
DURBAN – Welcome Ceremony & President's Opening Session
Monday, July 15, 2013 – 08:30 to 10:00
ICANN – Durban, South Africa

Ladies and gentlemen, if you would be kind enough to take your seats, we'll begin our welcome ceremony. Thank you.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to introduce board chair of ICANN, Dr. Stephen Crocker.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Thank you very much. It's an extraordinary pleasure to be here. It's a pleasure to be back in Africa. It's a pleasure to be back in South Africa. There's so much energy and so much good feeling, and in fact, it's caused a crystallization of some ideas that have been floating around in my mind which I will come back to in just a second.

We have, as we often do at ICANN meetings, many, many things that are going on. It's a very busy time and a lot of intersections.

I want to start by recognizing some guests who are not on the stage with me but who are very critical members of what we call the ISTAR community, the Internet ecosystem.

Do we have -- I can see Jari, I can see Lynn, and -- oh, and I can see Paul. Good. Okay.

Lynn St. Amour, let me ask you just to stand briefly. I know how much you like grabbing the limelight here. She doesn't.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

President and CEO of the Internet Society.

[Applause]

Paul Wilson, who is the CEO of the Asia-Pacific Network Information Center.

[Applause]

That is the regional Internet registry for numbers.

And Paul is also chair of the entire Number Resource Organization this year.

Jari Arkko, chair of the Internet Engineering Task Force.

[Applause]

We are -- we have a singular moment in time. Jari is wearing a newcomers badge. He's not only first time here, but I believe he's the first time that a sitting IETF chair has visited us.

We're going to return the favor shortly with Fadi going to an IETF meeting in a couple of weeks, and so welcome, Jari.

We have some very distinguished people on stage here with me. I will give fuller introductions in a moment, but Dr. Hasmukh Gajjar -- am I halfway close? -- the chairman of ZADNA, who is the ccTLD for South Africa and host of our meeting; Dr. Elham Ibrahim, commissioner from the African Union; Hamadoun Toure is not here, but we will be seeing a video from him; and last, but definitely not least, what I expect will be the first of many things that we will hear from Lukonga Lindunda. Right? That's better. I need to practice, I think.

And I will come back and introduce them a little more fully shortly.

I'm only going to take a minute or two because there's more important to be said, but the -- in coming to Durban, I'm struck by how pleasant the weather is in what has been reputed to be winter. I'm familiar with winters that are considerably harsher than this, and one of the -- one of the things one always thinks about in winter is how soon spring is going to come, and for those of us in the northern hemisphere, we've just left spring and it's a long way away, but coming here, spring is coming sooner.

Which is a sort of hokey way of getting to the point I want to make about the vibrancy that I sense throughout our entire community, and particularly in the supporting organizations and the advisory committees.

Each one seems to be going through a kind of rebirth, a re-energization, and I can see, not only intensively focused internally, but also looking sideways at each other's organizations, and even a little small sense of competition for attention.

There's much to say about each of them, but I'll only take a moment to mention that this time is the 10th anniversary of the Country Code Name Supporting Organization, the ccNSO, and I think that deserves special attention.

[Applause]

As I said, being here in Africa has caused me to put together an idea that's been gelling in my mind for a while.

There's been a lot of rhetoric around the requirements for accountability and transparency, and we have formal processes to review, and I'm, in fact, on the -- the current incarnation of the Accountability and Transparency Review Team. All of that is extraordinarily important. But it had caused me to think some time ago that accountability and transparency, although they're absolutely essential, are not sufficient. We could be accountable, we could be transparent, we could be ineffective, we could be getting nothing done.

And for some time, I've been talking about effectiveness and efficiency as essential as well.

And the -- we have to -- we have to get the job done. We have to -- you know, we have to be effective at what we're doing. We have to do it with a reasonable amount of efficiency. One can always quibble about precisely allocation of resources and so forth, or how long things take, but we have to be professional, we have to be businesslike.

But even with all of that, it does not quite get to another quality which I want to introduce and have not talked about formally in the past.

One of the opportunities, one of the advantages that we have in the way ICANN is structured as not being a government bureaucracy, even though we sometimes try very hard to look like we are, is the -- is the opportunity to do things in a better way. "Better" can mean smarter but it can also mean warmer, more engaging, more accessible.

And I've been paying attention -- excuse me. I've been paying attention to a number of specific interactions that I've had the privilege to watch from the inside and asking hard questions: Did we do this in a way that

leaves all of the people that we're interacting with feeling good about the interaction, even if we have to say something that is a negative message? Are we operating in a fashion that causes people to say, "Yeah, that's really -- I'm glad to have had this interaction, I'm glad to -- and the organization works the way I'd like it to work." As I say, even in cases where the outcome might not be objective, as it were.

This is the human element here, and I know that sounds odd coming from somebody who is a techie, or maybe as some of my friends are -- want to say "who used to be a techie" until I was moved into this position.

