
BEIJING – AFRALO - AfrICANN Joint Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – 14:00 to 15:30
ICANN – Beijing, People’s Republic of China

MAN: Good afternoon. It is Wednesday, April 10th, 2013. We are in the function six room of the International Beijing Hotel. This is the AFRALO AfrICANN joint meeting. Please go ahead and start your session.

FATIMATA SAYE SYLLA: Thank you. I will be speaking in French exceptionally, [I’ll pause a moment 0:00:49] so you have the time to take your receivers. Good afternoon. The special consultant to my left is the CO ICANN, the president actually, the vice president of AFRALO of ALAC also. And the vice president of ICANN for Africa.

Dear participants, it’s a great pleasure to say that AFRALO and the whole African community to welcome you here, so that we can, as usual, hold a meeting. To discuss the issues that concern our region, and it is because of that that we have here an agenda for today.

Our vice president for Africa, Pierre Dandijnou, will go into, discussing the African strategy with us. Then Tijani Ben Jemaa, the vice chair of AFRALO, is going to introduce us precisely to today’s meeting. He’s going to tell us what the subject we’re going to discuss today will be.

Then we’re going to give the floor Mister Oliver Crépin-Leblond, the chair of ALAC. Mister Tarek Kamel, the special consultant of ICANN’s CO. Then [? 0:02:47] is going to present the statement, the African

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statement, on the subject we will be discussing. That is the subject that Tijani will be introducing. And then we will have open discussions regarding this statement.

And I would like to give you another possibility before the end of the session of dealing with any other business you would like to add to the agenda. Does anyone have any other item they would like to add? Or any modifications, any changes to make to this agenda?

So the last item will be the end of our session, once we'll be done of course. So I'll give the floor to Pierre Dandijonu, so that he can tell us what the African strategy is. Pierre, I'll ask each of you to say your names before you speak for translation purposes. Pierre.

PIERRE DANDIJONU:

This is Pierre Dandijonu speaking. Thank you Fatimata for giving me the floor. So I'm Pierre Dandijonu. I'm the VP for Africa. And I'm going to tell you what the evolution for the African strategy was. I'm Pierre Dandijonu, as I said...

...to actually update you on the Africa strategy. And then I'll talk about what we are having in mind in terms of the [? 0:04:40] fiscal year of ICANN. Fiscal Year 14. And then of course, I'll be ready for any questions or any remarks you may have. So then I would like to take you through the website, just have it, I don't know.

Before we do, I have what I would call a specific website dealing with the Africa strategy, which is the AfrICANN community. AfrICANN [? 0:05:14] Africa ICANN community actually in one word, AfrICANN Community dot org. So everything is actually there.

Done so far, the African strategy but also the events that we are planning to actually do, and the projects that were you can actually follow what we're doing in terms of projects. Well the Africa strategy, one of the things to maybe keep in mind, is that this was, how should I say? A response to Fadi, the CEO of ICANN who really wanted to have engage with Africa.

And one of the way of doing this was for him to suggest that we come up with a clearly cut strategy for Africa. And so back in Prague, and then we had to form a working group to really work on what were the specifics that Africa would like ICANN to be delivering, actually not in Africa.

And the most important part of it was to deepen ICANN's presence in Africa, as per recommendation actually of the request I will serve the African ministers that day in Dakar, where they met with the Board and submitted those requests.

So the Africa strategies are differently, is about deepening ICANN's presence in Africa, but also enhancing African participation to ICANN. So having said that, we really wanted to be quite realistic and also straightforward. So what this African strategy did was highlight three specific objectives, and also those objectives were translated into specific projects.

The other thing that we should bear in mind is that this Africa strategy also is, was in line with ICANN's own strategy, although we did add what we are calling the fifth dimension, which is a development component of it. It's all on the website, I'm not going to take much time on that.

If you can go for it, you will see on the Africa strategy, the strategy down there. And what matters now is the action plan that we develop early January, which highlights notices to eight specific projects we wanted to undertake, until June 2014, and then we will have to have a new action plan for 2014.

Quickly, what are the priority project that we had on the action plan, the first action plan. Of course, one of them was to actually to continue the engagement with African internet readiness institutions, see how we could actually better working relationship with having with them especially AfriNIC, FTLD, and also the registrars and others.

So this means this that we will be, of course, participating through meetings organized by those institutions. And at times there may be some sponsorship, you know, to those institutions.

One thing maybe I also forgot to tell you about is that the Africa strategy, whatever was inside, most of them was derived from contribution by the community itself. And it's quite interesting to notice that what the community really wanted in terms of key achievement of this Africa strategy was to make sure that Africa itself was part of the ICANN.

And specifically, on the DNS component of it. For so many reasons, we consider that Africa was not present in some of the activities, and when it came to the new gTLD program, Africa was actually nowhere to be seen. 17 applications, for instance, for the new gTLD, confirm Africa, but most of them from one country. In fact, so that definitely means that there is something to be done.

So this Africa strategy, is in order to help those things and make sure that Africa, for the next round for instance, in the next round, okay we do have more application for instance. It boils down to capacity development. The Africa strategy definitely is about capacity building, and how to make sure that Africa is part of the DNS industry.

Most of the program, which I try to select for the first action plan, was about DNS strategy. How to conduct a workshop on the DNS business industry in Africa. It has been done. We plan what we are calling the DNS award, we are working on that. There is a committee that has been setup. The idea here is to showcase best practices, you know, in Africa in managing registries and registrars.

