

message

*F*rom the Chief Executive Office
Dear Colleagues,

The 'Annual Report' is rightfully a good opportunity to pause, review the past year and evaluate our achievement. To begin with, I must say that 2007 was indeed a very productive year.

One of the key moments of the year was the launch of "MyAfriNIC", the new registration system that integrates a member portal and a registration management tool as back-end used by our IP analysts. The objective of the portal is to ease the management of resources for our members while enabling them to pay their membership fees online. Soon, this possibility will also be extended to new members, thereby, shortening the membership process. This is undoubtedly in line with our continuous goal to better serve our community and make IP resource requests and management as simple as possible.

As stated at the beginning of the year, one of the biggest challenges that our region has to tackle is the transition to IPv6. Several measures have been taken by the Board during the year to make this a priority in our activity plans with special emphasis on awareness. We have also continued our fellowship program to increase participation in our process. Some twenty participants have benefited from the program during the year and we are pursuing our efforts towards the goal set.

An important change led by the community – which is yet another proof of the increasing participation in our process - is the review of our policy development process to make it more efficient and simple. The new Policy Development Process (PDP) reached consensus during the AfriNIC-7 public policy meeting, in Durban, South Africa, and will be implemented in 2008.

After three years of operation, AfriNIC had to engage onto the required path to ensure its sustainability. Hence, during the year, its structure together with its medium and long-term strategies had to be reconsidered and adjusted to its own growth pace as well as to the continuously evolving global Internet environment.

In this regard, we have launched a process to review our overall strategic plan and the whole organizational structure. This led to the creation of three main operation areas: Finance and Administration, Communications and Technical Operations. This was revisited with the objective to change the almost horizontal structure that we had before, to a more vertical structure, with more delegation of responsibility to each Area Manager.

Another critical step taken in 2007 was the alignment of our fee structure to our revenue stream: new categories of membership have been introduced and membership entry costs reduced. That measure impacted an approximate 10% decrease in our revenue and will definitely represent a new input for our financial outlook. However, we are confident that this measure will parallel the price paid by small members to the economic situation prevailing in our region.

Further along the year, AfriNIC continued to reinforce its collaboration with other organizations both on regional and international levels: joint activities were organized with AfNOG, AfTLD, AfriSPA, ISOC and AfREN, and participation and support provided to the NRO and ICANN activities. Moreover, in 2008, AfriNIC will be in charge of the Secretariat of the ASO-AC/NRO-NC.

To conclude, I would like to express a vibrant recognition to all AfriNIC staff and to the community for the strong support, and without whom none of these achievements would have been possible. My wish is for 2008 to bring about more good news and more reasons to look positively into the future with you all.

Adiel A. Akplogan

