hilali has demonstrated strong leadership in Internet governance. He is the current President of the Mediterranean Federation of Internet Associations (FMAI), based in Tunis, and served on the United Nations Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) from 2009 to 2013. He also chaired the MAG of the North Africa IGF (NAIGF) for four years, working to enhance cooperation across the Maghreb and Sahel regions.

His active engagement with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) includes representing Africa on the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). As Chair of AFRALO, he strengthened African perspectives in global Internet policy debates. His leadership extended to organizing major global events such as the ICANN meetings held in Marrakech in 2016 and 2019, underscoring his capacity to coordinate international, multi-stakeholder initiatives.

Prof. Hilali is deeply engaged in AFRINIC's ecosystem, where he has actively participated in policy discussions advocating for inclusive, transparent, and community-driven management of IP resources. His dedication to public service, combined with his extensive experience and pan-African network, positions him as an ideal candidate to serve on AFRINIC's Board. He brings with him a trusted reputation, deep technical and policy expertise, and a strategic vision to advance AFRINIC's mission, while representing the interests of North Africa and the broader African Internet community.

## Hamza Bourougaa



### Brief Motivation

Hamza Bourougaa is a dynamic business development strategist and ecosystem builders with a proven track record of driving growth in emerging markets. Passionate about fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, he thrives on connecting startups, SMEs, and investors to create scalable opportunities. With expertise in ecosystem mapping, strategic partnerships, and cross-functional leadership, Hamza is driven by the challenge of unlocking potential in high-growth sectors from B2B commerce to impact-driven ventures. His ability to identify market gaps, mentor teams, and execute data-driven strategies stems from a deep commitment to include economic development. Hamza seeks to leverage his multicultural experience (Tunisia, Romania, and pan-African market) and fluency in Arabic, French, and English to bridge gaps between local talent and global opportunities, ensuring sustainable impact.

### Professional Background

Hamza Bourougaa is a Venture Ecosystem Expert and Business Development Leader with six years of experience catalyzing growth across Tunisia and Africa. As Business Development Consultant at Sokadi, he identifies high-potential market opportunities and converts leads into actionable partnerships, driving a 10% client acquisition rate. Previously, as Country Manager for IE4Impact Foundation, he spearheaded initiatives like Qawafel, linking Tunisian SMEs to Kenyan markets, while strengthening ties with incubators and policymakers to foster entrepreneurial ecosystems.

His tenure as Sales Manager at Chari saw him lead an eight-member team to exceed B2B grocery sales targets and expand financial inclusion in underserved regions. Earlier, as Sales & Operations Supervisor at Kamioun, he optimized supply chains by forging strategic logistics partnerships. Hamza also launched BOLT's operations in Sousse, scaling driver networks and enhancing service delivery through stakeholder engagement.

## **Houda Chihi**



### Brief Motivation

I am active in internet governance and I am ICANN & IETF fellow, IPv6 North Africa Cybersecurity Coordinator.

### Professional Background

I am a PhD in Telecom, senior researcher at InnovCOM Lab of SupCOM Tunisia, techwomen fellow 2019 hosted at Qualcomm California, Eugen Ionescu postdoc fellow 2021 hosted at polytechnic university of Bucharest, chief engineer at Tunisia Telecom, IPv6 Cybersecurity coordinator of North Africa, ICANN & IETF Fellow.

## **Karl Ulrich Stanzick**



### Brief Motivation

My motivation for this position is to contribute to the advancement of the Internet in Africa, to which my 30-year career has been dedicated. I have witnessed the struggles that Afrinic has endured over the years as well as benefitted from its services and training programs and would like to be a part of the solution. I work well with others and am passionate about technology, Africa, and civil society.

### Professional Background

After studying Microbiology at the University of California Santa Barbara I joined the United States Peace Corps and worked in central Benin on the Guinea Work eradication program supported by Carter's Global 2000 and UNICEF in the Republic of Benin. After completing this work, I joined MTDS in Morocco to create the first private Internet Service Provider on the continent. Financed by the US Agency for International Development, MTDS, now lead by Karl, went on to establish the first Internet connections in Benin, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mozambique, Guinea, Malawi, Eritrea, in very close partnerships between the historical operators and new independent ISPs. I have also worked on Internet development and telecom policy in Haiti, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Niger. Today, Karl leads MTDS in their ISP, Cybersecurity, and Cloud Services activities.