



## *Communique*

**Subject:** WACREN Statement on AfriNIC Governance Crisis and Its Impact on Regional Internet Development

**Date:** 18 June 2025

**To:** WACREN Members, Partner NRENs, Regional and Global Stakeholders

**From:** The WACREN Board

The West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) issues this communique in response to the ongoing governance and operational crisis at the African Network Information Centre (AfriNIC). The legal, administrative, and functional challenges currently facing AfriNIC are significantly disrupting Internet development and digital research infrastructure in our region.

A recent interim order by the Supreme Court of Mauritius (13 June 2025) has suspended AfriNIC's Board election process, reaffirming the need for compliance with AfriNIC's Bylaws and prior legal rulings. This aligns with the concerns previously raised by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Tanzanian Internet Service Providers Association (TISPA).

### **WACREN expresses its deep concern that:**

- Several member NRENs have been unable to obtain Internet Number Resources (IPv4/IPv6 addresses and ASNs), obstructing their connection to WACREN's backbone and the rollout of critical services, including federated identity, cybersecurity infrastructure, and open science platforms;
- Eligible resource members have been denied voting rights, contrary to AfriNIC's Bylaw 12.12, which undermines participatory governance and stakeholder trust;
- The paralysis at AfriNIC poses a real threat to the continuity, equity, and sustainability of Internet infrastructure that underpins education and research across the continent.

### **In light of these developments, WACREN calls for:**

1. Immediate suspension of the AfriNIC Board election process until all governance procedures are legally and procedurally sound;
2. Full restoration of IP resource allocation functions to ensure eligible members receive timely and fair access;
3. Reinstatement of voting rights for all qualifying resource members, in line with AfriNIC governing rules;
4. A coordinated, multistakeholder regional dialogue to protect the interests of research and education networks and to chart a path toward stability and reform.

WACREN remains committed to upholding multistakeholder Internet governance, defending regional operational integrity, and ensuring that the research and education community has uninterrupted access to the digital infrastructure it needs.

We urge our partners and stakeholders to remain engaged and proactive as we work collectively toward a resolution that prioritises legality, transparency, and regional inclusion.

**Approved by the WACREN Board**

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