So the slogan that I'm going to share with you this morning is what I call the third "E," for empathy, and so my -- my stump speech now is that we need to be efficient, we need to be effective, and we need to have empathy, and that needs to be marbled and imbued all the way through the organization in every element that we deal with, and so that's -- and as I say, it's coming to Africa where feelings are evident everywhere. The warmth and the engagement is just something that you feel even before you get off the plane. In fact, flying South African Airways, you feel it when you get on the plane, which I can tell you is different when you get an American airline.

And so to the extent that -- that I can, and the extent that my colleagues in ICANN can -- you know how that plays -- we will be moving as much as possible in that general direction.

And one can go overboard on these things, but let me invite people who see ways in which we can be more empathetic to speak up, and speaking again personally, my door is open on that subject.

We have an enormous amount of substantive things to share this morning. As usual, Fadi has a first-class show, is what I'm going to say. It's more than a show, of course, although he is a very good showman.

[Laughter]

And it's been -- and I can tell you one of the privileges, maybe almost these days my primary enjoyment as chair, is being able to watch and have a front-row seat.

Fadi always makes a point of introducing me as his boss. Farthest thing from the truth. I just have the privilege of having a front-row seat, and it's been thrilling and engaging and a major learning experience, which is always fun.

Let me introduce our host, Dr. Hasmukh Gajjar.

Dot za is now, what, 20-odd years old? 21, 22 years old, roughly? Which puts it in the early crop of ccTLDs.

Dr. Gajjar is a former medical physician who jumped into the world of computer software development in the late 1980s. I am sure there is much to be said about the symbolism of moving from medicine into I.T., but I'll avoid getting distracted too much.

He's recognized as a pioneer and a leader in both South Africa's I.T. industry and in black economic empowerment.

As chairman of dot za, he's promoted an understanding of how the evolution can positively impact the commercial development of emerging economies, especially in Africa.

Please welcome Dr. Gajjar.

[Applause]

DR. HASMUKH GAJJAR:

Chairperson of the ICANN board, Dr. Crocker, chief executive and president of ICANN, Mr. Fadi Chehade, Honorable African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim, members of the ICANN board of directors, fellow delegates, and colleagues that form the ICANN community, I welcome you all to South Africa and the city of Durban.

This 47th meeting of ICANN is a great honor for us at ZADNA to host. You are also in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, one of our nine provinces that make up South Africa.

KZN, as it's fondly called, is also the home province of our president.

It is not too far from here, in a small town called Howick, in this province, KwaZulu-Natal, that on the 5th of August, 1962, Nelson Mandela was arrested on his return from the Pan-African Freedom Movement for Central, East, and Southern Africa in Addis Ababa.

Thus began the incarceration of the father of our nation, a global icon and his long road to freedom.

21 months after Nelson Mandela's release from Victor Verster Prison, at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, on the 12th of November, 1991, the first Internet Protocol packets started flowing out of South Africa on a leased circuit to Portland, Oregon, USA.

In that context, and within the South African history context, just after that mail, a month after that flow of that mail, Nelson Mandela led a team at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, or CODESA as we fondly call it, to commence the negotiations that led to the establishment of a democratic constitution-based free South Africa.

ZADNA's own long road to freedom commenced with its establishment in 2003.

In 2003, the Internet industry, the skill set and the intellectual capacity on domain name systems, still reflected our hideous past.

The only delegates of color that participated in ICANN meetings were those sitting in GAC sessions.

To date, were it not for the establishment of ZADNA, the South African delegate participation in ICANN meetings would continue to be anemic of diversity and which should reflect our rainbow nation.

Similar to CODESA, Convention for a Democratic South Africa, we at ZADNA had an obligation to launch our own long road to freedom through CODI -- and that's a Gajjar acronym -- Convention for a Democratic Internet.

Through a public and industry participation process, we quickly established that the central registry based business model would propel us into a global best practices model. Initially we communicated that the request for proposal be issued to operate a central registry. This prompted interest, considerable interest, from global registry operators, and local players began to position themselves.

It became clear to us that embarking on a commercial-based model would not address the lack of diversity amongst our people as Internet and DNS practitioners.

Similar to opposing parties meeting at CODESA, we too became acutely aware that we needed to harness the skills, expertise, and experience of the pioneers of the Internet in South Africa. People such as Mike Lowery one day, 12th of November, '91 managed that first Internet Protocol packet flow out of South Africa to Oregon.

We need to harness the assets and expertise of the largest registry in South Africa, maybe even in Africa, .co.za. Our CODI, or Convention for a Democratic Internet, took five years to deliver a product. As CODESA culminated in a free democratic South Africa, our own convention resulted in the establishment of the ZACR, the South African central registry.

We as South Africans, in our own way, proved to ourselves that legacy-induced differences and separateness can be breached as we as South Africans can perform our own miracles. The democratization in the South African context of the registry operations has created many new opportunities. Working with Addis on the continent of Africa, ZADNA is the policy and regulatory body and ZACR as the registry operator can participate meaningfully in the growth and development of the Internet.

