**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR
SEATS SEVEN AND EIGHT: REGION-INDEPENDENT**

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.

The nationality and country of residence of each candidate has also been published.

Abdul-Majeed Iddrisu

Nationality: Ghanian

Country of residence: Ghana

Brief Motivation

I am motivated to serve on the AFRINIC Board to contribute to the sustainable growth and governance of Africa's Internet infrastructure. With a strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and community-driven development, I aim to support AFRINIC's mission of ensuring fair resource allocation and promoting technical capacity across the region. I believe my experience in ICT governance will enable me to effectively represent stakeholders and strengthen AFRINIC's role in advancing a robust, inclusive, and resilient Internet ecosystem in Africa.

Professional Background

Dr. Abdul-Majeed Iddrisu is a seasoned telecommunications regulator, ICT strategist, and business development leader with over 17 years of progressive experience spanning regulatory operations, digital transformation, academia, and private sector leadership. Currently serving as the Director of Regional Operations at the National Communications Authority (NCA) of Ghana, he oversees the nationwide execution of regulatory frameworks

and ensures consistent compliance with telecommunications standards across all regions of the country.

Dr. Iddrisu brings to this role a rare multidisciplinary background that combines public policy execution, IT governance, strategic sales management, and instructional leadership. His diverse experience enables him to bridge the gap between technical innovation and regulatory integrity, ensuring that policy decisions are grounded in operational realities and responsive to emerging trends in ICT and telecommunications.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Iddrisu served as Director of Information Technology at the NCA, where he led the Authority's digital transformation initiatives, including enterprise ICT policy development, infrastructure modernization, cloud adoption, cybersecurity implementation, and business continuity planning. Under his leadership, the Authority transitioned to next-generation platforms, expanded its data center capabilities, and implemented agile service delivery models aligned with Ghana's national digital agenda.

Dr. Iddrisu also previously served as Deputy Director of IT, where he played a vital role in the strategic development of digital infrastructure and oversaw the rollout of secure and scalable IT systems to support the Authority's regulatory functions. He championed the adoption of innovative technologies, improved the efficiency of internal operations, and provided expert guidance in areas including cybersecurity, IT policy, and system integration.

As Head of Monitoring and Compliance, he led nationwide teams in the implementation of quality-of-service (QoS) drive tests, compliance inspections, and infrastructure data collection—strengthening regulatory oversight and transparency in Ghana's telecom sector.

Beyond regulatory and IT leadership, Dr. Iddrisu has rich experience in academia and the private sector. He previously served as a Lecturer at the University of Professional Studies, Accra, and the University of Cape Coast, where he taught Marketing Strategy, Digital Innovation, and Consumer Behavior. His academic contributions focused on integrating industry insights into pedagogy and cultivating critical thinking among future professionals.

Dr. Iddrisu's commercial experience includes key leadership roles in the telecommunications industry across Ghana, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. As Director of Business Development, Sales, and Distribution for Expresso Telecom, he led regional market expansion efforts and implemented strategic distribution models that increased profitability and market share. He also held senior roles at Airtel Ghana and Zain, where he designed rural distribution strategies, optimized sales channels, and developed scalable go-to-market frameworks that significantly improved regional sales performance.

He has served in strategic consultancy roles, including a Route-to-Market Consultant for Capital Bank Group, where he developed and executed a national distribution strategy for new FMCG brands, and as Head of Business Development (Consultancy) for Zain Sierra Leone, where he led a successful national market transformation and revenue growth initiative.

Dr. Iddrisu holds a Doctor of Management from SMC University, Switzerland, and multiple advanced degrees, including an LLB (Mountcrest University College), MA in International Business Strategy (KNUST), and BSc in Marketing (University of Professional Studies, Accra).

Adewole David Ajao

Nationality: Nigerian

Country of residence: Nigeria

Brief Motivation

I write to express my strong motivation to serve on the Board of Directors of AFRINIC. My extensive experience in the Internet ecosystem, coupled with a deep understanding of AFRINIC's critical role in the continent's digital transformation, positions me to contribute significantly to its governance and strategic direction.

For over 20 years, I've helped shape the Internet landscape through technical operations, policy development, community building, and strategic leadership. My previous contributions (some in mail and video archives) highlight my dedication to an open, stable, and accessible African internet while respecting our diversity of cultures and backgrounds.

I envision AFRINIC as:

Strengthened in Governance: Promoting and demonstrating transparency, accountability, and operational excellence.

Community-Engaged: Proactively reaching out to and serving the needs of its diverse membership base across all African sub-regions.

A Global Voice: Effectively representing African Internet interests globally

An Innovation Catalyst: Supporting technological advancement and digital inclusion.