And we really wanted to at least promote those who are really performing well, and we believe that will serve for the rest. So we are working on that one and to hopefully in Durban, we might see the first manifestation of this award, program.

The other project that was there on the action plan, the first action plan, is the DNS [sec road show 0:11:50]. The DNS [sec road show], in fact this idea came because we also understood that most of the ccTLDs in Africa, DNS has not become reality. Only a very, very few numbers of them have actually implemented DNS sec and are really thinking of it actually.

It can be seen as a difficult, you know, achievement for some of them. It's coming as something that they don't have maybe the appropriate staffing for that, or resources. So we believe that we should do something about that. So DNS [road show] at least the first phase of it,

is about, you know, having eight countries contribute and pick up as endorse countries.

We've committed to [? 0:12:44] who is working on that, he's already done the best review, he has the reports or the status today of the DNS implementation in Africa. There is a website, this, with maps, everything is there. Now he is engaging with eight countries, so that he will be conducting country missions certainly in May and June.

Because he'll have to send a report to Durban meeting. So that one is working is happening. And Alan [? 0:13:24], who you might know, is the expert that we actually select to do this. We did have two other programs which have not really, I will say we have not started so far.

One of them is the observatory of domain names in Africa. If you are looking for statistic today, it's going to be difficult for you to have them, and in most places. So one idea was to actually partner with other institutions such as [I-Sock 0:13:59], you know, try to be assisting [? 0:14:01] is FTLD who is this projects, and we say, "Okay. We could partner with them and organize an observatory of domain names in Africa."

This has not really started, but obviously I will be proceeding with this in the next fiscal, financial year. We do have something, and I think definitely it was you guys from At-Large who mostly recommended that we also think about this ambassador program for Africa. I remember this came, heavily came from you guys.

The idea is quite good, but we still need to find the appropriate ways of establishing this ambassador program. There are many ideas out there.

We need to see certainly what would be putting within this ambassador program for Africa.

Of course, we also have one or two projects about the domain name business, especially what we are calling the incubator program. We wanted the younger generation actually to embark on those, this business. But how do you do that? How do you prepare them?

I think we should go for incubator program, and we'll be working on that. Nothing has really started as far as this one is concerned so far. So this is basically within five to six month time, what we have, there on the action plan. Some of them has been achieved. We did have our event in [? 0:15:51].

It was certainly quite interesting to see registers and registrars from Africa interfere, and see what they would be doing together. That was actually the first time they were meeting, and that was quite interesting. Of course, I would like to thank the community because I know AFRALO was heavily involved there.

And I noticed all of the events, it works, we call them. We hope this also has provided rooms for things. I just want to end up this reporting to say that one of the things I actually took away from this meeting was the eagerness of everyone to assist in delivering the Africa strategy.

So it was quite important, collaboration. So as of July, some of the things we would like to be doing is work around the partnership about this. This component was not really there on the agenda. Which type of partnership we need to really achieve the strategy, it's important to know, which role of the partner is now going to play.

The other thing I'm seeing, and I'm already thinking about the next action plan, we are going to give some info on the entrepreneurship, the incubator thing definitely will be there. We are also having ideas and innovation, people would like us to see how one could innovate in that field.

One of the difference I would like African strategy to be actually [? 0:17:41] is that we will not be having meetings with recommendations per se. We really want to be action oriented, definitely. So we want to do things that really showcase best practices, but also things that really promote those who would like to be prompted, especially the ccTLDs.

I know some of our colleague do not like to hear that one, but it's a pity to have countries know so many years, only having 200 registrants, or 500 registrants in a ccTLD, nobody know exactly what they are doing, what these things are all about. I mean, I think it's high time that ccTLDs really perform well and that become asset to a country.

Like I was telling the other day to a colleague from [? 0:18:35] I say, there is no point that we should be sponsoring ccTLDs to come to meetings. Why they should be actually working so that the ccTLDs perform well, and some money, consequent budget, and then they should be growing the community out of their own resources.

There is no point in sponsoring ccTLDs to come into meetings, for me anyway. And what we can debate on that one. So the other certainly idea that we are having is maybe we suggest that one, and thank Fadi for that. Add this, one of the key decisions was to better staff the African, what I say? Africa, you know, ICANN presence in Africa.

So apart from myself, we are actually hiring this, what do you call? Manager, someone who have kind of operational profile to actually assist, and the key decision or so is to make sure that each of the six regions of Africa, at some point, have staff, engagement staff. That will help really do the work in furthering engage.

So these are good decisions. Of course, we now need to welcome those and make it happen. So this is going to be certainly my priority as of July, hiring more staff so that they will do their job. We all want a different partnership with the global GNS business. So those things will be doing.

The registrars, you know, have also put, they have put forward some issues they are facing. We do have five to six of them, they are not really functioning the way they should be. They are having issues with the insurance system there. So some of those things we will really want to think about and see what becomes, and we put together to foster new life for them.

So that they could really perform well. These are ideas, but we really want to make projects out of them and see in the coming months how we do, promote those ideas for the projects. Well these are, in a nutshell, some of the, actually ideas we are having for the next year, knowing that the Africa strategy is for three years, and of course we'll be trying to achieve the different projects that has been developed there.