This unleashing of these opportunities is aptly demonstrated by the collaborative role played between the ZACR team and other role players on our continent, including the AU, in ensuring that the new gTLD, dot Africa, is owned, managed, developed for the benefit of Africa. An African solution for Africans by Africans.

We are very proud of this and congratulate the entire team of Africans in passing the initial evaluation for Africa.

[Applause]

Our collective efforts on this continent will increase the diversity of participants in ICANN meetings, not just in GAC sessions but in the different components that make up the ICANN community. We want to thank many of you in the ICANN community in assisting and supporting us in modernizing our governance, regulation, and operation of the name and numbering system in South Africa.

I especially want to thank Chris Disspain from auDA, Lesley Cowley from Nominet, Keith Davidson and Jay Daley from New Zealand, Adrian Kinderis and his team from AusRegistry and George Sadowsky.

[Applause]

Of course my thanks go to the ZADNA board, the ZACR board and management team, our government, and many other stakeholders. We wish you a memorable conference and may you have a wonderful time in our country.

Finally, all of us are aware of Nelson Mandela's long road to freedom in a different context continues. All South Africans have been united in their prayers and vigils for Nelson Mandela during his current stay in hospital in Pretoria. He has given and sacrificed his life for a free and democratic South Africa. It is poignant that ICANN 47 conference takes place in South Africa during the week South Africa will be celebrating Mandiba's birthday on the 18th of July. This probably gives us, in the

Internet industry, an opportunity to take some 67 minutes of our busy schedules this Thursday, 18th of July, to honor Mandiba's legacy.

ZADNA and ZACR, in partnership with ICANN and the AF* organization, invite ICANN delegates to join them this Thursday morning and travel to a local high school in Chesterville to give 67 minutes of our time in honor of Mandiba. We are planning to get our hands dirty for 67 minutes, painting and reviving that high school's infrastructure. We hope those 67 minutes you spend on Nelson Mandela Day during ICANN 47 meeting will leave an indelible mark in your memory of your visit to South Africa.

Details of this story will be published on the ICANN Durban .co.za Website. Welcome. Welcome to Durban. Welcome to South Africa. Thank you.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER:

Thank you very much. Now, my pleasure to introduce Dr. Elham Ibrahim. Her Excellency is the Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy in the African Union. During her 30-year professional career, Dr. Ibrahim has promoted advancements in the areas of electrical interconnection and network design in the preparation of technical agreements and protocols as well as in the areas of renewable energy. Clearly, a wide spectrum of current and pressing activities that are important in development, not only in Africa but around the world.

Among other top appointments, she served as first Undersecretary of State in Ministry of Electricity and Energy in the Egyptian government. Please welcome Dr. Elham Ibrahim.

[Applause]

DR. ELHAM IBRAHIM:

Dr. Crocker, board chair of ICANN, Dr. Gajjar, chairperson of South African Domain Authority Board, Mr. Fadi, President and CEO of ICANN, our young people, our future representative, Lukonga Lindunda, the co-founder and director of BongoHive, our fellow who is not with us now but we thank him very much for his vigil, Dr. Hamadoun Toure, secretary-general of ITU, directors and executives from DNS industry and Internet communities, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to speak to you at this opening of the 47th meeting of ICANN. Allow me to join my voice to South African authorities and to welcome all of you to the African continent, the continent of humanity, the continent of opportunities and future growth.

Our continent is commemorating this year the 50th anniversary of the African Union, the Organization of African Unity.

It's, indeed -- on May 25th, 1963, when the first meeting of the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity took place in Addis Ababa for the signing of the charter of the Organization of the African Unity.

By this solemn act, our founding fathers came to safeguard and consolidate the independence of our countries. Then under the yolk of colonization and, indeed, to strengthen solidarity across African and

total liberation of the continent did not only lay the foundation of our unity through a common African identity but also triggered the dynamics of actions and efforts towards integration and sustainable development that our continent is today pursuing.

The information and communication technologies are playing a better role to achieve the African Union vision which is an integrated, prosperous, peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

The Internet with its critical resources and governance are in the center of this plague. You are all experts and you know -- I'm sure you know better than me, but it's worth noting that ICTs are transforming the African continent and empowering its people's lives.

The Internet has become an integral part of socioeconomic development in Africa. That's why under Oliver Tambo Declaration adopted in Johannesburg in 2009 and endorsed by heads of state, the African Union ministers in charge of communication and information technologies committed themselves to work together first to protect African geographic and heritage names, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions which are recognized as economic assets in the information society.

Secondly, to promote the use of the Country Code Top Level Domains as they are a critical national resource whilst ensuring that the technical and administrative operations are at the international standards to foster trust and use of African domain names in order to bring financial, economic and sociocultural benefits to Africa.

