

FIONA ASONGA

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK) that manages the Kenya Internet Exchange Point and Industry Computer Security Incident Response Teams. TESPOK initially established in 1999, as the Telecommunications Service Providers Association of Kenya. I have 20 years work experience of which 16 years have been in the ICT sector; having started my career in FMCG. Through TESPOK, I am involved in activities of the East Africa Communications Organization that are focused on communications regulations and policy development of the East Africa Community Member states, AFRINIC, ICANN and the IGF Series (National, Regional and Global).

My role involves ensuring Internet uptake locally and value addition in the use of the Internet to the local community. I am at the forefront of lobbying government for appropriate policy and regulatory interventions that will spur internet uptake. I lead a team at the secretariat that represents the operators in various national, regional and international forums; ensuring service provider policy and regulatory concerns are addressed, Kenya Internet Exchange Point and Industry Computer Security Incident Response Teams. I have through my engagements held positions that serve the internet community interests:

- i. From 2011 – 2018 elected for two terms as one of Africa’s three Representatives to the Address Council of the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) of the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Number Resource Organization.
- ii. 2018 As a consultant of the Internet Society developed a training program for Collaborative Governance that has been used to improve on stakeholder interaction during multi-stakeholder engagements
- iii. 2018 – 2020 Member of the ICANN GNSO Expedited Policy development Process seeking to align the global domain name community to the European GDPR

My activities constantly put me at the core of various policy and regulatory discussions touching on the daily industry operations such as: Taxation; Copyrights and Intellectual property; Cybersecurity; Critical Infrastructure Protection; Digital Rights; Capacity Building and Industry Standard Development. In Kenya, I act as a bridge between private sector and government. I have been a member of several Caucuses, Committees and Taskforces that emphasis on a suitable regulatory and legislative environment for ICT investment more recently; The Kenya ICT Masterplan Taskforce (2014-2017), The Cybersecurity Caucus, The Digital Economy Blueprint 2019 and The Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill Taskforce 2021. I am passionate about the development of the Internet in Kenya and Africa and use of ICT as tools for social and economic growth. My passion for ICT for development has seen me drive community projects on ICT for rural environments and the youth working closely with county governments and private sector organizations.

I believe that I have the required experience and expertise to contribute to the oversight of the activities of the IGFS. I am currently available to represent the internet business and technical community interests as well as the African community.