Africa Space @ ICANN75

Update on Engagement in Africa

19 September 2022

1. Introduction: Pierre Dandjinou, VP Global Stakeholder Engagement – Africa (3 mins)

2. Welcome remarks: (15 mins)

- Baher Esmat (remote), VP Global stakeholder engagement in the Middle East & Managing Director for the Middle East & Africa, ICANN
- Adiel Akplogan, VP Technical Engagement, ICANN
- Sally Costerton, SVP Global Stakeholder Engagement, Senior Advisor to the President & CEO, ICANN
- Goran Marby, CEO & President, ICANN

3. Staff presentations: (24 mins)

- Brief report on FY22 achievements & FY23 priorities ; Yaovi Atohoun, Director Stakeholder Engagement & Operations - Africa (12 mins)
- Findings from the DNSSEC Survey ; Yazid Akanho, Senior Technical Engagement Specialist - MEA (12 mins)

4. Q/A: ALL (15 mins), Bob Ochieng, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement - Eastern & Southern Africa

5. Announcement and closing ; Pierre Dandjinou (3 mins)

FY22 Results

Agenda Item #1

Lessons Learnt During COVID-19

- The Community embraced online engagement options (More and more community members were following online events and discussion especially at the initial stage)
- We noticed general "ZOOM" fatigue from the community's behavior in addition to a discussion we had with the community leaders that confirmed this observation.
- The apparent high cost of connectivity became a barrier. This is partly the reason ICANN org later introduced the Internet Reimbursement program
- Key regional engagement events did take place despite the virtual format
- Our community prefers face to face meetings to virtual participation. Such F2F participation is usually supported or facilitated hence seen as a reward for volunteering, which is lost when events are purely virtual

Engagement Post-Pandemic

- ⊙ Post-pandemic, a mix of virtual and in-person engagement is the trend.

- ⊙ Going back to in-person engagement is slowly starting. The pace of "returning back to normal" varies from country-to-country across the region. And local protocols equally vary.

- ⊙ In organizing events, we will continue to have a mix of virtual and in-person (Hybrid) events while building on what has been established virtually.

- ⊙ We administered 2 surveys during the Pandemic (one on the impact of our Engagement over the last 5 years, and one on DNSSEC adoption in Africa) and we intend to follow up on the recommendations received.

- ⊙ GSE and OCTO have been participating in key engagement events (AAU workshop in Nairobi, AIS 2022, OSIANE 2022, Cameroon DNS Forum: talk related to DNSSEC, Universal Acceptance of domain names, DNS Security threats and SADC Events)

- ⊙ We have defined FY23 priorities considering in the five ICANN Strategic objectives

Key FY22 results: Strengthen the security of the DNS and the DNS Root Server System

Goal 1.1: Improve the shared responsibility for upholding the security and stability of the DNS by strengthening DNS coordination in partnership with relevant stakeholders	
In this period, the GSE Africa team participated in a number of events either as speakers, panelists and sometimes including as a sponsor of some of the events. These events can be summarized as follows: • 8th Africa Working Group Meeting on Cybercrime for Heads of Units – Interpol • Webinar on DNSSEC Deployment Guidebook for ccTLDs	ICANN and AFTLD Partner to Promote Universal Acceptance in Africa | Dec 2021This joint effort between ICANN and AFTLD was designed to raise awareness of UA challenges in the region, to help build capacity to address those challenges, as well as assist ccTLD operators and other stakeholders in developing and implementing robust IDNs and UA-related systems and policies. A total of three training series were held and resulted in over 60 participants being trained on UA deployment. At the same time, one IMRS Instance was successfully deployed in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Goal 1.3: Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through greater engagement with relevant hardware, software, and service vendors
Survey on The State of DNSSEC In Africa   This survey was open to any organization running a DNS service in the Africa region. The Main Objective was to understand the State of DNSSEC Deployment in Africa, and the Key Issues hindering the greater deployment and adoption of DNSSEC in Africa.