We do have, you know, elements and criteria to measure, you know, our progress. They are there in the document so obviously we will be

able to document, you know, the project and see how we move on. Maybe one last thing before I hand it over to the Chair.

This Africa strategy, certainly ICANN is only facilitating, and I'm sure that Tarek who also insists on that, ICANN is only facilitating the strategy that Africans themselves should own, and develop the appropriate partnership around that. And not just be seeing this as something to tap into, but I would say that we should contribute to this as well.

With that, Madam Chairperson, that's what I would like to share with you, and I'm open for any questions that you may have. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Yeah. Fatimata Sye Sylla for the record. Thank you very much Pierre for this very complete presentation of the African strategy. Would you like to say something Mister Tarek?

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you Fatimata. I'm glad to be invited to the AFRALO meeting and it's not my first time. Even in Costa Rica when we were in Latin America more than a year ago, Mister Tijani invited me to the AFRALO meeting. And even before joining ICANN, and I was happy to participate.

As Pierre has mentioned, the African strategy has been really built by the African community in a bottom up approach. But I want also to stress that the implementation of the African strategy should happen really with the full support of the African community, and via the African community.

ICANN is only a facilitator in this direction, but we need to make sure that you guide us really. How would you like to participate in the implementation of the African strategy? Pierre mentioned the various programs and projects that we have agreed upon, where there were more issues in Toronto, and discussed further on in others.

And Fadi has clearly committed resources specifically within next fiscal year together with Sally Costerton and the rest of the team for the implementation. But when it comes really to work on the ground, it's not ICANN staff that is going to implement the African strategy, but it is the African community.

And here the difficulty is because here we need more people from the community to be involved, and really to guide us about the implementation. And let's not forget the strategic objectives of the African strategy.

The strategic objectives of the African strategy and other strategies for ICANN is to include wider participation from the various regions and from Africa within ICANN's constituencies, and to strengthen ICANN's presence as well in Africa. If I take the first objective, you need to tell us, and with clear metrics, what do you want to see in a year happening for wider participation, for example in AFRALO.

Let's take AFRALO as an example. Let's set a target before we leave here today, and say, "Fine, this is where we are today in terms of membership and active membership. Here we want to be after a year at the end of fiscal year 14, which is June 2014, this is where we want to be. And how are we going achieve that, very specifically for the AFRALO?"

From a wider participation from various parts of the world. The same goes for the GNSO, the same goes for the various other constituencies as well. And tell us how you are going to help us. We again, we are facilitator, we will facilitate, but we necessarily don't have all the know all and we are not going to be implementing necessarily alone on the ground.

So I'm coming today with this message that as you have helped in the development, please help us and guide us in the implementation, and let's have clear metrics and clear quantitate parameters that we should benchmark our self after six month and a year, and say "Yes okay we have achieved." Or, "No we did not achieve."

With the strategic objectives that I have mentioned, we'll not do everything, and we will not solve all internet problems in Africa. Let's also be realistic. ICANN has a very specific mission when it comes to naming and numbering and the related activities, and we should not get out of this focus, and out of this mission.

Thank you again for inviting me, and I look forward to your deliberations and look forward to your guidance in the implementation. I mean, Pierre definitely is there, and he will overlook, but I am also available whenever you need to relay to me any message from a strategic point of view, please don't hesitate. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you very much Tarek. I will take it as an action item for AFRALO, how can we have more participation, better participation in ICANN? So I will really definitely keep it as an action item for our next monthly

meeting, and we will start working on it and provide input to, for the implementation of the African strategy.

And I hope, inviting all the other constituencies within ICANN where Africans are present and working in groups, to also consider giving an answer, providing an answer, providing their input for the implementation of the African strategy.

I'm now going to open the floor, we don't have a lot of minutes, we have like six minutes. So we'll take few questions for Pierre and Doctor Tarek before we proceed. The floor is open. No question? No comment? Great. Yes please [? 0:28:53] you have the floor.

MAN:

I am going to be speaking in French, take your headphones please. In the first place I like to thank Pierre for all of his work. I have two short questions regarding the strategy. I would first like to know what the priorities you have established are? And what the dates you have fixed are?

And then the second question is, the fact that I am personally interested in what you mentioned, and would like greater detail as regards to this incubators. So you go into work with African countries and you going to create partnerships with universities, because there are many universities now a days which have incubators for new societies and companies. So what's this idea of incubators? Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you [? 0:25:54], Fatimata for the record. Michelle?

MICHELLE: Thank you Fatimata. I'd like to follow what [? 0:30:07] said and thank what chair and Tarek did for the work, and thank all of the African community and our friends who allow this strategy to take place.

I would like to speak about an important issue. We spoke about the development, the sub regional development and it's important in the framework of the communication of this strategy. So I'd like to make a proposal, that is to say try to organize a consultation at the sub regional level in Africa to allow all the players to participate into this process. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you Michelle. I'm going to give the floor now to Pierre to answer to [? 0:31:09] questions. I think you just made a comment and a proposal. So Pierre?

PIERRE DANDIJNOU: Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much for this question about the timeframe for the year 2013, because the fiscal year of ICANN begin on 21st of June. The actions we want to implement, there are so deadlines. For example, for the show we have a final report in Durban in June.

This is very clear. In July, this is very clear. We have organized an activity about DNS, and on registrar and register. We are going to organize this in Durban, so these are the deadlines. For the year beginning in June, the action plan, we are working on the action plan.

