



ATU MAURITIUS “FORUM ON CCTLDS” WORKSHOP 2009

INTRODUCTION

The GM attended a workshop of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) themed “Forum on ccTLDs for Policy makers, Regulators and Operators”.

The workshop was well-attended as the audience comprised of senior government leaders, African Union, ITU, telecom companies and African ccTLDs. It was also blessed with the presence of the ICANN CEO, Paul Twomey, and some senior ICANN employees.

The agenda was impressive as it covered basic ccTLD issues in good detail, and allowed for discussions where necessary.

The event was opened by keynote speeches by the ATU Secretary-General, Mauritian Minister of ICTs, and the ICANN CEO.

KEY TOPICS

Overview of African ccTLDs

Presentations were made here by ICANN, AfTLD and ITU on the state of African ccTLDs. It was clear from the presentations that certain African ccTLDs needed support of governments and local communities, while a few were still undergoing a process of re-delegation.

This was later followed by a panel discussion of the role of ccTLDs in local communities. The GM was part of the panel. The overall view from this discussion was that ccTLDs were best managed by non-profit organizations that were government supported but not controlled.

ccTLD Operational Models

The GM was part of the presenters and his presentation looked at the evolution of the registry-registrar model. Other presenters included Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Kenya ccTLDs.

Multi-stakeholder Approach in Building ccTLDs

This discussion was about sharing experiences in using a multi-stakeholder approach in developing ccTLDs. Both .ke and .za presented their own experiences, while ISOC made its own observations about what constitutes a successful multi-stakeholder approach.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The participants closed the event with a non-binding declaration prepared to list the recommendations made by the participants.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The ATU ccTLD workshop was really useful as it gave government and regulators a detailed view of what the role of ccTLDs was and what kind of support was needed to make African ccTLDs both functional and competitive.

The overall organization of the event was impressive, as the ATU Secretariat handled both the logistics and discussion facilitation very well.

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23 March 2009*