My commitment is to leverage my skills, experience, and passion to work collaboratively with fellow board members, AFRINIC staff, and the wider community to achieve these. I am confident in my ability to contribute to the robust governance and strategic advancement of AFRINIC, ensuring it remains a pivotal organization for Africa's digital future.

Professional Background

Adewole Ajao is a seasoned ICT professional with over 17 years' hands-on experience spanning Internet services, cybersecurity, infrastructure development, policy advocacy, and executive management. A graduate of Computer Science from the University of Ibadan and a

holder of an Advanced Computer Security Certificate from Stanford University, Dewole has established a career at the intersection of technology, business, and policy.

He currently serves as a Strategic Negotiator at Google, where he leads network infrastructure infrastructure acquisition projects—including leased fibre, colocation, and cable landing stations across Sub-Saharan Africa as well as manages Peering and Cache acquisition for all of Africa. He is a key contributor to peering policy and network interconnection strategy.

Dewole's career includes leadership roles such as Vice President of Business Services at Suburban Fiber Company and Chief Operating Officer at the Bandwidth Consortium. He has successfully managed network deployments, optimized ISP operations, implemented national-scale strategies, and led major negotiations that enhanced network reach and performance.

As Managing Partner of Tinitop Technologies, he has advised enterprise clients and telecom operators on cost-effective, custom-built solutions, and has designed and delivered digital skills training programs targeted at youth empowerment.

A passionate advocate for open Internet access and inclusive digital development, Dewole has held volunteer positions such as Co-Chair of the AFRINIC Policy Development Working Group, President of the Internet Society Nigeria Chapter, Trainer and Head of External Relations for the Nigerian Network Operators Group (ngNOG). Through these roles, he has contributed significantly to regional Internet policy, network development, and cross-sector capacity building.

With deep technical roots, business management and strategic insight, he combines field expertise with a visionary approach to advancing connectivity and digital equity across Africa.

Strong points:

● Internet Governance & Policy: Active in national, regional, and global internet governance, understands multi-stakeholder models and transparent policy development which are core to AFRINIC's mandate.

● African ICT Sector Experience: Pan-African career provides practical understanding of the diverse needs of AFRINIC's members, having worked with network operators, governments, civil society, and academia.

● Proven Leadership & Strategic Vision: Has a track record of leading teams, developing impactful strategies, and adapting to the evolving digital environment, crucial for guiding AFRINIC.

● Community & Capacity Building: Has actively contributed to initiatives strengthening Africa's Internet ecosystem and empowering local talent.

● Advocacy for Digital Transformation: Passionate about the Internet's role in Africa's socio-economic development and eager to support AFRINIC's efficient management of vital internet number resources.

Ben Roberts

Nationality: British

Country of residence: Kenya

Brief Motivation

Ben Roberts is well recognized for over 25 years of transformative leadership in building Africa's digital infrastructure. As Group CTIO of Liquid Intelligent Technologies, he architected Africa's largest terrestrial fiber network spanning 110,000km across 17 countries. His deep technical expertise, combined with proven governance experience across multiple African subsidiaries and international partnerships, positions him uniquely to guide AfriNIC 's strategic direction. Ben's commitment to Africa's digital transformation, extensive work in technical communities, and leadership in developing local talent make him an ideal advocate for African interests in Internet governance. His work connecting African networks, fostering innovation ecosystems, and driving policy development demonstrates the vision and expertise needed to ensure AfriNIC serves Africa's growing digital economy effectively. Now working as a consultant and startup advisor and investor, Ben has no vested commercial interests in the current and future predicament of AfriNIC, and he wishes to be a part of a fresh set of leaders to turn around AfriNIC to resume its place as a key pillar of Africa's Digital Future.

Professional Background

Ben Roberts is a pan Africanist, settled in Kenya, and a distinguished technology leader with 25+ years driving Africa's digital transformation. As Group Chief Technology & Innovation at Liquid Intelligent Technologies Group, he built Africa's largest Pan-African IP network backbone (110,000km+ fiber), spanning Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, and South Africa, and other African nations.

Key Achievements:

Network Infrastructure: Led strategy and implementation of Africa's most extensive terrestrial fiber network, establishing Liquid as one of the top 50 global IP backbone networks.

Internet Exchanges: Has been a long-standing member of the ISPA INX Working group and later the INX-ZA management board in South Africa to create Africa's largest multi site data centre neutral Intrenet Exchanges.

Satellite Services: Transformed a satellite business from bandwidth resale to becoming one of Africa's largest VSAT suppliers, implementing the global-first DVB-S2 shared trunking system, and now a globally cited industry observer of LEO Technologies and their impact in Africa.

International Connectivity: Established deep partnerships with global networks and major cloud providers, creating one of Africa's most connected and well-peered IP networks.