In addition to this and as per that 2010 declaration of the heads of state and government on information and communication technologies, the African Union Commission strongly believes that meeting these two objectives and building of Africa's information society requires a secure cyberspace, appropriate infrastructure and efficient cooperation among African stakeholders and with international institutions.

To that end, the 22nd ordinary session of the heads of state and government summit decided among others, one, to continue the implementation of the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa, PIDA. It is three priority programs which is: Enabling environment, infrastructure and Internet exchange points. All of them are being implemented with ISOC in 33 African countries.

Second, to accelerate the analog-to-digital migration and the elaboration of national cyber legislations.

Third, elaborate an African action plan for the migration from IPv4 to IPv6.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, the Internet is one of the greatest public gifts of the 20th century.

Over the past five years, the Internet connectivity market in Africa has grown at an exceptional pace. It has been the ground for an unprecedented level of innovation and facilitated cross-border trade through e-commerce, helping to further develop the internal market and contributing to the erosion of entry barriers between African member states.

In participating in the global village and using the Internet, we Africans should make sure that our transactions are safe and that our identity is protected. Our names and culture should be used for the benefit of our economies and our people.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, the Tunis commitment and Tunis Agenda reaffirm the Geneva commitment to human rights as the foundation for the global information society. The human rights standards require governments to ensure that the information society does not result in discrimination or deprivation of existing rights.

On the contrary, ICTs should be used to advance effective implementation of human rights at local levels. The principle of non-discrimination mandates universal access to information and communication as an overall goal.

All individuals, communities, and countries should be empowered to take part in the information society using their own languages to create, disseminate and share information and knowledge. We and the African Union recognize and embrace the effort of the technical community, academia and governments that started the Internet. And we believe that the private sector and businesses, the civil society and the academia, the governments and technical community should keep building it for the benefit of humanity.

Internet governance and security concerns all of us to a greater extent.

We also strongly believe the fully inclusive approach involving governments, industry, intergovernmental, and international

organizations will reflect the general partnership approach which has helped to build the Internet over the last -- past 40 years.

There is a tendency from some to antagonize the issue of Internet, its stability and its governance. But let me just mention that the issue of Internet is not about old and the new way of thinking. It is not about telecom community versus Internet and computer communities. It's not about autocratic versus democratic type of governments. It's not about governments versus civil society and businesses.

It's about all users and institutions and individuals, men and women, feeling confident of using the Internet.

[Applause]

The African Union Commission will spare no effort to contribute positively to the debate and to building the global consensus. With our 54 member states, we must rise to that challenge of developing customer-centric services that can offer services delivering quality, consistency and transparency.

This is what drives our action in the African Union. Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, the ICANN structure reflects the global Internet community, including governments, technical community, registries, the business community, academia and noncommercial communities and representatives of the consumer interests working together to promote the stability and integrity of the Internet.

We are inviting all stakeholders to make inclusion as the center of all our actions and join us so together we can develop ICTs for the benefit of our economies, for the benefit of our people.

You are meeting here today at a time of critical changes to the international landscape of Internet governance. Cooperation rather than confrontation, it's now recognized within the African Union system as the way forward for the Internet. Let us all work to make it a reality.

There is a better necessity to acknowledge that everyone has a role to play in the Internet governance. Internet is one of all and should remain as such.

For the African Union, the essential principles are clear, that today the operation of Internet should be led by the private sector with governments intervening when necessary on overarching matters of security, resilience, equitable access and fair competition.

We do believe that there is a need not only for enhanced cooperation but for a new Internet social contract in which every single actor is recognized.

Ladies and gentlemen, before concluding, allow me to convey our thanks and appreciation to the board of ICANN and to the different ICANN supporting organizations and constituencies.

Thank you, Mr. Crocker, for the board support to the GAC advices. Thank you, Mr. Fadi, for all your achievements in this short period, especially for Africa.

Those words and those principles edited here and there about the need for extra transparency are very much valued and appreciated.

We and the governments do not have all the tools to deliver all programs related to DNS, but we have opted for an open private sector-led framework while ensuring that the development of the DNS is not going to undermine our national and continental brands.

Many thanks to all ICANN supporting organizations. And my special appreciation go to the GAC and its chair for their wonderful work. And with these words, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you fruitful meetings. And thank you for your kind attention. Thank you.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER:

Thank you very much, Dr. Ibrahim. Very, very enlightening words.

It's now my pleasure to introduce by proxy, if you will, Hamadoun Toure.

Over the past year, ICANN, primarily through the diplomacy of Fadi Chehade has been engaged in constructive dialogue with the international Telecommunications Union and specifically with Secretary-General Hamadoun Toure.

It's been a personal pleasure to -- it is a personal pleasure to introduce his video remarks to the ICANN community. I was honored by the warmth and hospitality that he showed both Fadi and me as his guests at both the recent WCIT -- WCIT -- and WTPF meetings in Geneva.

Went a long way toward opening new channels of cooperation.

Are we ready to have his video?

HAMADOUN TOURE: Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. I am very sorry not to be able to be in Durban with you personally for this ICANN 47 meeting.