Key FY22 results: Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance

Goal 2.1: Strengthen ICANN's bottom-up multistakeholder decision-making process and ensure that work gets done and politics are developed in an effective and timely manner
In this period, the GSE Africa team participated in a number of events either as speakers, panelists and sometimes including as a sponsor of some of the events. These events can be summarized as follows: ICANN72 readout Africa Lawtech Conference 2022
Goal 2.2: Support and grow active, informed, and effective stakeholder participation
In this period, the GSE Africa team participated in a number of events either as speakers, panelists and sometimes including as a sponsor of some of the events. These events can be summarized as follows: WASIG and WAIGF 2021, FFGI 2021 (Africa SIG in French),Symposium TIC-Afrique 2021 Arusha Women SIG (AruWSIG) 2021, KenyaSIG and Kenya, IGFBENIN IGF, AFRISIG 2021, Nigeria SIG 2021, TOGO SIG & IGF 2021, ZASIG & ZAIGF 2021, Call with the African community on ICANN future meetings, AAU Workshop for NRENs, West African IGF 2022, Kenya National IGF 2022, NRIs and Schools of Internet Governance remains key initiatives in our efforts to build capacity and inform so that we have an effective stakeholder participation

Key FY22 results:

Evolve the unique identifier systems in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties to continue to serve the needs of the global Internet user base

Goal 3.1: Foster competition, consumer choice, and innovation in the Internet space by increasing awareness of, and encouraging readiness for Universal Acceptance, IDN implementation, and IPv6
Some of the activities are the result of joint effort between ICANN Org, AFTLD and AFRALO. It was designed to raise awareness of UA challenges in the region, to help build capacity to address those challenges, as well as assist ccTLD operators and other stakeholders in developing and implementing robust IDNs and UA-related systems and policies. A total of three training series were held and resulted in over 60 participants being trained on UA deployment Aheri Conference 2021, Technical workshop: Configuring for Email Address Internationalization (EAI), Technical workshop: Programming for Supporting Universal Acceptance, Panel on Universal Acceptance: Its Impact and Next Steps, Salon OSIANE 2022
Goal 3.2: Improve assessment of, and responsiveness to, new technologies which impact the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems by greater engagement with relevant parties
Supporting and participating in some national DNS Fora has been a key project during FY22. We believe that this could really contribute to the security, the stability and the resiliency of the Internet, and raising the visibility of the DNS at the national level Kenya National DNS Forum, Africa DNS Forum 2021Benin DNS Forum 2021 South Africa DNS Forum 2022
Goal 3.3: Continue to deliver and enhance the IANA functions with operational excellence
Informational webinar for African ccTLDS We had a series of webinars towards the african ccTLDs We had the opportunity to share on various initiative like DAAR and information on voluntary financial contribution from ccTLDS

Key FY22 results:

Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single, globally interoperable Internet

Goal 4.1: Identify and address global challenges and opportunities within its remit by further developing early warning systems, such as ICANN org's Legislative and Regulatory Development Reports	
In an effort to further remain visible, and continue our engagements with governmental delegates, the GSE Africa team were part of the following events that gave us an opportunity to engage IGOs and Government representatives present. ● 63rd Meeting of the AFRALTI Governing Council (2021) ● Connected Kenya Summit – 2022 ● ITU WTDC 2022.	
Goal 4.2: Continue to build alliances in the Internet ecosystem and beyond to raise awareness of and engage with global stakeholders about ICANN's mission and policymaking	
Africa IGF 2021	

FY23 Priorities

Agenda Item #2

ICANN Security Engagement in FY23

Goals

- Promote the adoption of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) in Africa.

- Help reduce the gap in cybersecurity skills in the region.

- Improve the stability and resiliency of the Internet in Africa.

- Provide technical expertise to initiatives aimed at establishing legal frameworks in Africa to combat DNS-related cybercrimes.

- Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through better engagement with various stakeholders and root server operators.