Innovation Leadership: Built Liquid's cloud business, led African tech innovation initiatives, and mentored numerous African startups.

Policy and National Initiatives: Has been member of the Digital Economy Strategy Task force and chaired a working group of the Kenya ICT Policy Task Force for the Government of Kenya, representing the Kenyan private sector as ICT Sector chair of KEPSA

Governance Experience:

- Board Chairman: Liquid Telecommunications Kenya Ltd (2013-2024)
- Board Chairman: East Africa Data Centre Ltd (2013-2024)
- Board Director: TEAMS (East African Marine Systems)
- Board Director: WIOCC (West Indian Ocean Cable Company)
- Board Director: Zanlink Ltd (Zanzibar)
- Board Director: Raha Liquid Telecom Ltd (Tanzania)
- Board Chair: Young Scientists Kenya Ltd (2023 to date) – an NGO in Kenya
- Chair: ICT Sector Board, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) (2021 to date)
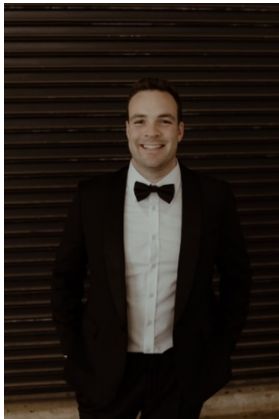
Technical Community Leadership:

- Active in Africa Peering Forum, ISOC, IETF, ITU. Recognized thought leader in African ICT infrastructure development
- Education: BSc Physics (2.1 Honours), University of Bristol

Ben's unique combination of technical expertise, governance experience, neutrality and commitment to African digital development makes him exceptionally qualified to represent a region independent seat Africa on AfrINIC's Board, ensuring all of African interests are well-served in Internet resource allocation and policy development.

Carl Fayolle

Nationality: South African

Country of residence: South Africa

Brief Motivation

I am committed to advancing AFRINIC's mission of managing Internet resources in Africa and promoting an inclusive Internet. With over a decade of experience, from securing Web sQuad's ASN to establishing WECOM's carrier network, I understand AFRINIC's vital role in driving innovation and connectivity.

I will foster operational excellence by automating workflows, applying lean governance, and optimizing vendor contracts to ensure sustainable finances. Drawing on extensive contractual experience, I aim to enhance legal governance to protect AFRINIC's sovereignty. As a region-independent candidate, I will engage deeply with diverse members, support capacity building in IPv6, RPKI, and DNSSEC, and promote inclusivity for women, youth, and rural communities. I will lead technical initiatives like RPKI adoption, IPv6 deployment, and innovative projects such as segment routing and encrypted DNS.

Ensuring transparent governance, I advocate for measurable KPIs, conflict-of-interest safeguards, and collaborative decision-making. I envision AFRINIC as a catalyst for Africa's digital growth through partnerships with other RIRs, community-driven grants, and equitable fee structures. Committed to service, I will leverage my entrepreneurial resilience, negotiation skills, and technical expertise to guide AFRINIC towards operational and strategic excellence, fostering a more inclusive, innovative, and resilient Internet across Africa.

Professional Background

Starting in 2011 during my studies at Wits University, I launched my entrepreneurial journey by founding Web sQuad, which initially offered web development, IT solutions, and basic hosting services. I managed the entire business, negotiating contracts, establishing technical infrastructure with open-source tools, and growing our client base to 25 small enterprises by 2012. By 2015, Web sQuad's revenue surpassed R10 million, prompting expansion into broadband and fibre markets. I secured AFRINIC membership for Web sQuad (AS 328137) and built a metropolitan fibre broadband network using sophisticated network architecture with Arista switches, BGP peering, and VXLAN overlays. I negotiated access agreements,

structured wholesale contracts, and implemented monitoring systems, which elevated our revenue to R25 million with diverse clients.

In 2016, leveraging Web sQuad's success, I co-founded WECOM Holdings, focusing on carriergrade services for ISPs and enterprises. As CEO, I led strategic infrastructure investments, deploying a multi-region backbone across South Africa via dark fibre and wavelengths, negotiating carrier links up to 100 Gbps. I handled all commercial decisions, drafting agreements and establishing multi-year, competitive contracts, fueling rapid revenue growth to R70 million annually by 2024 while maintaining profitability. WECOM offered IPv4/IPv6 transit, BGP EVPN, colocation, interconnects, and tiered pricing, catering to over 70 African and international networks. My technical expertise spans BGP automation, peering, VXLAN EVPN fabric design, and hardware proficiency across Arista EOS, Cisco, MikroTik, and Juniper. I've automated BGP peering workflows, designed resilient Layer 2/3 fabrics, and optimized hardware deployment.

