



15th November, 2021.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Executive Committee,
Internet Governance Forum Support Association.

From:

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts
Vice-Chair, ICANN/BC and Director, NiRA.
Abuja, Nigeria.

Personal data redacted to preserve privacy

I have a lengthy history of involvement and participation in the global, African and West-African IGF's. I have also spoken and facilitated a number of sessions at the Nigerian IGF Main event and Youth tracks. I have however been intrigued by the impact of the IGFSA and the role it plays as a catalyst in providing much needed support for the NRI's and especially those from the global south. Networking and Funding is key to the mandate of the IGFSA, and a network to enhance both necessities are offered by my candidacy.

I am Olawale-Roberts Lawrence O. an African from Nigeria with an engineering background but with a vast network spanning the vibrant constituency of ICANN fellows all over the world to the corporate desk of the organized private sector and Governments in the global south. I believe in the mandate of IGFSA and its mission to provide support for the IGF secretariat and promote the objectives for which it was formed on the one-hand and supporting the National and Regional IGF initiatives on the other-hand to enhance their impact with grants.

In addition to enhancing the diversity on the executive committee, I will bring to the team where elected an understanding of the Internet Governance space and balancing of geo-politics to help maintain a global outlook, understanding of executive boardroom ethics to enhance collegiality with other members of the IGFSA Executive committee and the workings of board committees with requirements for time and resource management. I come with a passion to see more growth in active membership and participation across the globe and fund raising for IGFSA's remit.

I have a lifelong interest and involvement with the Internet and its governance model to ensure it remains stable, secure, interoperable and promotes innovation and commerce on a global basis. I have over eighteen (18) years of progressive experience in African and global International Trade, Technology, Energy, Media, Public and Faith based service sectors. I have had the rare privilege of working with Government as a deputy director at a Commission under the Presidency of Nigeria for close to 5 years. I am an active participant in the Internet domain name industry and currently serve as the Vice Chair for Finance and Operations of the Business Constituency of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), A global multi-Stakeholder,

bottom-up community since 2015. I am a former member of ICANN's Nominating Committee; a team that recruits half of the ICANN Board asides other leadership roles and have been a member of different working groups and committees that help shape the global Internet's policy development process.

I am currently a member of the executive board of Directors on Nigeria's ccTLD, NiRA and serve as a faculty member of the African School of Internet Governance. In the year 2017 I hosted the first private sector run Remote hub for the Global IGF in Abuja, Nigeria, and have made it an annual practice to ensure that there is a vibrant remote hub for the global IGF in the city of Abuja even in the peak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we ensured adequate protective gears and medical supplies were available at the hub.

As the global IGF and NRI's are a melting point for all stakeholders to meet and advance discussions on public policy issues of common interest, vital to the openness and interoperability of the Internet, however divergent views held - I believe that the IGF's principles of dialogue, collaboration, openness, inclusivity, transparency, and equal footing should continue to enjoy the support of IGfSA and I pledge to play my role at enhancing these values, where provided an opportunity to serve the executive committee.

I welcome this opportunity to serve on the IGfSA Executive Committee and count on your immerse support to stand elected. Do accept the assurances of my warm regards and kindly let me know where further information is needed.

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts.

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