As you may recall, I had the privilege to address your meeting in Cairo back in November 2008.

It is a tremendous pleasure to be able to join you again, this time remotely using the power of technology to bring us closer together.

I would like to thank you for your invitation to address you this morning, and in particular, let me thank my good friend, Fadi Chehade, and Dr. Steve Crocker, as well as the ICANN board members for inviting ITU to this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, in terms of global communications, we are living through the most exciting period in human history. We are on the brink of seeing as many mobile cellular phones as there are people on the planet and by the end of this year, some 2.3 billion people will be using the Internet, with 2.1 billion active mobile program subscriptions. At the same time as we come into 2014, almost 70% of people in the developing world will still be offline, with no access to the world's greatest library, the world's most active marketplace, and the world's greatest social gatherings.

This is something we must all work hard to change because it is clearly a matter of social and economic justice and fairness.

We should also remember that increasing access to the online world benefits everyone, including those who already have access, by expanding markets, opening up new opportunities for communication, and regional dialogue and content.

And as we all know, in the 21st century, the Internet is now a global resource, a basic commodity, and a valuable international platform for exchange and learning.

Distinguished colleagues, last November, four years after my first attendance of your meeting in Cairo, I had the privilege to meet Fadi Chehade, who had just been confirmed as CEO of ICANN at the IGF in Baku.

This was just one month before the world conference on international telecommunications, WCIT 12, and I was impressed by Fadi's desire to reach out and build bridges. We shared and continue to share the goal of working together by cultivating a relationship based on collaboration and cooperation. We are very pleased that Fadi Chehade and Steve Crocker came to WCIT in Dubai and were able to contribute to the important debate there.

Both Fadi and Steve also came to the World Telecommunication and ICT Policy Forum in Geneva in May this year, where the main theme was "Internet-Related Public Policy Issues."

ICANN, as a leading institution managing critical Internet resources, was a key stakeholder in this global debate and I was very pleased that

ICANN staff, including my good friend Nigel Hickson, participated actively throughout the multistakeholder preparatory process and at the policy forum itself.

At the WTPF, Fadi again reiterated something I always believed in myself: Personal courage, grace, and reciprocity is what we all need to show in working together.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased that ITU and ICANN are growing in our understanding of one another and I think it is clear that our two organizations have complementary roles.

Could I therefore suggest that the time may be right to move our relationship into a stronger footing, perhaps to a more formal partnership between our two organizations, focused on greater collaboration and cooperation while clearly respecting our distinct roles and mandates.

Indeed, I believe the timing could not be better for such a move.

ITU's plenipotentiary conference will be taking place in a little over a year, and our membership has already kicked off the process to define our strategy for the years to come.

ICANN has also embarked on a new five-year strategic planning process which includes areas of consideration such as role clarity and internationalization and regional development.

I have been keenly following your open and inclusive public consultation process and will be bringing relevant points back to ITU's membership to keep them better informed in their deliberations.

I believe that a key component of ITU's strategic planning process will be a clear understanding of the roles and the responsibilities of our respective organizations, and also the areas in which we can collaborate on and complement one another.

Distinguished colleagues, we all share the same long-term vision. The vision of a world where everyone is able to fully participate in the interconnected, knowledge-driven economy and society, from Geneva to Durban, from Delhi to south Georgia and the Antarctic, from Los Angeles to the remotest islands in the great Pacific Ocean.

The vision of the world where everyone can exchange ideas, access health care and education, innovate and sell products and services, and stay in touch with family and friends.

The vision of a world connected by high-speed communication networks and supported by the appropriate underlying infrastructure and services enabling governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and every citizen to connect, build partnerships, collaborate, and trade as well as to address global challenges such as climate change and disaster mitigation.

The vision of the world in which the risks and downsides of participating in the global community are properly addressed so that they do not overshadow the benefits to users and especially the most vulnerable, including children.

And the vision of the world which is fully inclusive, regardless of physical ability, gender, income levels, or language spoken.

Neither ITU nor ICANN nor any other single entity can achieve this vision alone. It can only be brought about by a broad, yet close, collaboration between a multitude of global, regional, national, and local stakeholders. It can only be brought about through the efforts of all players using our best skills, expertise, and people.

There are clearly disagreements and differences of opinions on how various challenges on the way toward achieving this vision should be addressed. This is normal, given the nature of the rapidly changing and increasingly complex world we live in.

Open multistakeholder discussion remains a very healthy way for the international community to seek solutions to contemporary challenges and this is a very important point that I would like to make in conclusion.

In a fast-moving, rapidly evolving environment, there are no permanent or even long-term solutions. What works today will not necessarily work tomorrow. So this needs to be a continuous process, bringing all stakeholders to the table in an inclusive dialogue.

This is the road we are traveling along together, not a destination we are trying to reach. I look forward to continuing to benefit from our shared journey together along that road.