Activities

1.1 Publish the Africa DNSSEC Survey results and disseminate recommendations
1.2 Organize Online capacity building on DNS, DNSSEC in conjunction with OCTO (July 2022-June 2023)
1.3 Participate in regional security related events (AFRICACERT, Interpol, …) for outreach (July 2022-June 2023)
1.4 implementation of the DNSSEC track in the Coalition for Digital Africa (CDA) initiative (July 2022-June 2023)

Governance Engagement in FY23

Goals

- Increase understanding of ICANN's mission, vision, objectives, and the multistakeholder model of governance within Africa and its allied constituencies.
- Improving the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance building on best practices from the mechanisms put in place by processes such as the IGFs (African IGF, subregional IGFs, national IGFs and others)
- Raising awareness and informing the African community of the critical importance of its presence and participation in discussions within the ICANN community notably under-represented groups such as women and youth.
- Resourcing and leveraging the Nairobi Engagement Centre to identify major stakeholders and initiate sustainable outreach programs including through existing community grassroot networks like Volunteers from RALOs as well as digital communication channels.

Activities

2.1 Organize series of webinars for GAC members , ccTLD (July 2022 - June 2023)

2.2 Contribute to regional SIG and IGF (July 2022 - June 2023)

2.3 Organise F2F country engagement trip (July 2022-June 2023)

2.4 Support to AFRALO: update provided monthly and joint workshops/events
(July 2022 - June 2023)

2.4 Organize an Africa Engagement forum in FY23

Unique Identifiers system Engagement in FY23

Goals

- Raise awareness about Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and encourage the development of script-specific Label Generation Rules (LGR) for integration into the Root Zone LGR in Africa.
- Raise awareness about the new generic top-level domains (new gTLDs) and keep the community informed about the next round of applications.
- Promote ICANN's role as it relates to the unique identifiers within the community.

Activities

3.1 Organize a session during AFRINIC meetings (July 2022-June 2023)
3.2 Organize technical trainings on UA during regional REN annual meetings
3.2 Implementation of Coalition for Digital Africa (CDA) track on UA/IDN

Geopolitics Engagement in FY23

Goals

- Identify and address global challenges and opportunities within ICANN's remit by further developing early warning systems, such as ICANN org's Legislative and Regulatory Reports.
- Build alliances in the Internet ecosystem and beyond to raise awareness and engage with global stakeholders about ICANN's mission and policymaking processes.
- Foster better engagement between ICANN and African governments and institutions For example the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU).
- Support recognition and acceptance of ICANN's role by African governments.
- Build a more engaged ICANN in Africa.
- Promote a single global Internet.

Activities

4.1 Series of webinars organized for African regional regulatory bodies (Jul 2022- June 2023)

4.2 Working with regional organizations in the implementation of the Coalition for Digital Africa (CDA) track on DNSSEC

4.3 implementation of the CDA track on capacity building for 10 selected ccTLDs

Financial Engagement in FY23

Goals

- Foster domain name registration in Africa.

- Create an optimization modeling for engagement and outreach to track growth.

Activities

5.1 Support and Participation in Africa DNS Forum 2022

5.2 Organize a workshop for african ICANN Accredited registrars

Upcoming key engagement activities in FY23

◉ Africa DNS Forum 2022

  04 October 2022: Kenya DNS Forum

  05-06 October 2022: Africa DNS Forum

  Please register at dnsforum.africa

◉ Africa DNS Study

◉ Africa Engagement Forum (March - April 2023)

DNSSEC Survey

Agenda Item #3

Purpose and Structure of the Survey

- This survey was open to any organization running a DNS service in the Africa region.

- The Main Objective was to understand the State of DNSSEC Deployment in Africa, and the Key Issues hindering the greater deployment and adption of DNSSEC in Africa.

Respondents

Count of Registry and Non-Registry DNS Operators

- Registry operators
- Non-Registry operators
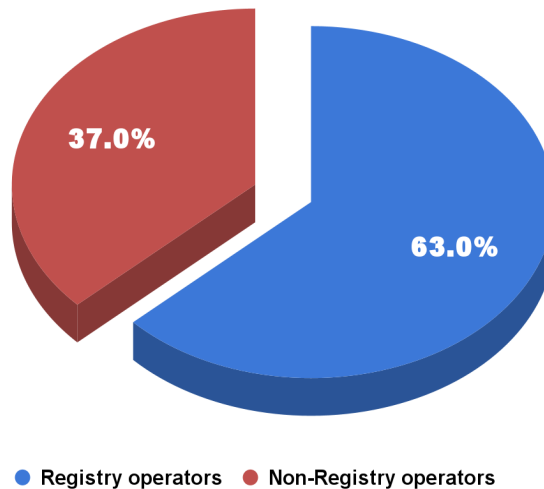
- The Survey was widely circulated through various Mailings Lists

- 46 respondents responded to this question.