I have given a few ideas of projects that we could implement. For now, they are not deadlines, but for the incubator project, we are working

with universities and innovation centers. And imagine that, personally the idea that I have is that we need to launch a study first. See which partners we can work with, we can't cost track an incubator like that.

We have to make a study and consider where to do it, which countries are interested, etcetera, for now. But I want to work with universities, yes, I agree with you. And for Michelle, we have to communicate. For now we are trying to organize a sub-regional meeting, we are speaking about that.

We want also to be in [? 0:33:27] from the 23rd to 26th April for the city of [? 0:33:35] on cyber security. We have been invited, but we are going to be speaking about strategy also. And other website, it is true we have to use more this website. Thank you very much. Thank you Fatimata. Tarek wants the floor.

TAREK KAMEL:

I want to add to what Pierre has said specifically for the incubator program, that this is not an easy challenge. This incubator program, for us in Africa because we are starting an incubator program in a new industry that has never adopted incubator at any place in the world as such.

So let's see the challenge and address it clearly. Having said that, I also have to say that ICANN itself is not a development agency. So we need to work with development agency to handheld the incubator program. Pierre has mentioned the study, yes so the study needs to be done by the right development agencies in order to identify the countries.

But we also need to think together about the finance. Who is going to finance the incubators? And we will look soon to the African Development Bank. I agree with Pierre, that we will address the African Development Bank and we have some good contacts there already with the African Development Bank in Tunis, in order to increase their appetite to support the incubator program and to work with development agencies.

Universities are the natural place for incubation. But I have also to mention that we are talking here, not about Angel Fund incubators, but we are talking about VCs, Venture Capital incubators. Because we want them to be eventually startups that are really successful in business, and taking part into the business community overall business arena of the DNS.

The global industry has also very important responsibility in that, and this is a message that Fadi has reiterated several times, it goes to the big registrars, the various arms. And what that is, and the others, as they have benefit of the multi-stakeholder model, they also have a responsibility towards the preservation of this multi-stakeholder model.

That they have to handheld the industry in the developing countries, and to support those best practices and know how, and we all have to stress that. And we are not asking them for charity as such, but we are asking them for a win to win relationship in order to really grow the industry, and to be up to their responsibilities.

The GSM association, many years ago, have done this successfully. Together with the France telecoms and the British telecoms and others. And I have seen it in my own country, they have been handheld

business players in Africa, not only in Egypt but also in Tunis, and in Algeria, and in South Africa, and in other parts in Africa, to develop the African mobile industry.

The scale is different here because we are talking about a much smaller industry, but I think this success story needs to be looked at because we can build on it. I know it's not easy, but I just wanted to highlight a mechanism that Pierre and myself are thinking about how to approach this incubator program.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you very much. Very important piece of information. And I think this has been a very big challenge for us in Africa when we talk about the challenges of accessing on the orders.

We know that ICANN, that this is not an issue, the [? 0:37:28] of ICANN, to think about access, to think about all of these investment. And also capacity building, so it's very good that we have the opportunity to have onboard all the partners interested in these kinds of development issues.

Now I think we are going to proceed to the next point of our agenda. If you may.

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you Fatimata for inviting me, and may I excuse myself? Thank you very much.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Of course. Thank you very much Tarek for joining us, and thank you for your valuable contribution. Thanks a lot. Bye. Okay. Now the floor is for Mister Tijani Ben Jemaa, to introduce the theme of our meeting today. The meeting of AFRALO, AfriNIC.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you Fatimata. Before introducing the subject, I would like to once again thank Pierre and Tarek for their support. And they didn't start now supporting us, Pierre was always supportive of this initiative that started in Brussels. And Tarek, I think it was since Costa Rica, he always attending our meetings and participated, and reported amendment to our statements.

So thank you very much. Coming back to theme of this meeting, it was about the creation, the possibility of creation of a development fund for internet in Africa. How can we develop internet if we don't have an industry of domain name in Africa? So I think this is the most important thing that we have to think about.

We need to have an industry in Africa. And to have it, first of all it is not because we don't have money in Africa. There are people who have money, but they don't want to invest in this domain because they don't know it, because they are afraid that they will not recover their money. And they don't have any idea about technical and perhaps economical aspects of this kind of activity.

So to help this industry to be promoted, we need first to make an outreach. We also need to make perhaps a capacity building, but first outreach. First people have to understand and know that they can

make money from this industry. And then we need also to build capacity because there is technical aspects that we need to give them, to provide them to our community, to promote this industry.

So it is for a lot of things. It is not about having money to travel, because... How to create a fund for developing countries, and Africa is one of the most known developing region, have this fund for what? For developing and promoting the DNS industry in Africa.

So this is more or less the subject, Fatimata, it's to you now.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Yeah. Thank you very much Tijani for this introduction. Of course, it's a very important issue, but when I was reading through the manuals, it's a big issue. And I know that we will have to explain a lot why we need it. Oh.

Sorry for this [laughs]. Okay, I think I just lost the thread of what [laughs] my idea. But I'll come back to it because we need to discuss this further after the presentation of the statement. So right now, I'm going to give the floor to Olivier Crépin-Leblond. Olivier is our chair in ALAC, and he is also one of the supporters of this meeting who will attend and participate anytime we organize it.

