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Subject: AfNOG community Response to NTIA NOI

The African Network Operators Group (AfNOG) appreciates the opportunity to provide the NTIA with input for its process on evaluating proposals to sign the root zone.

The AfNOG community of Internet operators in Africa presents the following statement from our perspective regarding the importance of a signed DNS root.

We care about Internet security in general and Domain Name System (DNS) security, in particular, as it is a critical component of the Infrastructure.

We welcome this NTIA initiative for DNSSEC deployment and signing the root zone and support that effort.

1. DNSSEC is needed to secure the Domain Name System (DNS).
2. To achieve this, the DNS root must be signed as soon as it is technically feasible.
3. As root zone management is part of the IANA function, IANA should sign the root.
4. Signing root will make DNSSEC deployment practical. It will send a strong signal to the Internet community and will stimulate more interest from operators, developers, implementors and users.
5. Root keys system should be maintained in the most secure manner possible and must be flexible enough to operate administratively and technically.
6. Root zone signing involves Key Signing Key (KSK) distribution and authentication. The Key should be distributed as widely as possible.
7. Trust anchor rollover for a large Internet user group is a critical issue and on-going work must be done to improve and streamline trust anchor maintenance.
8. A signed root zone creates the need for a Delegation Signer (DS) registry which should be based on the existing trust system between all network operators and IANA.
9. DNSSEC adds some complexity to the DNS when providing authenticity and integrity of DNS data. Training, awareness and well documented Best Current Practices (BCP) will be needed in the operations community as well as for end-users, especially in the AfriNIC region.

For and on behalf of the AfNOG community,
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