- 63% of the respondents were DNS Registry Operators.

- The remaining 37% were Non-Registry operators

Staffing of Registries

Count of staff employed by the DNS Registries

Legend: ■ [1-5] ■ [6-10] ■ [11-20] ■ 20+
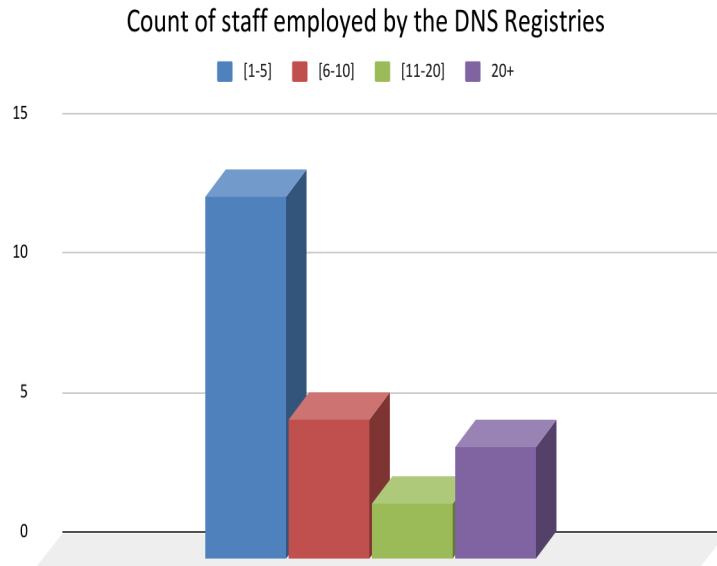
- A large number of the respondents recorded a value of [1-5] employees in their respective registries followed by [6-10].

- [20+] and [11-20] employee count categories were the least recorded [11-20] being the last.

Registries with Accredited Registrars

Count of respondents who had accredited registrars under their registries
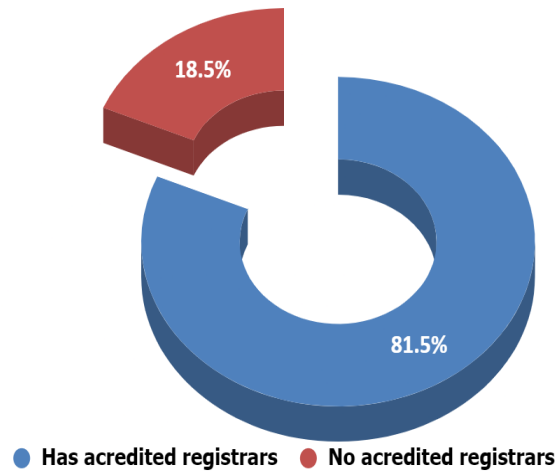
- **30** out of the 46 respondents responded to this question.

- **81.5%** of the respondents had accredited registrars while 18.5% did not have.

18.5%

81.5%

● Has acredited registrars ● No acredited registrars

The number of accredited registrars for each registry was recorded as indicated by the pie chart below.