It is clear that ITU and ICANN will be taking this journey together, and that is something I look forward to very much.

Thank you very much for your attention.

[Applause]

STEVE CROCKER: Those are very good remarks from Hamadoun Toure.

We now come to a moment which a person in my position looks forward to both with a certain amount of pleasure and a twinge of fear: The introduction of up and coming youngsters.

In this case, Lukonga Lindunda. It will take me some practice here. One of the exciting young talents in the I.T. industry not only here in Africa but anywhere in the world. Cofounder and director of BongoHive, the technology innovation hub in Zambia's capital of Lusaka. BongoHive provides a place for the local tech community to exchange ideas, attend training sessions, and to network with each other.

Mr. Ludunda has worked tirelessly with schools, with colleges and other institutions to ensure everyone has a chance to benefit by Zambia's digital future. It's my pleasure to introduce him.

LUKONGA LINDUNDA: My name is actually Lukonga Lindunda, so if you can get that. I'm told that I'm breaking tradition. That's the first time that's ever happened so please do not try this at home.

I'm going to talk about the digital revolution, and really give some context to what the Internet is doing in Zambia and in Africa.

This is a simple photo of a couple of guys at the BongoHive in Zambia working on some projects, so there will be some photos that I'll be showing you, but please, it's a story.

This is something that you are aware of. Africa has changed the past few years, in the past five years. A lot of Internet. Internet is cheaper. Internet is available much more widely on mobile phones and the whole story.

Most of you have read Forbes, Time, CNN, BBC, the mobile revolution in Africa.

At the same time, something else has been happening, and this is a project that we worked on and that I worked on personally to showcase what Internet is doing in Africa, but specifically what innovation is doing, what innovation -- what supports are actually coming up in Africa.

We started this in 2011, in December, a lot of people. And I think most of you here were unaware of what was happening in Africa, and that people were actually using Internet to their advantage to create services, digital solutions.

In 2011, we had, on this map, less than five institutions or places where you could say people were coming together innovating. And using our map today, there are over 90 hot spots in Africa, people meeting together. Anything from incubators to hacker spaces to university technology spaces.

This is what we have been able to show. Africa is rising.

But I would like to give you the context, as well, of how it's happening. This is BongoHive in May 2011.

Two friends of mine, we got together and we did some brainstorming, how do we start creating a space for young people in Africa, in Zambia, in Lusaka specifically, to create technology solutions, to create locally relevant technologies.

We went around looking for funding, which is, of course, the first thing that you do: Try to create -- come -- bring together some proposals and hope that Google, Microsoft, and all the big guys will come to your aid.

It didn't happen.

[Laughter]

LUKONGA LINDUNDA:

I personally actually spoke to people from Nokia, from Microsoft, from Google. Google is now a sponsor, but back then it was hard. It was hard to convince people that Lusaka had Internet, had computers, and had people who were willing to use technologies.

So what did we do?

We just started.

The picture there is of a room in the ministry of education. The computers that you see there were donated by an organization from the Netherlands. And what you see there are young people who were brought in. At that point I was working for a big NGO, and these young people were brought so that they could clean and repair these computers, ready for distribution. I know most of you know the whole story of refurbished computers in Africa. Well, fortunately that's how we started our hub.

The guy in yellow, orange there, is Simunza. He is a cofounder of BongoHive and this was our first session at BongoHive on Web technologies.

It lasted around two hours, no refreshments, with Internet roughly, I think, 56 kilobits per second. But this was the start of BongoHive, and this represents many places in Africa still not having enough Internet to really innovate, to really take advantage of -- to create locally relevant services.

But our story is that we did not stop. We did not wait till fiber came through to our homes. We did not wait till we had an agreement with a telecom operator. We just started.

Two years down the line, this is a session at our new space. We're now sponsored by Google. Internet is provided by AfriConnect, which is Vodacom, and this space right now is used for people to meet together to create locally relevant solutions.

The guy standing in front of the flip board chart, his name is Darrell. He dropped out of university. Was studying biomedical sciences, I think.

He is a great coder. One of the best I've seen in the country. He's now going back this year to university to study computer science. That represents many of the stories in Africa, people going to school because, you know, they have to fulfill their parents' wishes.

Technology or I.T. is seen as, "Oh, that thing that you do, hanging out on Facebook in the evening," but not understanding. And many parents right now don't understand some of the professions that are available already in technology.

This was a session, a hackathon, a two day hackathon at BongoHive and we had with the Peace Corps which many of you will know. Peace Corps have very interesting language training course. It's taken them years to put it together and you could say it's very exclusive because only people from the west or Americans have access to this language training course.

So what did we do?

Darrell and his friends put together this Android app called Bantu Babel. When you come to Zambia, you access this app and you can translate into 10 local languages. We took content, made it available to the masses.

This is a true example of what we are doing in Lusaka, at BongoHive, and what many other Africans are doing: creating locally relevant solutions and using local people.

