

# Update on AU dotAfrica (.Africa) Project

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By

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# AU involvement in DotAfrica

- 2007 - Dot Connect Africa declared intention to apply for dotAfrica
- 2009 – dotAfrica (.Africa) on Agenda of Extraordinary CITMC meeting in Johannesburg. OR Tambo Declaration directed the AUC  
*"Establish dotAfrica (.Africa) as a continental Top-Level Domain for use by organizations, businesses and individuals with guidance from African Internet agencies"*.
- Jan 2010 – AU Summit endorsed OR Tambo Declaration
- Aug 2010 – CITMC-3 in Abuja directed AUC to *"Set up the structure and modalities for the Implementation of the dotAfrica (.Africa) project"*.
- Oct 2010 – AUC step up a dotAfrica (.Africa) Task Force composed of imminent Africans in the Internet field.
- Jan 2011 – AU Summit endorsed Abuja Declaration on dotAfrica (.Africa)



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# Recommendations of DotAfrica Task Force

- dotAfrica (.Africa) should be applied for **as a geographic LTD**
- AUC should launch **open tender to select technical body** to operate dotAfrica (.Africa).
- AUC to set up a **Steering Committee** to oversee the implementation of dotAfrica (.Africa)
- dotAfrica (.Africa) be operated by a non-for-profit entity and excess funds be given to a “**dotAfrica (.Africa) Foundation**”.



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# Selection of operator and application for DotAfrica

Oct 2011 – *Ministerial round table (Dakar prior to ICANN 42):*  
set the African agenda to ICANN

- **AUC launched tender process** to select technical body to operate dotAfrica (.Africa)

Dec 2011 – **AUC selected UNIFORM ZACR** to be technical body to operate dotAfrica (.Africa) and to apply to ICANN for dotAfrica (.Africa) by deadline of April 2012

April 2012 – **UNIFORM ZACR submitted application** for dotAfrica (.Africa) and paid the deposit of US \$185,000



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# Support for DotAfrica from African countries

- By time of application ICANN application deadline, 39 countries had issued letters of support. To date 42 countries have.
- Countries that have not issued letters of support are:
  - Libya
  - Guinea-Bissau
  - Sao Tome & Principe
  - Equatorial Guinea
  - Botswana
  - Malawi
  - Angola
  - Eritrea
  - Ethiopia
  - Madagascar
  - Rwanda
  - Somalia



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# Support for DotAfrica from African countries

- **AUC and NEPAD Agency urged Africa governments to work through the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN to secure support for the AU-endorsed application for dotAfrica (.Africa):**
- November 2012 – 17 countries issued “**GAC Early Warnings**” on the DCA application for dotAfrica (.Africa)
- February 2013 – 3 countries (Mali, Kenya and Uganda) issued “**GAC objections**” to DCA application.
- April 2013 (ICANN 46 – Beijing), **GAC issued “unanimous advice”** to the ICANN Board that DotConnectAfrica’s application for dotAfrica be dropped.
- June 2013 **Evaluation Committee for new gTLDs agrees with GAC Advice and drops DotConnectAfrica’s application**
- (.zulu applicant withdraws application.)
- June 2013 ICANN Evaluation Committee sends Clarifying Questions to Uniforum/ZACR.



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# Reservation of Domain Names

- The DotAfrica (.Africa) Steering Committee has considered a Reserved Name Policy which will be posted for public comments.
- The policy provides African member states and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit RNL (Reserve Name Lists) to the dotAfrica (.Africa) registry operator (UNIFORM ZACR) during the Pre-Sunrise phase.
- Names to be reserved are those regarded as important, sensitive or offensive (geographic, cultural or national heritage)
- When a name is entered into the RNL the registry will ensure that the name is not available for registration, other than through defined redemption processes as articulated in the Reserve Name List policy.



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# Developing Reserve Names Lists

It is proposed that RNLs be developed through Multi-stakeholder consultations.

## Objectives

- Increase awareness of the multi-stakeholder model of IG
- Provide a mechanism for stakeholders to engage and participate in building of the continental dotAfrica (.Africa) initiative
- Provide an opportunity for national champions to lead national RNL processes
- Build consensus in the development of national RNLs
- Develop commitments (including identifying demonstrable usage and beneficiaries of the national Reserve Names)



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**Thank you**

**Merci**

**Obligado**



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