Thank you Olivier for being here. You have the floor.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you very much Fatimata. It's Olivier Crépin-Leblond for the transcript record. And for once I will speak in English rather than

speaking in French. For the reason, maybe I just have had such a long week and it's hard to think in French at the moment.

Ah, but last time I spoke in French didn't I? So one of the problems this week it has actually been longer, and as the meeting was, just before the meeting started, I started drifting off and I kind of went into this semi-conscious state and ended up, I think it was in the meeting in San Francisco.

And the GAC was working still exclusively in English, the African delegates were trying to get the meetings to be interpreted in other languages, but it was still a big question mark. And the new gTLD program just got voted and there was a, "Yes. Let's go ahead. Let's do it."

And then there was this question about applicant support. And I remember, well, in the dream, let's get back to the story. In the dream, which actually was a bit of a nightmare, the question about ICANN support was raised and the immediate answer was, "No. Why? Why do you need that?"

There was absolutely no understanding that there was going to be something that was going to be needed. And just like Fadi Chehadé so well said a few days ago, that when he arrived, ICANN was full of band aides. I think it was actually, a lot of the stuff around the whole project was put together with a bit a gaffer tape, or duct tape as some people will call it.

Little add on here and there that the community had to really struggle to get it on the agenda. And this community here in particular, had to

really struggle an enormous amount, and design everything from scratch with very little help. It's very unfortunate, I think, what happened, happened in the way that it did.

The chronology of things happened in the way that it did. What is fortunate though is that things have changed. Fadi and his new team, Pierre, Tarek, you know. Back in San Francisco, who would have thought that you would have had vice presidents of ICANN that were African?

Who would have thought that one of the core activities of ICANN, which at the time, by the way, when asking about it where, "Oh this is not in ICANN's mission." Who would have thought at the time, that there would be an African initiative led by staff and members and the community?

Who would have that that there would have been a meeting in [? 0:45:51] and all of this? It's one of these things where whenever you come up with a new idea, you come up with the next step, you're often told, "Aw, but that's not ICANN's mandate. That's not what we do. That's..."

And the credit that comes to this community here is that you have dared asking the question and put it on the table, and you have not let go of it [applause]. And I think this really is something that you deserve the credit for, as a community, the whole community here.

So I just want to tell you, I wanted to say these words because I feel very strongly about them, and I think that, I'm just making this up as I go, but I think that all together your statement that you have here today, you're

probably going to get these same answers, probably less because you do now have a change in environment, the world has moved on, thankfully.

But to me, this is something which I personally completely support, and I wish you all the best with it because this is something, having been in Dubai, having seen the concerns of your community outside the walls of ICANN, this is something which is really, really required.

And this time it shouldn't be a band aide, it shouldn't be just a piece of duct tape, it's got to be something designed from the start, that becomes one of the pillars of our community, of ICANN, of the internet as we know it today. So thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you very much. Thank you Olivier for believing in us. Thank you for supporting the initiatives. Thank you for being with us whenever we call on you. Thank you. Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Just a word, I would like to tell you that this meeting is done thanks to ALAC, thanks to the leadership of ALAC. Everything is given and is done by ALAC, so we have to thank a lot Olivier, because he is the chair and he is deciding on that.

So thank you again Olivier.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you very much Olivier. Now the floor is to [? 0:48:16], he is going to read the statement we prepared on the theme. Thank you.

MAN: Merci Fatimata. Thank you Fatimata. This is [? 0:48:32], I'd like to thank the volunteers first because they participated in drafting this statement. There is about ten people, so it will be hard to say all of their names, still I'd like to thank them all.

I'm going to read this statement. I thank the interpreters do have the English version, so they can read it at the same time. So the statement of the ICANN African community participating in the joint AFRALO ICANN community meeting in Beijing.

So we the members of the African community participating in the 46th ICANN International Public Meeting in Beijing, joined on Wednesday April 10th, 2013, having mainly debated the possibility of establishing a fund for the development of the internet for developing countries state the following.

We strongly appreciate the efforts made by ICANN these past years in its international approach and its willingness to integrate developing countries into all its projects. We welcome the commitment and the involvement of the new leadership of ICANN who has made every effort to ensure that Africa can find its place in the global information society and that the digital gap with the North is reduced.

We highly appreciate that an African strategy is adopted for a better engagement in the continent. Considering that all these initiatives will enable Africa to not only integrate into the ICANN process but also

participate in the development of its policies, as well as to enter the internet domain industry, we call for the creation of an internet development fund to help developing countries, particularly African countries, to catch up with the rest.

This fund will be oriented towards the overall interest of the region and will aim particularly at facilitating the accreditation of new African registrars through financial and technical support. The organization of RALOs and the activities of information, communication, awareness and training on the new gTLD program and the applicant support program implemented for those who need assistance in the application and the operation of a new gTLD.

The promotion of capacity building activities in terms of understanding the domain name industry and its role in the digital economy development. The design and organization of training courses at the local level on internet governance according to the multi-stakeholder model, there is something missing.

All appropriate tools, face to face or virtual. Encouraging the participation in all ICANN activities of citizens from developing countries who are interested in and effectively do participate in various training and capacity building efforts. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Merci. Thank you [? 0:51:57]. This is Fatimata speaking. I'd simply like to remind you, this is but a draft, it's not a final version. And I'd like to get back to certain comments that we saw online once the draft was posted.