[Applause]

We still do not have a 20-megabyte connection running into our hub. But we are doing what we can with what we have. And that is our story: Doing what we can with what we have. Thank you.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER:

Now comes the easy part. I'm supposed to introduce Fadi Chehade, but he doesn't actually need an introduction.

I am going to turn the stage over to you and then shortly we'll turn it entirely over to you.

[Applause]

FADI CHEHADE:

Dr. Gajjar, I don't think we can thank you and your team enough for what you have done to welcome us to Durban and to South Africa. Really, all of us should thank the ZADNA team when you see them. They have done a remarkable job welcoming us to this great country. Thank you, Dr. Gajjar.

[Applause]

I want to address particular thanks to Dr. Elham Ibrahim who flew from Addis for just this morning to be with us.

This is an extremely important visit by her, and it's a sign of a new era for how we work with international organizations. She has been immensely supportive, not just as our host in our recent multistakeholder Internet governance works that we did in Addis Ababa but also along the way. Any time we had questions or issues in Africa, we know to call her and she's always been supportive. Thank you for being here today and for the words you said. Thank you.

[Applause]

I remotely thank Dr. Toure. Hamadoun and I have started, as you know, our own safari, our own little journey, a few months ago. And I really appreciate -- First of all, I wish him quick recovery. He was planning to

be here with us, but at doctor's recommendation, he sent a video instead.

I spoke with him again yesterday. He sends each one of us his greetings. And you heard, I think, very clearly his new tone and his working tone with us. And that is extremely welcomed, and we thank him for that.

[Applause]

And Lukonga, quite frankly, I'm certain, is going to be the second African President of ICANN one day, given I take that honor before you. But I have a feeling this man is going to go to great places. His poise, his calm but more importantly what he's done is really remarkable. Thank you, Lukonga for coming to the stage.

[Applause]

I want to also welcome and thank the members of our community. I will start with the leaders of our supporting organizations and advisory committees with whom I continue to spend time and learn from. Thank you for your time, for being here, for bringing your communities together.

I want to thank my board of directors, every one of you, for the confidence you continue to give me to be at your service here. And especially my partner, my boss, my guide, Mr. Crocker. Steve is truly the inspiration that keeps me going. The inner energy that he has is remarkable. And it is on it that I rely to keep going and to keep doing this job every day. Thank you, Steve.

[Applause]

And so to all of you, our distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I have three quick points. First, Africa. I don't know if you feel it, but we're in Africa. It's a great continent. The numbers are amazing. This is now the fastest growing continent on the planet by GDP. It is also a young continent. It's a billion people today. In another generation, it will be 2 billion people. It is growing faster than Asia even.

It is a continent where the growth in income is remarkable. 30% growth in real income over the last decade. The decade before that, income had dropped 10%.

Secondary, school enrollment, up by 50% in the last few years. These are fundamentally different numbers about Africa. Everything, artists, designers, innovators are thriving in the hope of Africa, and it is showing. It is showing. I didn't even know that Nigeria alone produces more movies than all of the American studios. There is a lot going on in Africa right now. You just need to watch and see.

I think most importantly, as the economists said recently, the engines of growth in Africa are humming right now. And unlike previous growth spurts in Africa, this time it seems very sustainable. The amount of foreign direct investment in Africa is huge right now. And I think we need to watch.

So for those of us living in parts of the world where growth is not that forthcoming, Africa is going to pull us up. Africa now is the continent we can look to to grow.

But these are the numbers. There's another thing about Africa. Africa has a great spirit that does not translate in numbers. It's a hopeful

spirit. It is the spirit that we see in Mandiba. I had the great pleasure with my wife on Thursday to go to Soweto, to the township. We spent time in the township walking around and visiting the home of Mandiba, Nelson Mandela, visiting across the street literally the home of Desmond Tutu. Two Nobel Peace Prize winners on one block. The only place on the planet. Quite remarkable.

What we saw in Soweto was the spirit of Africa, the spirit of Mandiba, a great spirit. And it is a spirit that we all need at this time.

So I want to ask all the Africans in the room to stand up so we can give you a hand for this great continent you invited us to. Please stand.

[Applause]

Thank you. Thank you for welcoming us.

My second point is evident by what you saw in the last hour. ICANN is revisiting how we engage with international organizations. And our fruitful relationships in the last few months with the African Union, with the ITU are evidence that these relationships are complex but vital. I think we have come to a clear understanding that we cannot erase each other.

I grew up in Beirut where 17 factions spent 15 years trying to erase each other. And after many years of pain and loss, everyone came to the conclusion we cannot erase each other. We work with each other. And this is the spirit of our engagement with the IGOs. We need each other.

In fact, we share common values and common responsibilities to the public interest. And the public expects us to meet these challenges and do this well together.

And, in fact, this morning, I'd like to announce that in an effort to work closer with all these international organizations and NGOs, ICANN will open the next engagement center in Geneva. And Dr. Tarek Kamel will be moving there with his family -- and we wish him well -- to support our engagement with the international organizations.