Since 2015, I've actively contributed to Africa's Internet development through AFRINIC, ZANOG, and regional collaborations. I've presented on peering automation, IPv6, and security practices, mentored emerging ISPs, and promoted regional infrastructure projects like East London's data hub. I've collaborated with operators in Mauritius and Namibia on fibre initiatives and contributed to policy discussions on cybersecurity and broadband access to support economic inclusion.

My leadership philosophy combines startup agility with disciplined governance. I prioritize lean resource management, data-driven decision-making, and fostering a collaborative, customer focused team culture. I implement transparent financial controls and conflict-of-interest policies to build trust.

Currently, I am expanding WECOM's footprint through IX developments in Africa, exploring segment routing for traffic engineering, and remaining an active, hands-on leader committed to strengthening Africa's digital infrastructure. My goal is to empower the continent with resilient, accessible, and secure networks, fostering regional growth and innovation.

Mark Elkins

Nationality: British

Country of residence: South Africa

Brief Motivation

I was one of the initial supporters (founding member) of the establishment of AFRINIC.

Before joining the Board, I introduced the IPv6 /48 policy (Nov 2006). I have also done many presentations at AfriNIC meetings. I have been to almost every AFRINIC meeting (or remotely connected). AFRINIC and its well-being is in my blood. I joined the Board of AFRINIC for 6 years from June 2009. In those 6 years, I was on occasion part of the ASO-AC/NRO/NC, was the sole representative of AFRINIC at an occasional RIR meeting (saving staff expenses), head of NOMCOM, Vice Chairperson – etc... duty bound.

After a mandatory break, I re-won the Southern African seat but, perhaps unfortunately, resigned after threats of being sued (twice) and the Board seemingly not caring over the situation of Mr Lu Heng. This did though stop certain other connected-to-Heng individuals from gaining that seat.

I have been greatly angered by what has happened since and intend to help fix these issues for Africa (hence the non-Geo seat). I do have a continental rather than a regional outlook, please look at my work on the African DNS Study. I also represent Africa on the ICANN DNSSEC & Security workshop planning committee.

I want to see AFRINIC protected from any future abuse.

Professional Background

Mark was born and educated in the UK. He attended Queen Mary College (London University) from 1979 to 1982. From that very first day at university (as "mje") – Mark has been working on Unix based computer systems. He moved to South Africa in 1983.

After twelve years at Olivetti Systems and Networks (Unix Support), he started his own company (Posix Systems – an Internet Service Provider) and has been involved in Computer Communications since 1984 (UUCP, TCP/IP).

He acquired the administered of the "CO.ZA" Domain name administration system on behalf of UniForum S.A. from 1995. He then automated it – the majority of this code still runs today, though now as the Legacy system. Today, the CO.ZA Domain has well over a million Domain Names and is by far the largest Domain in Africa.

Noteworthy Achievements include

• CCIE (Cisco Engineer) No.1992, 6 June 1996
• CEO of Posix Systems (AfriNIC LIR, Registrar, Registry operator)– 1996 onwards
• Running IPv6 at Posix Systems since January 2007
• DNSSEC at Posix Systems since 2010
• Director of /usr/group/sa --> UniForum SA --> ZACR (Member No. 1)
• Director of COZA Cares
• Director of DNS (Domain Name Services)
• Member of the IoD (Institution of Directors) – 2011
• Chair Person of the South African (DoC) IPv6 Task force committee
• Manages the EDU.ZA and the ALT.ZA SLD Registries – with DNSSEC (with a CDS Collector) and IDN.
• Board member of AFRINIC (2009 for 6 years) including ASO-AC, NOMCOM & Vice Chair
• ICANN DNSSEC & Security Program Committee Member for Africa
• DNS & DNSSEC Trainer for the ZARC (South Africa Registry Consortium)
• ICANN UA Ambassador (Universal Acceptance)
• Part of the ICANN "DNS Study for Africa (2016 & 2023)" working group.

Personal words

Worked on the CO.ZA Administration system – which I wrote (fully automated) back in 1995. IPv6 was added in 2007, ahead of the crowd. Within the UniForum organisation, we have travelled to and attended multiple ICANN and AFRINIC meetings and participated in various events, workshops – often giving presentations on Domain Name Systems.

I became involved with the creation of AFRINIC and spent six years as a Board Member. This has allowed me to gain even greater incite into the Internet Business around Africa. I have been involved in numerous AFRINIC Policies and understand the policy process including the global policy development process. I hold much institutional memory of AFRINIC.

I have also been involved with the African ccTLD organisation (AFTLD) and the African DNS Forum, often giving presentations. I have travelled much of Africa and consider many of those who operate both ISP's and ccTLD on the continent as friends. I know that many have taken my council to make the DNS and Internet business in Africa better for Africans. I'm also involved in four of the new gTLD's, the three South African city names and dotAfrica.