So firstly, the translation was commented on. The translation now puts French draft into English. And based on, I'm speaking French because it's my mother tongue, my first official tongue, so I do my best to speak English.

But I think the people who carry out this work, and those who engaged to translate the document without having asked ICANN to do it, because I'm certain ICANN would have done it, but because of time reasons, they organized themselves to translate this document into English.

I know it was an issue for some because they said that the translation was not good, and that's true, they are not experts in translation, they're not translators, so they are not certified to be translators. So I'd like to congratulate them first instead of criticizing them.

And I'm... Someone said that we didn't need to have children in Africa which is nearly to work, and that we had experts, that we had people with capacities and with resources to do everything we described here. And I'm sure that's so, I agree. We do have local experts, no one doubts that.

But it is also true that we need to work more, that might be true. But where we need changes, I think we're going to have to implement mechanisms which shall be organized by this capable people. So that these capable people who offers and do participate, do not change differently from what we want.

So that these people do what we ask of them, so that we can help them do what we need, that's the comment I'd like to do personally because, before I open the floor to those who want to comment, I have a list. Is

there anyone else who would like to comment? So I'd like to do a first round. I have someone behind me. Yes? Your name? Good. So [? 0:54:34] first. Those are the two we're going to take first. Yes...

MAN:

...can I speak in German? Used to be official language in my country. I have a bit of a problem that none of these suggestions that we make on the list found a way into the draft, or have been discussed on the list.

My issue with the translation was not that the translation from English to French, or from French to English, was in anyway bad, but there were some comments made by a French speaker which were not translated into English.

So for the non-French speakers, it's extremely difficult to deal with. My colleague, will full admit a large number of comment which have not attracted any debate on the list, so I'm not really going to defend [a missing 0:55:28].

I have just got one issue with the preamble where it says having mainly debated the possibility, we haven't debated anything. So [? 0:55:37], we have to mainly debated something.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Okay. It's noted, and I'm going to answer that question after listening to [? 0:55:51].

MAN: Hello. I'm [? 0:56:10], and I work for telecom. And I just wanted to comment on something that was said. I wanted to say it in front of all of you, we're always here. And all the time we are here, we appear in fact, but if you ask who speaks French.

And I talk to Pierre in Prague, and I asked him to have a quick translation so we could also participate on comments and vice versa. And so the way in which he replied was that they were going to make an effort, and that they wanted all of us to know that communications and telecommunications are English based now.

I'm not saying otherwise, but we're all here and we all want to participate, so it's not so much a comment as a suggestion. I would have like to hosted you, particularly the team who is working, but we're ready to welcome you to work for Africa. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Merci. Thank you [? 0:57:14]. It's Fatimata. It's not so much a question but we're going to try and give an answer. Now, we're going to [? 0:57:24] by Doctor [? 0:57:25] as regards, the discussions that were mentioned here.

Let us not forget that this draft was prepared simply so that the discussion going on now can take place. So it was prepared beforehand, so that we can all anticipate what was going to be done, and what we would adopt if agreed by all. That's a bit the idea.

So it's a preparation, a priority because we only get one hour, so we want to discuss the subject and not waste time drafting it so that we can adopt a statement at the end of the meeting, that's the goal.

Having said that, for the Toronto meeting, we also had an exchange online, that's something I wanted to remind you also. We're going to get back to you. Does anybody want to reply to what Abraham said? Pierre?

PIERRE DANDIJNOU:

Oui. Yes. In fact, this is Pierre speaking. I remember your request, and it is very self-evident as linguistic problem. So I should say that we've gone a long way during the first ICANN meeting, everything was said in English, and that was that.

I have a background with the UN, I've worked with the UN for 20 years, and I know that this is not simple. At the UN, we had at least five official languages, but I can guarantee that we work in two languages. It's not easy. So we have to make efforts, I do agree with you.

And translations do have to be available very quickly at least in regards to the documents produced. What I also suggested to French speaking people, was to get ready before this meeting so that they can be reading as regards to the states, to translate English document into French so that they can be ready to work.

There is no magic bullet for this sort of affairs. It's everybody's work, it depends on everyone. I work at ICANN and I can speak to them about this, but I think they make great efforts. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Fatimata says thank you Pierre. Doctor [? 0:59:57]?

MALE: ...same. We are not debating the fund, we're debating the statement. It's just a point that I want to point on. We cannot write that we have mainly debated the fund when we have not done so, we are debating a statement about the fund.

Never mind after what you said on the list also something about metrics, how are we going to measure what we are asking here? We have not put anything. And I think metrics is what we really need to do if in the terms of the funding of the African fund, I don't remember who said it.

I think Tijani said it, it's not a travel fund. We need to measure the outcomes, not the input. And I don't want to spend too much time about it, but I want to use this as an opportunity to point out, even if it's a minor detail, I feel very strongly that if we debate something, we debate it.

If we debate a statement, we should write it. We should not say we debated it, and also if we put funding and we should measure the outcomes.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Okay. No. I would like to give the floor to... We would not the points, Yaovi?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Bonjour... Hello this is Yovi speaking. I'm going to speak in French. I have two comments, the first of which is a call for all of you. And I think

this meeting is very important. But I have seen many community members from Africa in this particular ICANN meeting.

And I know that everyone is busy, we all have several meetings, but in fact, I do call upon you to raise awareness. We want this community to participate in this meeting and most of them come here, come all of this way to participate this meeting. I know most of them are here.

