

ICANN68 Readout Report by ISOCUg

On Saturday, 25th July 2020, the Internet Society Uganda Chapter hosted the ICANN68 webinar online. The community got an opportunity to learn and deliberate on some of the topics discussed at the ICANN68 policy forum which was virtually held on 22-25 June 2020. Below is the summary for the discussion.

Gloria Katuuku who sits on the Governmental Advisory Committee(GAC) gave highlights of what transpired during the ICANN68 policy forum. The forum had four aspects the Inter-Constituency Activities and Community Engagement with GAC ,Internal matters within GAC which covered discussions that they have been discussing throughout the years like the public safety working groups and the underserved regional working groups where they address most of the challenges we as countries go through, Cross Community discussions between GAC and various communities where discussions focused on DNS abuse and the malicious registration rates during the COVID19 etc. She also highlighted some of the discussions GAC held with the board of ICANN where they looked at DNA abuse mitigation and related issues, subsequent round of New gTLDs etc.

Lillian Kamara shared her experiences with the ICANN68 Fellowship she attended as an ICANN fellow. She briefly highlighted about the benefits of the fellowships and how to get involved. About the ICANN68, she specifically talked about the fellows' role play session about the trademark claims notice where fellow's were given a chance to bring on table ideas about the recommended measures by the rights mechanism working group. She briefly highlighted the recommendations the rights mechanism working group had tabled which included to have this notice to be written in English, then provide a link to the site where one can access translations within the only official six UN languages. Lillian further explained that the fellow's focused mainly on the issue of Language where they recommended to the rights working group that more languages should be added cause many people speak different languages across the globe and different people as well register for the domain names. She also pointed out that they gave recommendation about the technicality of the language that it needs to be more user friendly so that a person without background of domains names can be able to register.

Sarah Kiden who sits at the At-large Advisory Committee(ALAC) highlighted what transpired during the ICAAN68 Forum and how Internet Society fits into the ICANN structure. She further explained that the At-Large Advisory Committee represents the interests of the internet users like me and you and all policy advices they give focus on the end user perspective. About the ICANN68 she highlighted what transpired during the Joint Africa Regional at large organization (AFRALO) where like any other ICANN meeting they issue a statement with the ICANN board or any other constituencies they are addressing to and in this case they focused on the enhancing the resilience of ICANN community in case of calamities and focus was put on the COVID19 Pandemic how it has affected members engaging into the ICANN activities like the cost of access etc.

Moses Serugo who is a co-chair at the Regional Internet Registry for Africa (AFRINIC) and also a member of ISOC Uganda chapter explained how AFRINIC works and how it also feeds into ICANN through policies related to IP addresses and autonomous system Internet numbers. He further explained that at ICANN there are Support organizations and AFRINIC falls under the Address Support Organisation. He pointed out that there are five Registries across the globe and their work is to assign these numbers to different local internet registries like telecommunications companies. He further explained that each Registry gets to vote three people that come to represent at ICANN and they form the Address Support Organisation.

Mutegeki Cliff Agaba is a committee member at the Internet Society Uganda Chapter and also serves in the Universal Acceptance Steering group with the Communications Working group. He highlighted what was discussed in the ICANN68 Session about Universal Acceptance and further emphasized the need to raise awareness around the topic of Universal Acceptance. This included among others, organising trainings in the commitment to learn how to fix the problem, encouraging fixing the UA problems in the systems and sharing experiences within the community on how to be UA Ready.

The event attracted a total number of 29 attendances and was moderated by Lillian Nalwoga, President Internet Society Uganda Chapter who encouraged new members to join Internet Society Uganda. She encouraged members to join the ICAAN At-Large Advisory committee and also to plug themselves into ICANN fellowships and conversations that how they will be about to understand more of what ICANN is all about.