# The African IXP Association Registers in Rwanda & Conducts Inaugural Board Election

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KIGALI, RWANDA, Sept. 5, 2023** – The African IXP Association (AFIX), a regional body of core Internet infrastructure operators in Africa, has registered as a non-profit and conducted its inaugural board election. This news was announced at the 12th African Peering & Interconnection Forum, the organization's annual conference which it hosts in partnership with the Internet Society.

The registration took place in Rwanda and the election was conducted with support and oversight from the European Internet Exchange Association; the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Exchange Association; and the Internet Society.

AFIX stands at the forefront of Africa's digital revolution. The association's members operate Internet exchange points (IXPs) which enable multiple service providers to interconnect through shared infrastructure. This facilitates large scale cross-network communication which improves the speed, cost-effectiveness, and reliability of the Internet; promotes local hosting which reduces Africa's reliance on other regions; and drives investment in carrier-neutral data centers, cross-border backbones, and fiber access networks.

The inaugural board of directors includes Jean-Francis Ahanda, Jane Coffin, Darwin Da Costa, Caglar Dabanoglu, Lawakilia Wilfried Drabo, Frank Habicht, Edrich de Lange, Muhammed Rudman, and Kyle Spencer. The newly elected board members bring a wealth of experience and expertise to AFIX and are committed to strengthening the Internet ecosystem in Africa.

"The formalization of the African IXP Association marks a significant milestone for our region," said Kyle Spencer, interim Executive Director of AFIX. "It will accelerate the growth of our industry which promotes economic independence and empowers people. We extend our sincere gratitude to our members, the election trustees, and the entire community for their support."

Dr. Dawit Bekele, the Regional Vice President for Africa at the Internet Society, offered his congratulations to the African IXP Association and said "This achievement is an indication of the growing maturity of the region's Internet exchange points which are of paramount importance for the development of the Internet economy in Africa. The Internet Society is proud to have stood beside the AFIX community on their long journey to reach this milestone."

For media inquiries, please contact the African IXP Association: af-ix.net/contact

**About the African IXP Association (AFIX):**
The African IXP Association is a regional body dedicated to promoting the growth of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) in Africa. IXPs enable multiple service providers to interconnect through shared infrastructure. This facilitates large scale cross-network communication which improves the speed, cost-effectiveness, and reliability of the Internet. It also promotes local hosting which reduces Africa's reliance on other regions. Learn more at: af-ix.net

**About the Internet Society (ISOC):**
Founded by Internet pioneers, the Internet Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution and use of the Internet. Working through a global community of chapters and members, the Internet Society collaborates with a broad range of groups to promote the technologies that keep the Internet safe and secure, and advocates for policies that enable universal access. The Internet Society is also the organizational home of the Internet Engineering Task Force. Learn more at: internetsociety.org