EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Dear ISOC Ghana members,

This is my candidate statement for the position of ISOC Ghana Chapter President position. I hope you do not mind if I take a few minutes of your day to speak with you directly about why I am running for this seat, and what I can bring to the table.

I hope this is the beginning of an ongoing conversation.

ISOC is a fantastic Organisation, and this election has great candidates for all the positions, so we should take this moment to reflect on what we have accomplished so far and what could be the next steps. I am grateful for all of the expressions of support that I received through email and privately. It really has been very humbling.

Experience and qualification

Wisdom Donkor has specialization in E-government and policies, networks and infrastructure, open government data Policies platforms and community development, Internet governance policies, software engineering databases and consolidation, and human resource planning and development. I am currently working with the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) and as an Engineer and also the Technical Lead person for the Ghana Open Data Initiative Project. He is also the National Secretariat Manager for the Information Technology Association of Ghana (ITAG). Wisdom has recently co-foundered an NGO Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation (AFRIODIRF).

Wisdom has Diploma in Business Computing, diploma in Computer Science, Degree in Computer Science, Masters Degree in Human Resource Planning and Development (HRP&D) and have taken several professional courses including CCNA, Linux Fundamentals and Administration, Micro Technology part I & II, A+ & N+, ESRI GIS, GIS, Oracle, Advance Web Technologies, Diplo Internet Governance, Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), Government Administration and Human Resource Development at Macro and Micro levels of HRP&D, Administrative Reforms Migration and its Implication and Gender Issues at Micro and Macro levels of HRP&D

Wisdom is a member of ICANN Non Commercial Stakeholders Group (NCSG), ICANN Non Commercial Users Constituencies (NCUC), Generic Name Supporting Organisation (GNSO), ICANN AT-LARG: AFRALO, Internet Engineering Taskforce (IETF), World Bank Open Data working Team, Civil Society Coordinating Group (CSCG), Africa Open Data Conference collaborative, Diplo Foundation, Access to Scientific Information Resources in Agriculture (ASIRA) of UN-Food and Agriculture (FAO), Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), Internet Governance Caucus (IGC), Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) and Internet Governance Forum Support Funds Association (IGFSA).

Wisdom is an ICANN Fellow for seven (7) ICANN meetings (ICANN 49 in Singapore, ICANN 51 in Los Angeles, ICANN 52 in Singapore, ICANN 54 in Dublin, ICANN 55 in Marrakesh, ICANN 59 in Johannesburg, ICANN 60 in Abu Dhabi). He is also an ICANN coach / mentor and have coach fellows for five Fellowship program from eight (8) different countries (Iran, India, Zimbabwe, China, Zambia, Ethiopia, South Africa and Afghanistan). He was also once an ICANN support staff for two ICANN meetings

Advisory Committees:

1. Member of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (UN IGF-MAG)
2. Member of the Africa Union Commission (AUC) Africa Internet Governance Forum Advisory Working Group
3. Member, National SDG's Data Road Maps Advisory Committee, Ghana
4. Member, Ghana Energy Access Data Task Force
5. Member, Ghana Open Government Partnership (OGP) advisory Committee

Working groups:

Wisdom is a voluntary member of the following working groups: ICANN GNSO New gtLD working Group, ICANN-IANA Transition Cross Community Working Group (CCWG), ICANN GNSO RPM working group, IGF Best Practice Forum on Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the next Billions, IGF Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity, IGF Best Practice Forum on Gender and Access, IGF Best Practice Forum on Local Content, IGF Best Practice Forum on Communication and Outreach, IGF Multi-Year Strategic Work Program Working Group, OGP

Open Data Working Group, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition working Group. Deputy Chair A4AI Consumer working group.

Short, mid and long-term goals

1. **Short-term goal:**

My immediate priority if elected, as president will be to increase our in-reach efforts. We have got so many great members who are underutilize within the internet governance space and I want to help people like you become more engaged in internet policy work both at national and global levels. I will begin by mapping out chapter members who are involved in working groups, and then I will see what skill gaps exist and what knowledge and interests others have which are not being utilized to address the urgent needs of the Society.