My hobbies include SCUBA Diving and am a NAUI Dive Instructor – I like to teach and pass on knowledge.

Michiel Jacobus Bester

Nationality: South African

Country of residence: South Africa

Brief Motivation

Michiel Bester is a highly skilled network engineer and systems administrator with over a decade of experience in designing, implementing, and managing robust IT infrastructure. His deep technical expertise in Linux systems, virtualization, and network security, combined with his leadership in operational management, positions him as a valuable asset for AFRINIC's mission. Michiel is passionate about advancing Africa's digital landscape through innovative and secure network solutions. His hands-on experience in both corporate and consulting roles demonstrates his ability to adapt to diverse technical challenges and drive operational excellence. Fluent in English and Afrikaans, Michiel excels in cross-cultural collaboration. His motivation stems from a commitment to leveraging his technical acumen to enhance internet infrastructure, promote digital inclusion, and support the sustainable growth of Africa's technological ecosystem.

Professional Background

Michiel Bester is a seasoned network engineer and systems administrator with extensive experience in IT infrastructure and network management. Currently self-employed as a Contracted Network Engineer & Systems Administrator, he specializes in Linux systems, virtualization, and advanced network solutions, providing tailored services to clients across South Africa.

From 2016 to 2022, Michie! served as Network Engineer and Operations & Network Manager at Orea Technologies, where he led the engineering team, designed core ISP infrastructure, and ensured network performance and security. His role included overseeing customer onboarding, NOC support, and implementing scalable systems. Earlier, as a Network & Support Technician at BFound, he provided technical support and maintained internal systems, honing his troubleshooting and customer service skills.

Michiel's career began in software development and IT education. As a Junior Developer at W.H. Boshoff Meterleesdienste, he contributed to internal projects and system testing. Later,

as an IT Facilitator at The Water Academy, he taught foundational IT skills, including networking basics and digital literacy, to government employees and trainees.

Educationally, Michie! holds qualifications in Information Systems Engineering from CTI Education Group, with coursework in Linux administration, networking, and programming. His technical skills span Linux deployment, virtualization (Proxmox, Salus VM}, networking (MikroTik, Ubiquiti}, and system security. Fluent in English and Afrikaans, Michie! combines technical prowess with leadership, making him a strong advocate for Africa's digital advancement.

Olawale Olaniyi Owoeye

Nationality: Nigerian

Country of residence: Nigeria

<u>Brief Motivation</u>

As a dedicated professional in the African internet community, I'm motivated to run for the AFRINIC board because I believe in the importance of diverse representation, technical expertise, and collaborative leadership. With about twenty-five years of experience in telecommunications and technology industry from an employment and investment perspective, from small startups to mid-size players and multinationals, from the operators and equipment vendors positions, I've developed a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our region's internet ecosystem.

I'm passionate about contributing to the growth and development of the internet in Africa, ensuring that our region's unique needs and perspectives are represented at the highest levels. By working together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive internet ecosystem that benefits everyone.

Firsthand, I have witnessed the change in fortunes – economically, socially, physically as villages and communities are connected to networks as a roll-out engineer so many years ago. My participation in the National Executive Committee for Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria has given me a closer perspective to the benefits of enagaging Governments, Private Companies and Society at large in policy, advocacy and impact on common good.

Lastly, as a Board Member of private firms and NGOs, I appreciate the importance of eQective boards in assisting Chief Executives and Management in achieving long-term sustainable growth and lasting success.

My vision for AFRINIC includes:

- Promoting internet development: Supporting initiatives that expand internet access, aQordability, and quality across Africa.

- Fostering collaboration: Encouraging partnerships between stakeholders, including governments, private sector companies, civil society, and individual users.
- Empowering local communities: Ensuring that African voices are heard and valued in global internet governance discussions.

I'm committed to listening to the concerns of AFRINIC's members and stakeholders, and to working tirelessly to advance the interests of the African internet community. Let's build a brighter future for the internet in Africa, together!

<u>Professional Background</u>

Olawale Owoeye is a purveyor of ideas, innovative solutions bolstered by faith and strong values. He is the Co-founder and Managing Director of Cedarview Communications Limited as well as Ciudad Infrastructure Limited, bringing over 25 years of extensive experience in the telecommunications and technology industry. He holds a B.Sc. in Electronic & Electrical Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, and an MBA from the University of Manchester, UK.

He has attended several leadership, engineering, technology and entrepreneurial courses and is a member of the prestigious Harvard Business Review Advisory Council. He was named amongst the Top 100 ICT Visionaries in Nigeria by ATCON in 2024, and Top 50 Most Valuable Personalities in Nigeria's Digital Economy for 2024 and 2025 by KnowHow Media.