Count f number of registrars for each registry

20+
35.3%

35.3%

[1-5]
41.2%

41.2%

[11-20]
17.6%

17.6%

5.9%

[6-10]
5.9%
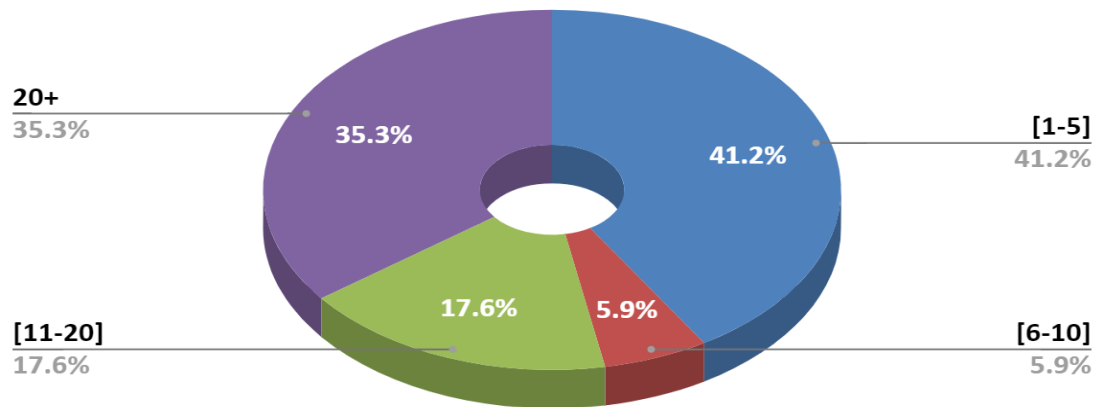
Information on IDNs

Out of the 46 respondents, 24 responded to this question. A smaller percentage of the respondents(25%) manage IDN TLDs.

Three-quarters of the respondents do not manage an IDN TLD. This implies that most of the registry operators in the African region do not manage IDN TLD

Count of respondents who manage IDN TLD and those who do not

25.0%

75.0%
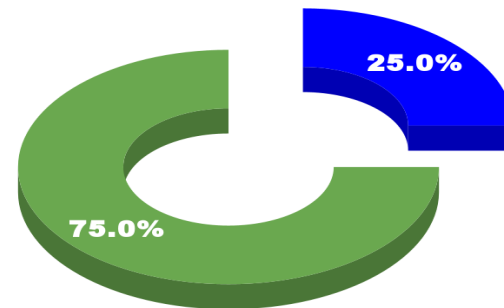
● **Manages IDN TLD**   ● **Does not manage IDN LTD**

IDNs Acceptance

Count of respondents who accept vs respondents who do not accept IDN registrations under their TLD

50.0% 50.0%

● Accept IDN registration   ● Do not accept IDN registration
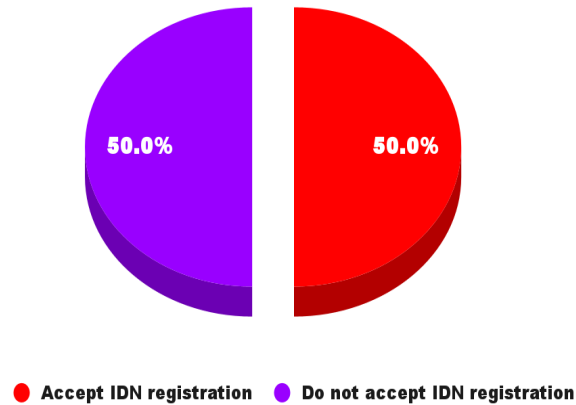
- 24 respondents responded to this question. Half of the respondents indicated that they do accept IDN registrations.

- This may not be very accurate in our view, and could point to the lack of awareness on what IDNs are

DNSSEC Information

Count of respondents whose organizations participated in an ICANN DNSSEC Roadshow workshop in the past in their respective countries

47.4%

52.6%
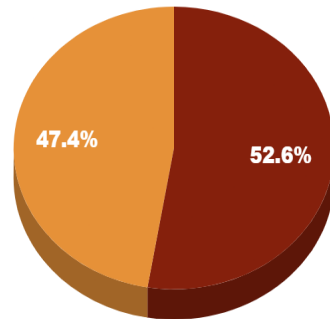
● Active ICANN DNSSEC participants in the past
● Non ICANN DNESSEC participants in the past

- A large percentage (52.6%) of the respondents have participated in the ICANN DNSSEC activities before in their respective countries.

- A considerable number have not participated in such events but show their interest in doing so as shown.

DNSSEC Information

Count of respondents' opinions about holding ICANN DNSSEC events in their respective countries