[Applause]

This is an important time for us. And I will later speak about all the new engagement centers we're building. But Geneva is critical, and we need to be there.

In a recent visit I did to Geneva, I had a chance to meet all the WTO representatives in Geneva. And it was remarkable because half of them had never heard of ICANN. Half of them did not appreciate how ICANN can engage in their own thinking, in their own missions. And we will work through them and with the GAC always and through our activities with you to ensure that the multistakeholder model is understood and appreciated for what it is and what it does.

My last point is one of personal growth in understanding the multistakeholder model. Look, the unity of our transnational stakeholder model is delicate. It is delicate. If we do not maintain open, fair processes, that delicate balance is fragile. We have to maintain it carefully. I have learned this and continue to learn this every day here. It is the most precious thing we offer the world.

We must empower the weakest voices in this balance. We must do that. If we do not do that, that fragile, delicate balance is hampered. And with it, our legitimacy. This is the heart of our legitimacy. And the heart of our legitimacy as I understood in the last year is the thousands of volunteers, many of whom are here who keep that engine running. They're quiet. They give up their families sometimes. They give up their time. Many of them come here on their own dime to volunteer their time year after year for ICANN.

When people ask me: How do you get all this work done with a couple hundred people? I say: Couple hundred people are nothing. They're just the oil that keeps our volunteer engine working.

You are ICANN. We are just here to support you, and I want to salute the volunteers of ICANN who for over a decade are still here and making this multistakeholder engine the greatest governance engine in the transnational sphere today. And to you, I give a hand.

[Applause]

I recently in Portugal said something that was just spur of the moment, but I will repeat it here because the more I think about it, the more it makes sense to me. Most governance models work vertically, either entirely top down. Few of them are truly bottom up. But what I'm discovering is that at ICANN it's neither.

We're actually a much more horizontal model than people think. It's all about building lateral relationships with changing interests and figuring out how to keep that balance. And that takes much more talent and much more generosity of spirit.

This horizontal, lateral model is the true transnational model that will work. Top-down will not work. This is what we need to maintain.

And to make that model work, we, each of us, every stakeholder in this room, must realize that we are inherently interdependent. We are inherently interdependent.

And to live in a world of interdependence, all of us must learn to be conciliatory. And conciliatory is the spirit of Africa. In fact, Mandiba, the name of Nelson Mandela, means "the conciliator." So as he lays struggling to stand up for his 95th birthday this Thursday, we ask Mandiba and his spirit to help us because that's what we're doing. We need that Mandiba spirit, and we will maintain the legitimacy of this great organization. Thank you and welcome to ICANN 47.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: We have a little stage management here. Let me invite everybody to join me to now become part of the audience and we'll turn the stage over to Fadi and his team.

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE: Okay. We have a special event happening right now. This is a bit of a surprise, but we thought you'd enjoy this. I would like first to introduce my colleague, my friend, the new President of the generic domains division, Akram Atallah. Please.

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE:

As you know, over the last few months, and maybe more importantly over the last eight years, this community, you, every one of us, has worked extremely hard to roll out the new gTLD program. And the last few months have been, frankly, examples of dedication, frankly of some days courage, of immense focus to bring us to the new registry and the new Registrar Accreditation Agreements. So congratulations to all of us because these agreements are now approved by our board, reviewed by our community, agreed with great spirit with a negotiating team that I want to salute again.

And today we are rolling out the contracting process. And we have the very first signors of the new Registry and Registrar Agreements here to display that the program is moving forward.

So I call to the stage first for the registrars, Adrian Kinderis from ARI. Registries, pardon me. Please, please.

[Applause]

Ilya Bazlyankov for CORE.

[Applause]

And Paul Stahura from Donuts.

[Applause]

Welcome. This is the moment. Okay. And I also invite from the registrars, James Bladel from GoDaddy.

[Applause]

Rob Hall from Momentous.

[Applause]

Matt Serlin from MarkMonitor.

[Applause]

And our friend Mouhamet Diop from kheweul.com, the first African registrar to sign this agreement.

And, finally, Frederic Guillemaut from Mail Club in France. Please.

[Applause]

And representing ICANN, Akram will sign all these documents along with our partners. So please go ahead. And your documents are in front of you.

We tried to get the same tape from China to do the drumroll, but we couldn't get it in time.

Congratulations, gentlemen.

[Applause]

You want us to take a picture in the front, I understand? If you could please come to the front. Just up here.

MR. FADI CHEHADE: Thank you. Thank you very much. Congratulations.

This is, indeed, a very special moment, and, frankly, I want to make sure that the thanks are to really all of you.

I was not here for the last eight years, but many of you in this room have been, and have quietly worked to make this program what it is, and I don't need to speak about the program but you have seen the tremendous progress that our teams together have achieved in the last few months, and we look forward to more successes and more signatories and the new gTLDs in the root later this year. So thank you again and congratulations to all of you.

[Applause]