But this is an important session, and this is the way of contributing which will get us to progress. Because what we're saying here is important but I also want to encourage those who've come to go on.

And I like to engage more people yet so that we can continue to progress. So this what will allow us to make advancements. So as you got your document, I've made some comments, but I do have something to say which I think is very important.

Both in the translation and in the French document, we said, considering that all of these initiatives will enable... And I quote, this is the fourth bullet point, "will enable Africa to not only integrate into..."

So I'd like us to say to better integrate, because Africa has been integrated in the process for a while, AfriNIC was created several years ago. So this is just a detail, will say better in English and then [? 1:03:10] in French, because we're already part of the process. It's just a comment. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Fatimata. Thank you Yaovi. Your mic is on. This is Fatimata speaking. I'm going to give the floor to Tijani to try and reply to Doctor [? 1:03:31].

And I'd also to make him to make a concrete proposal, so this is real proposals.

We're all here to give our input and we have to discuss when everyone agrees, then we'll incorporate them. Now Tijani has the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Tijani speaking. The debate is not only on the statement, it's on the statement and on the substance of the statement. I mean, the front. And when we say that we have debated it, how do we decide on a subject on the team?

We collect proposals, and then the proposal that has the maximum of agreement, will be the one we use. And we did the same for this theme. We was supposed to do it Toronto, and then we cancel the meeting because there was a strategy meeting on the same day so it was not a good thing to do it at this time.

So it was more or less postponed to this meeting, and even for this meeting, when the theme was proposed it was separated on the list. On the AfrICANN list. So everyone should have known that we would speak about this subject.

If the subject, if the drafting is not the one that you want, we can change it. But the subject was agreed on by the majority of people who are on the list. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you Tijani. You will be [laughs]. Okay. I want to give the floor to Victor because he was on the list before you, and then I will give it to you back. Victor.

VICTOR: Thank you Fatimata. I'm Victor [? 1:05:51] from [I-Sock] Simone chapter. I have a few comment on this statement. I think before the prop meeting, we were discussing maybe the content of this statement on the list. And our right to remain my view on this.

So we are in a sense talking about capacity building in Africa. We are continuing building our capacity, waiting on moving ahead. I would like this statement about the creation of the fund to be clear, if not we continuing working on other things that concrete and the core work of ICANN is going forward and we're still behind.

ICANN has a mission, it's clearly stated. It's about domain name and numbers, IP addresses, that is clear. We are [be kind 1:07:09] on the time of domain name, IP addresses we have our [? 1:07:15]... we are moving concerning IP addresses.

We are behind concerning the domain name industry. We ought to be clear in stating something about ICANN. We want to jump in, in the domain name industry. How we need this. Nothing here is mentioned about [DAR 1:07:38]. [DAR] has been reviewing and for us also discussing about privacy, human rights, it is important.

But nothing that we are talking about, the financial issues, the insurance issue. Many company in Africa do not have financial problem, they have money but barrier has been pulled to not allow them to become a

registrar. And we have to ask ICANN, we need [RIR 1:08:12] on this on the Africa economic environment.

It's not easy for an Africa company to provide the initial and for \$500,000. We have to be clear about that. And as we need this, not saying that we need it found to develop [? 1:08:29] and between [? 1:08:30] and to helping develop the internet in Africa.

The building capacity. And ICANN has its mission, and I was hardly saying, the motion is one internet. In the past, it was one world, one internet, everybody connected. ICANN is not working about connecting people, and they removed that.

They have the mission to maybe [? 1:08:53] to develop domain name and IP address, and make sure that everyone are using the same internet. And we have to be specific about when we are making a statement concerning ICANN. Not be extremely large, because other organizational are doing great thing.

AfriNIC have been building capacity, and this important so we have to make our statement really, really clear on what we need. Because the first one is facilitating a communication of African registrar through financial and technical support. That is work.

We have to be specific, we have a barrier, and that barrier has to be break. That's my point. And when ICANN mission, my agenda was to become the next ICANN [credited register 1:09:46]. And since 2008, there was no new ICANN [credited register] in Africa.

There is five, of those five become accredited [is that true? 1:09:58] European company. That is clear. And we are talking like we are not

aware of that, we are aware. We are not continuing like that. I cannot go through a US company to become registrar.

If I cannot become a registrar through my, on capacity I will stay and study until ICANN make change happen. Thank you very much.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Yeah. Thank you very much Victor. This patient. But I would invite the others to be to make it short. And again, let me tell you one thing Victor. I mean, your contribution is very valuable, and we would like to have concrete proposal that we can include and not...

This is why we circulated the declaration, the statement, prior to this meeting. Of course there was other comments as Doctor [? 1:10:59] stated earlier from then, and my first statement....

I mean, my first input regarding this statement was to... What caught my attention was really the fact that we don't, we didn't need this. But the metrics, I agree with you. What will be the indicators? What are we looking for? And if you got the input, we'll see how we can integrate it.

But we need concrete proposals. We don't need comments like this, or just saying this doesn't work, this isn't right. Suggest something. Okay. [Barak 1:11:44] and Doctor [? 1:11:46]. Yeah.

MAN:

I don't want to make a dialogue on it, I just wanted to point out that I have posted this critique on the debate on the third or fourth to the mailing list. There has been no response. There has been a comment

from [? 1:12:01] from somebody addressed as SM, who I don't know this.