36.4%

63.6%
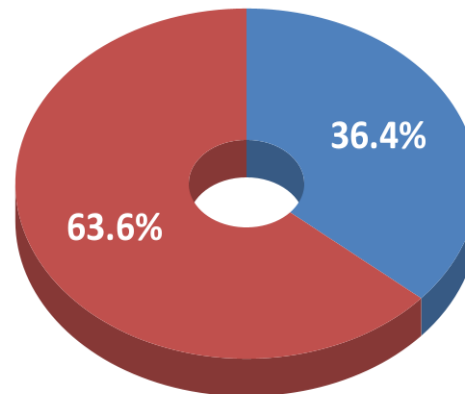
● Positive ● Negative/Not applicable
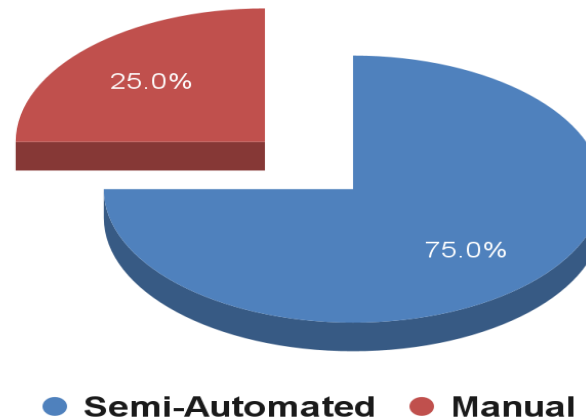
DNSSEC Information

Count of respondents whose domains are DNSSEC enabled
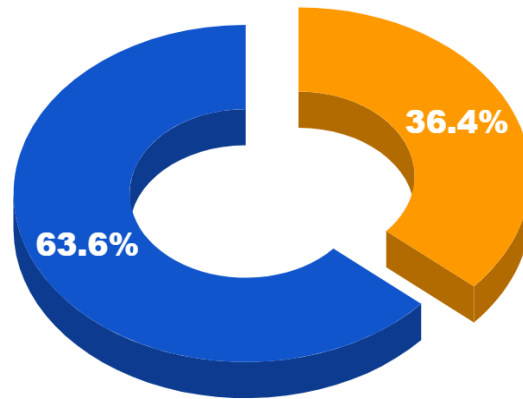
- ● DNSSEC enabled domain
- ● Non DNSSEC enabled domain

36.4%

63.6%

22 of the total 46 respondents responded to this question. Out of the 22, 36.4% have DNSSEC-enabled domains. 63.6% do not have DNSSEC-enabled domains.

DNSSEC Information

Count of automation level of DNSSEC for respondents who are DNSSEC enabled

25.0%

75.0%
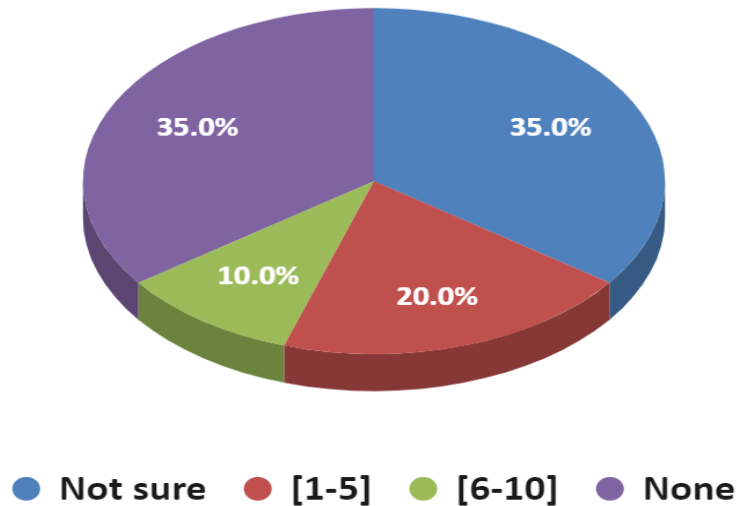
● **Semi-Automated** ● **Manual**

Out of the 36.4% (8 respondents out of 22) who had DNSSEC-enabled domains, 4 of them responded to this question. 25% of those who responded had Manual DNSSEC automation levels while the rest were semi-automated.

