

# 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 19 years of work experience in the ICT sector. Through TESPOK, I am involved in the digital space within Kenya and East Africa. From representing the industry association at the East Africa Communications Organization (EACO) that are focused on communications regulations and policy development of the East Africa Community Member states to AFRINIC, ICANN, ISOC, AfPIF 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 lead a team at the secretariat that represents the operators in various national, regional and international forums so as to ensure service provider policy and regulatory concerns are addressed. I am at the forefront of lobbying government for appropriate policy and regulatory interventions that will spur internet uptake. As a manager of the Kenya Internet Exchange Point and Industry Computer Security Incident Response Teams I focus on ensuring a memorable end user experience. 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 such as: The Kenya ICT Masterplan Taskforce (2014-2017), The Cybersecurity Caucus and The Digital Economy Blueprint for Smart Africa 2019. More recently I have been involved in the 2024 Kenya ICT Sectorial Reforms working Group that has prepared sector wide proposals to improve on policy or administrative aspects for a more inclusive digital economy participation.

I have through my engagements held positions that serve the global internet community interests:

- i. 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. 2015-2018 a member of the ICANN Cross Community Working Group on Accountability of the IANA Stewardship Transition representing the Address Supporting organization WS2 and Chairing the Diversity Working Group
- iii. 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
- iv. 2018 – 2020 Member of the ICANN GNSO Expedited Policy development Process seeking to align the global domain name community to the European GDPR
- v. 2022 – 2024 Member of the IGFSa Executive Council

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 the national and county governments as well as private sector organizations.

I have supported the IGFSa by contributing to the various activities the Executive Team has had to handle which has enable us as a team to have the first printed publication of the annual report where I worked with the designer and the other executive council members to achieve this. believe that I have the required experience and expertise to contribute to the oversight of the activities of the IGFSa. I am currently available to continue serving the internet community interests through the IGFSa.