And then Michelle [? 1:12:10] has posted comments to the list, and none of these comments have been replied to on the list. It is very difficult for, I'm sitting here now and I'm coming up, I hear what he is saying.

I'm fully supporting him and what he is saying, but it is very difficult to sort of push the proposal, push his points away by saying make a concrete proposal that is tactics that is not, I think, worth the importance of this issue.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Tijani you want to reply to this same question? Okay. Is it the same point? Okay.

BARAK:

Thank you Chair. My name is Barak from FTLD. I think I want to make a couple of brief comments. The challenge we are having is, we are talking at each other instead of talking to each other, on this continent.

A lot of the issues we have been talking about are repeated here, and I think Fadi is sitting in. And we need to find ways of working with each other, regardless of the language barriers that we are facing.

As FGLD, we worked with AfriNIC, we've worked with ICANN, we've worked with [I-Sock] to try and bring capacity building efforts. And what I realize is when we do it together, we move farther.

But when everyone tries to come up with their own initiative, a challenge. And discussions that begin with money are always problematic. I think what we need as a continent is to first look beyond money, and look at what we can be able to do in our own small way, starting in our countries.

I was privileged to have assisted in starting register, one of the five ICANN accredited registrars. And Victory [? 1:14:11] was my mentor. And it was interesting, it has been a struggle. The business is going on with offices in [? 1:14:21] and Nairobi, but the hardest thing has been the market does not understand the business that people do.

And I think this is one place that we need to look at how do we combine efforts and educate this market so that they can start buying this product. I think issues of becoming accredited that issues ICANN can quickly address if we have specific, as Victor mentioned, because there is no particular one size fits it all solution.

So I would say let's exhaust... What Doctor [? 1:15:01] says raising [? 1:15:03] is, it seems we are not talking to each other properly. So if the mechanism we are using is not working, can we look at another mechanism, even if we are going to lose our ways and say we interviewed ten people, this is what they said, this is the way for it, and then we move forward.

Because when people cannot comment maybe because of the organization they represent, maybe they are government officers, so can we change the approach? Maybe do the ways and move forward and I'm asking. Because if we ask here, I'm sure we will go away without any answer. Thank you Chair.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you Barak. [? 1:15:46]

MAN: [? 1:15:49] Thank you Fatimata. I just had a comment, but before I speak, I'd like to note, [third and fight 1:16:07] will speak more than we do. And in fact, I've realized that as the other continents advance, we always discuss everything.

This time, ICANN gave us a hand. They said, okay here you are Africans, you can propose your own African strategy. So they gave us Pierre, who is here, and we try to get a move on, and I hope together we can achieve positive results.

And I think here around this table, each of us has a great number of proposals to make. But if my proposal, for instance, is not noted today, is there a chance I'll say no, I must note it. I must absolutely be done. In fact, it shouldn't be like that.

So I think we should establish priorities. But this is not what I wanted to say. In fact my comment is on the statement... And in fact I congratulate those who had the [? 1:17:20] and I'm certain they have better things to do, but they did this work and they took it [? 1:17:28].

When I have a look at this statement, I think we focused on the registrar level. And I don't see a need, ccTLDs or local structures present, this is an example. Because I think that if we want to develop a system today, and we cannot define common ground between both we should guarantee a minimum is granted for all levels of the organization.

Because in [? 1:18:08], if for instance, say I'll use the same speed they have in South Africa, but South Africa, for instance, must know that the [? 1:18:22] have a minimum. So in fact, I'd like us to think about this so that we can find this common ground, so that we can give everyone try and establish common ground in all this local points. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Fatimata speaking. Thank you [? 1:18:45] for your comment. Yes?

MALE: Thank you. I just wanted pertaining the eight countries that have been selected for the DNS sec and road show that is going to be coming up, and if there is any criteria that we use in selecting those eight countries that we started. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you [? 1:19:11]. Pierre, you want to say something about it? Just one... But I think, we'll ask for one minute please. Please we started at 2:15. Pierre go ahead please.

PIERRE DANDIJNOU: Thank you very much. And I just wanted to thank you all for this meeting, and especially for having giving the opportunity for introducing the progress that we made so far.

On the declaration of the statement, of course I do have my questions, queries, I will be sending them over to the committee. Because there are also questions that I have. The other thing is, and that's how I'll say

it, we make sure that this sort of meeting actually contain all the components that we do have.

We do have other Africans that are assisting you, attending these meetings. They are not here. And to that, we should make sure that this become a kind of Africa meeting, you know, here. I don't know how At-Large will do it, but I will tell you that's why I wanted to present the African strategy here.

I wanted this to be done within the African sort of grouping. So please consider that one for the future. Thank you.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Merci Pierre. This is Fatimata. I'd like to have a word before we finish this meeting because we have not reached consensus to say that a statement is adopted. And that was actually our main goal.

What I'd like to recommend however is that Doctor [? 1:21:05] who had several proposals to make, Victor and the drafting group, particularly [? 1:21:14] who chaired that group, present a draft that we will be sharing on the mailing list, so that we can vote online.

That's what I propose. And so I would like to thank the interpreters from the bottom of my heart because they always join us [applause]. Technicians, I'd like to thank the members of staff. And our guests who wanted to participate at this meeting.

And I would like to thank you all who participate in the African community and who came to this meeting and contributed. Thank you very much and see you next time in [? 1:22:03].