DNSSEC Information

Count of respondents whose domains are DNSSEC enabled and allow DS records vs respondents who do not allow DS records

50.0%   50.0%

● Accept DS records   ● Do not accept DS records

DNSSEC Information
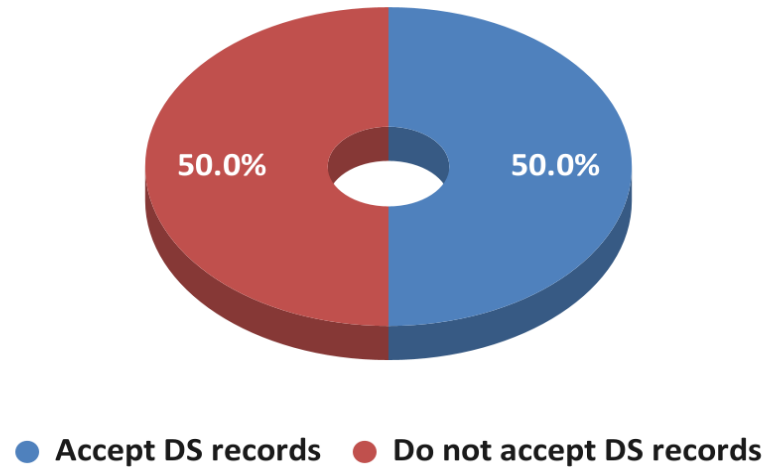
Count of respondents who had DNSSEC implementations at the second level

- Not sure — 35.0%
- [1-5] — 20.0%
- [6-10] — 10.0%
- None — 35.0%

Count of respondents who had DNSSEC implementations at the third level
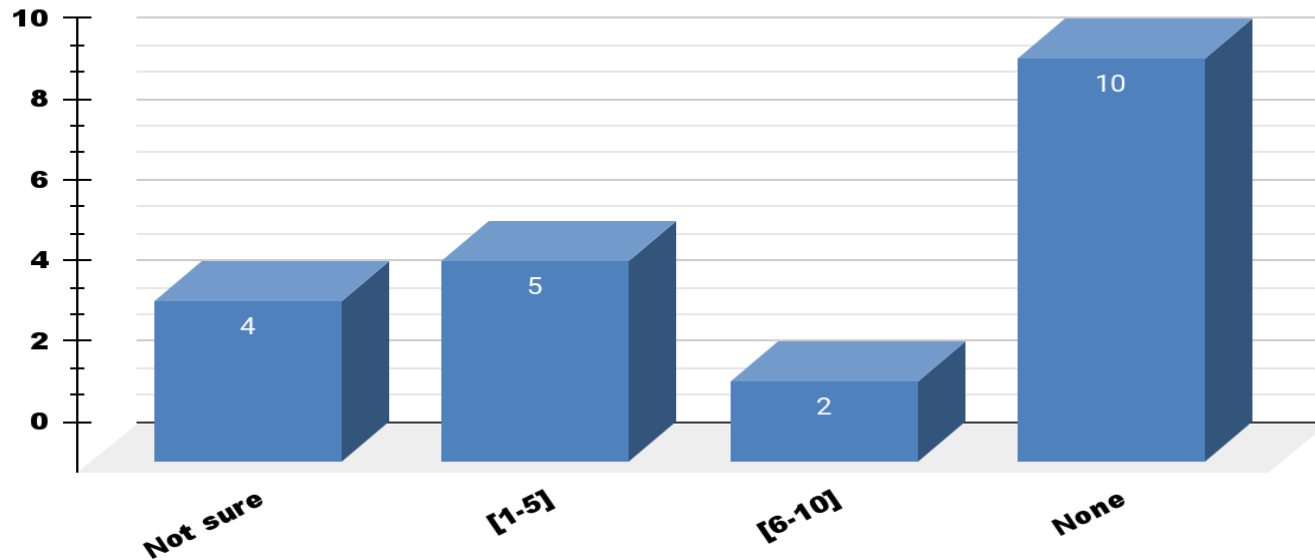
Overall Comments and feedback on the survey

1. Support in setting up a DNS deployment strategy, adequate training on DNSSEC, and technical support during the deployment of DNSSEC.
2. Train Registry Operators and Registrars on the benefits of DNSSEC, and prepare educational materials and support for advocacy
3. Target DNSSEC awareness at C-Level / Decision makers for Registry Operators
4. A few respondents may need fund support from donor countries
5. Would like to engage and learn more
6. We need full documentation on step-by-step deployment and automatization tools for DNSSEC
7. Train and build a DNSSEC Resource pool of experts around registry operators to easily support the DNS ecosystem at the National Level.

Engage with ICANN – Thank You and Questions

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