The need for work of ISOC in Ghana is in the critical stage and needs urgent attention. There is the need to look at our bylaws and is if possible update the bylaws and develop new operational procedures moving forward. The time is now to harness all members around table, so we can have more and more successes in ISOC and IG policy space. We will also work together for putting into practice projects that will be of importance to the society. One such project will be to introduce policy writing course for all Chapter members, Creation of campus chapters through out the country by the third quarter of 2018, capacity building programs for chapter members and the public, training program for each quarter for members and the public, three hackathons each year to produce meaningful citizen centric application for critical sectors of our economy: Agriculture, Health, Education, Ghana Statistical Service, Energy etc.

Communication: There is urgent need for a communication strategy to help stream line most of our communication activities. I will work together with the executive to adapt three types of audiences encompasses: newcomers, (engaged) members, and the community/other stakeholders. Currently communication within the chapter is very poor and needs to be improve. We need to improve the understanding of all members of the internet ecosystem and most of this will be don't through effective communication. When voted into office, I will set up a working group to come out on a communication strategy to help communicate effectively with the community.

Our website, Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook will be enhanced to enable us reach out and engage more with the community. Capacity building and outreach events will be conducted periodically and assessed to ensure they are successful. I will encourage engaged members to maintain blogs

and talk about their work engagement in order to demonstrate to others what they are doing within our community that reflects the chapter mission.

Diversity/Membership: In my term of office, I, together with the executive, will focus on fostering diversity, membership efficiency, setting up a roadmap for the Chapter and on fundraising to ensure our long-term sustainability and the enlargement of our endowment so that we can support the participation of more and more members to attend ISOC and IG programs.

Transparency and Accountability: Transparency and accountability are critical for the efficient functioning of any organization and for fostering social well-being. Transparency ensures that information is available that can be used to measure the authorities performance and to guard against any possible misuse of powers as is the case now. In that sense, transparency serves to achieve accountability, which means that authorities can be held responsible for their actions.

Currently, there is no openness, transparency and accountability in the current leadership and this must change if elected as president.

When elected as president, I together with the executive will work in the confine of Openness, accountability and transparency as is been done within ISOC global, ICANN, IGF etc. I will make sure all members abide and commit to the principles of accountability and transparency and to work in the spirit of respecting procedures and chapter bylaws for mutual fair treatment and benefits of all members.

I will also work to host one regional conference on internet governance in 2018 (ISOC Africa Internet Conference). At this conference we will bring to Ghana all the global internet resource persons and organizations to deliberate and discuss on our successes, failures. We will also use this conference to begin to show impact what is really happening in our communities that needs to be seen, as is not the case in our region. We need to tell our own story to the global world.

2. **Mid-term goal:**

I will look to build an ideal quotient of participation in working groups, aiming to encourage among our active volunteers to engage more in working groups. I will work more closely with ISOC global Policy Committees to see what benefits can be derive for our members, helping build

effective participation of our members in working groups and creating process flows to help manage volunteer's workload.

I will together with the executive, Organize forums to engage critical sectors of the economy on issues of Internet governance. Key target institutions on the list includes Judiciary and Attorney General Department, Academia, Media, Churches, Parliament, Ministry of Communication and its Agencies, Ghana Police Service and the Banking Sectors.

In my term of office, we will engage with the academia, the ministry of education and all stakeholders through policy forum to begin to consider the inclusion of Internet Governance programs into the educational curriculum as done in other places.

3. **Long-term goal:**

I will work on following and applying our operational procedures for the Chapter. My idea is to focus on how can we routinely, and without missing anyone, consistently run our in-reach and outreach capacity building and training efforts, I will also explore innovative new strategies for raising funds to support chapter activities. Together with member collaboration and with my network globally, we will apply for grants, find new donors, and create and expand travel support programs for deserving active members with travel and fellowship grants to participate in some of the IG policy events globally.