Over the course of his career, Olawale has held senior leadership roles at global telecom firms including Ericsson, Huawei, MTN, Gilat and Airtel. His areas of expertise include field support, transmission, core network design and operations, project management, and strategic business analysis. These experiences have empowered him to lead high-impact projects, drive innovation and sustainable growth.

Under his leadership, Cedarview Communications has emerged as a key player in Nigeria's telecommunications sector with a focus on Connectivity, Communications and Cloud Solutions. The company provides high-speed, reliable connectivity to enterprises and underserved communities, helping to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive digital access using innovative business models and strong collaborations within the ecosystem. The organization repeatedly wins awards in the segments she operates in and earns the loyalty and patronage of an ever-increasing customer base.

Beyond his executive role, Olawale is a passionate educator, mentor, and advocate for change, with over 15 years of experience in business training and human capacity development. He has led numerous skills-building programs, career development initiatives, family life and entrepreneurship mentoring efforts, while contributing to university projects, community interventions, NYSC initiatives, and broader industry transformation.

He currently serves as National Secretary of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), where he actively supports policy advocacy, innovation, and sector growth. He serves as Vice-President, Youth and Family Life for Messiah Arena Global Mission Development Fellowship.

A thought leader committed to excellence, innovation, and digital inclusion, Olawale continues to drive Cedarview's mission to deliver transformative digital infrastructure that empowers lives, businesses, and communities across Nigeria and beyond.

Ousseynou Ndiaye

Nationality: Senagalese

Country of residence: UAE

Brief Motivation

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the AFRINIC Board of Directors. As someone deeply passionate about the sustainable and inclusive development of Internet infrastructure across Africa, I am motivated by a genuine desire to make a positive impact in our region.

My commitment to this cause is firmly rooted in principles of transparency, good governance, and community-driven policy, which I believe are the essential pillars for empowering the African Internet ecosystem.

With a robust professional background in ICT policy and regulation.

With more than 15 years' experience in senior roles overseeing economic and technical regulation, I offer strategic insight and expertise. These experiences equip me with the tools to champion AFRINIC's mission effectively. I am dedicated to maintaining high levels of accountability and advocating for the fair distribution of resources, all to ensure that our continent's digital landscape continues to thrive and flourish.

One of my core passions is fostering regional collaboration. I firmly believe that by working together, we can enhance capacity building and ensure that AFRINIC remains resilient, efficient, and community focused. Collaboration is key, especially as we navigate the rapid evolution of the digital world.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to AFRINIC's continued success and the growth of the African Internet ecosystem

Professional Background

1. Qualifications
   - Master in mathematics and computer sciences
   - Postgraduate Diploma in Applied mathematics and Computer Sciences: Statistics and Stochastic Models

- Master in financial mathematics: Financial markets and stocks
- Master in Telecom Management: Economic Regulation and Competition

- World Bank Certificate in Cost modeling
- ITU Certificate in Pricing and Cost Model
- MBA in Telecom Management
- Certificate in Competition
- PHD in Economics: ongoing

2. Experience
- Research engineer in Electricity de France: 2 years
- Economic Regulation Manager in Orange: 3 years
- Joined Airtel in 2008: 17 years now
- Currently Vice President for Economic and Technical regulation

3. Special skills/areas of expertise/Area of focus
- Management/Governance
- Data analytics, Data Mining
- Finance
- Accounting
- Spectrum: Management and valuation
- License: management and valuation
- QoS Management
- Pricing
- Network
- Cost models
- Competition analysis and strategy
- Interconnection

The Internet Numbers Registry for Africa

Petrus Phillipus Willemse

Nationality: South African

Country of residence: South Africa

Brief Motivation

Philip Willemse is a driven IT professional fueled by a passion for solving complex technical challenges and optimizing systems for peak performance. With over 15 years of hands-on experience in network management, infrastructure development, and strategic IT leadership, he thrives in dynamic environments where innovation meets real-world application. His career reflects a relentless commitment to efficiency whether streamlining ISP operations, implementing cost- saving initiatives, or designing AI-integrated platforms like RumiStim to bridge technology gaps for end-users.

Philip's motivation stems from a belief that technology should empower businesses and communities. At BeBroadband, he championed free Wi-Fi hotspot solutions for low-income areas, demonstrating his dedication to inclusive digital access. As a lifelong learner, he stays ahead of industry trends, holding certifications in Fortinet, Microsoft, and AWS, while actively sharing insights as a speaker at events like the Smart Cities Africa Summit. He seeks opportunities to leverage his technical expertise and leadership acumen to deliver scalable, secure, and future- ready solutions.

Professional Background

Philip Willemse is a highly skilled IT Systems and Network Management professional with over 15 years of experience in designing, implementing, and optimizing IT infrastructure for ISPs, enterprises, and startups across South Africa. Currently serving as Systems Manager at iTeam, he spearheads the integration of WHMCS for unified helpdesk and accounting systems, deploys Zabbix NMS for proactive network monitoring, and reconfigures nationwide core networks to ensure seamless failover across key regions. Previously, as CTO of BeBroadband, he led strategic IT initiatives, achieving significant cost savings through optimized network operations and implementing innovative solutions like hotspot voucher systems for low-income communities. His tenure as Senior Infrastructure Engineer at SAi (Seacom KZN) and Technical Director at Ntech Dynamics further solidified his expertise in

aligning IT systems with business goals, developing market-driven products, and managing high-profile client relationships.

Philip's technical prowess spans MikroTik routing, VMware/Hyper-V virtualization, AWS cloud management, and firewall configuration, complemented by certifications in Fortinet and Microsoft (MCITP). He excels in project leadership, having developed custom solutions like KiwiRail's Business Process Management System and the AI-driven RumiStim A1 platform integrated with WhatsApp and Telegram. A proactive problem-solver, Philip is adept at fostering client and vendor relationships while driving operational efficiency. His passion for innovation extends to public speaking, including a keynote at the Smart Cities Africa Summit on balancing technology with security.

![AFRINIC logo - The Internet Numbers Registry for Africa]

Philani Mncedisi Hlengwa

Nationality: South African

Country of residence: South Africa

<u>Brief Motivation</u>

Philani Mneedisi Hlengwa is a detail-oriented and highly motivated IT professional with a strong foundation in systems administration, network support, and business analysis. His career is driven by a passion for leveraging technology to solve real-world problems and improve operational efficiency. With a blend of technical expertise and interpersonal skills, Philani thrives in dynamic environments where he can apply his knowledge of cloud computing, database management, and project coordination. His adaptability and commitment to continuous learning make him a valuable asset to any team, particularly in roles that require cross-cultural collaboration and innovative problem-solving. Philani is eager to contribute his skills to organizations that value growth, integrity, and technological advancement.

<u>Professional Background</u>

Philani Mneedisi Hlengwa is a qualified IT specialist and business leader currently serving as General Manager at Imvula Group, where he oversees operational strategy and organizational development. His technical foundation includes a National Diploma in Information Technology from Vaal University of Technology, complemented by certifications in IT Essentials (A+), Networking (N+), and small-to-medium business IT solutions.

With technical proficiency spanning system administration, database design, cloud computing, and network services management, Philani has supported prominent organizations including Huawei, Sand M Radios, and Y2K Telecoms. His hands-on experience in IT infrastructure support, project coordination, and troubleshooting has been enhanced by his ability to collaborate with diverse teams to ensure seamless system operations.

Now leading at Imvula, Philani combines his technical expertise with managerial acumen to drive business objectives while maintaining the dependability, organizational skills, and sociability that have characterized his career. His unique blend of technical knowledge and interpersonal finesse positions him to excel in environments requiring both operational leadership and IT problem-solving capabilities.

Rodrigue Guiguemde

Nationality: Burkinabe

Country of residence: Burkino Faso

Brief Motivation

With over 15 years of experience in digital governance, ICT policy, and multistakeholder coordination, I bring a strong commitment to restoring stability, transparency, and trust in AFRINIC. As former Vice-Chair of the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), I have worked at the intersection of global internet governance and African digital policy, and currently lead advisory initiatives under the Smart Africa Internet Governance program.

My technical and institutional background spans DNS infrastructure, national IPv6 strategies, and capacity building, with recognized leadership in cross-border collaboration and stakeholder inclusion. I have supported AFRINIC-related community training efforts, participated in ICANN and ISOC forums, and contributed to bottom-up governance reforms across Africa.

Honored with the 2024 Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building and the Order of Merit of Burkina Faso, I remain dedicated to ensuring AFRINIC fulfills its founding mission—providing equitable, transparent, and member-driven resource management. I aim to strengthen AFRINIC's legitimacy, reinforce its operational resilience, and rebuild constructive engagement with the global internet ecosystem.

Professional Background

Rodrigue Guiguemde is a seasoned ICT policy advisor, Internet governance leader, and digital transformation strategist with over 15 years of experience advancing inclusive digital development across Africa. His career spans national, regional, and international levels, including roles with Smart Africa, ICANN, and multiple African governments.

He currently serves as Internet Governance Advisor at Smart Africa, where he leads the development of strategic frameworks for Internet governance across the continent, supporting institutions like the Council of African Internet Governance Authorities (CAIGA) and regional

digital policy initiatives. He is also Secretary General of ROPTIC-UEMOA and Founder of Digitales Solidaires, an NGO advancing inclusive digital empowerment in West Africa.

From 2019 to 2022, he served as Vice-Chair of the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), where he championed African perspectives in global policy forums and promoted multistakeholder governance. He has also been actively engaged in AFRINIC capacity-building activities and has coordinated national initiatives on IPv6 deployment, DNS resilience, and platform security.

Rodrigue previously held the position of General Director of Digital Industry Development in Burkina Faso, overseeing national strategies for digital innovation, internet infrastructure, and public-private partnerships. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was appointed National Focal Point for Digital Resilience, coordinating emergency ICT responses and digital inclusion programs.

His technical background includes hands-on experience in IT infrastructure, DNS, and cloud platforms, supported by certifications in Ethical Hacking, ITIL, PRINCE2, IBM Cloud Admin, and PMP. He has led cross-border regulatory and infrastructure projects, advised governments on data governance and AI regulation, and contributed to Smart Africa's work on internet resilience and cross-border connectivity.

Tomboye Ibrahim Mahamat Itno

Nationality: Chadian

Country of residence: Chad

Brief Motivation

As the Deputy Director General of SAFITEL Chad, a key national actor in fiber optics management and internet provision, I have spent the past decade at the heart of Chad's digital transformation. My experience in the telecommunications and ICT sector has equipped me with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing internet infrastructure development across Africa.

As a woman leader in tech, I am passionate about inclusion, capacity building, and the equitable development of internet resources. I believe AFRINIC plays a critical role in ensuring that Africa's internet governance remains secure, transparent, and accessible. I am highly motivated to contribute my expertise, regional insights, and commitment to strengthening AFRINIC's mission and governance.

I aim to bring both technical knowledge and a strategic vision to AFRINIC's Board. It would be an honor to serve and support the continued growth and sustainability of internet development across our continent.

Professional Background

I have been actively engaged in the ICT sector in Chad since February 2016, holding a range of leadership and technical roles across both government and national infrastructure organizations. My journey began as a Telecom Engineer within the Directorate of ICT Infrastructure at ADETIC (Agency for the Development of ICT in Chad). I then successively held the positions of Head of the E-Services Department and Head of the Information Systems Department at ADETIC.

Later, I was appointed Director of the New ICT Department within the Ministry in charge of Digital Economy and Telecommunications. I subsequently returned to ADETIC as Director of Domain Names and IP Addresses, then served as Advisor to the CEO. I currently hold the

position of Deputy Director General at SAFITELCHAD, the national concessionaire responsible for the management of Chad's fiber optic backbone infrastructure.

Over the years, I have contributed significantly to the development and deployment of internet and ICT technologies in Chad. Key achievements include:

- Contributing in the national strategy 2020-2030 of the telecommunication sector in 2019-2020 and the Chadian ccTLD policies.

- Supporting the deployment and management of Chad's Internet Exchange Point (IXP), a vital step for improving local internet traffic and reducing costs.

- Chairing the organizing committee for the first, second, and third editions of the Chadian Internet Governance School, helping to promote internet governance awareness and capacity building.

- Deploying the cocca system and the DNS system essential for managing domain names and IP addresses, a crucial step in improving internet infrastructure in Chad.

- DNSSEC Implementation, to enhance security and stability, DNSSEC was implemented, ensuring secure and authentic DNS resolutions.

- Organizing the Chadian DNS Forum in 2019, after the successful deployment of the CoCCA registry system, promoting domain name governance in Chad.

- Participating as a panelist at the Afrinic webinar on the African IXP's history, sharing about the deployment of our IXP (Ndjamix) and the governance model (multistakeholder managing model) we chose for NDJAMIX, also in multiple editions of the Chadian Internet Governance

Forum (IGF) and at the Universal Acceptance Day, advocating for inclusive digital transformation.

- Contributing to the formulation of Chad's National Digital Strategy, ensuring a coherent vision for sustainable digital development.

- Promoting innovation and women's entrepreneurship in the ICT sector, with a strong commitment to inclusion and gender equity.

- Participating in Afrinic events since 2017, in ICANN events since 2018, in SmartAfrica events since 2017, in IGF Global, Regional and local since 2018, AFPIF and may other events in the ICT sector in general and internet governance in particular.

- Chairing the technical comity organizing African IGF in 2019 in CHAD.

- Teaching the second-year bachelor's degree in telecommunications at the National School of ICT, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the network infrastructure.

With nearly a decade of experience in ICT leadership, policy development, and infrastructure management, I bring a deep understanding of both technical and regulatory aspects of internet development in Africa. I am passionate about strengthening regional collaboration and representing Central Africa's voice within AFRINIC's governance structures.