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MARRAKECH – AFRALO Program for African NGOs  
Sunday, March 06, 2016 – 08:00 to 09:30 WET  
ICANN55 | Marrakech, Morocco

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We're starting, if you please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Please take your seats.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Please. Good morning, everyone.

Good morning, everyone, and welcome once again to this session that's dedicated to the five NGOs that AFRALO has invited over for the ICANN week for ICANN55.

At this point, I would like to introduce to you Pierre Dandjinou, the Vice-President for Global Stakeholder Engagement for Africa – he is the Vice-President in charge of our strategy – and Fahd Batayneh, who's the Manager of Global Stakeholder Engagement for the Middle East. So you have one here from Africa. That's Pierre, and Mr. Fahd is going to talk to us about the global stakeholder engagement in the Middle East.

I'm not going to take any longer, so without a further ado, I'm going to give the floor to Pierre Dandjinou, thanking him for

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being here at this time of the morning to talk to us about ICANN strategy.

Thank you, Pierre. You have the floor. Two minutes, 15 each.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: I'm Pierre Dandjinou, VP of Stakeholder Engagement, taking care of Africa and happy to be here. I also understand this is a new initiative by the ALAC, which I'm really happy with. It's quite important to have newcomers and also to have new members, so I'm very thankful for this.

I'm going to switch to French now. Sorry about that.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's okay.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: It's okay?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's okay.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you for being here. I'm going to talk to you about the African strategy, and I'll start by congratulating ourselves for this

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initiative that's been put together. I would like to congratulate you for having invited NGOs so that they get to know ICANN and so that they can participate at ICANN as well.

ICANN decided to deal specifically with regional problems, and that's what led us a bit over three years ago to draft a strategy for each region. For the African region, we developed a strategy which you can check online, which is available. Other regions followed in our footsteps; after us, Latin America and the Middle East. Europe started to work as well. Europe's trying to define a strategy right now.

Now, what's the need for strategy? Well, in the case of Africa, it was an idea that came from the ICANN CEO. Shortly after going into service, he noticed that African countries weren't well-represented within ICANN and that they didn't participate as necessary. He also discovered in our archives that back in Dakar, the African ministers – that was in 2011, I think – had met the ICANN Board. They had explained a number of issues that they encountered in their region, among which the African participation, the African engagement, at ICANN.

Back in the day, they asked the ministers how they wanted ICANN to help them. In the case of all the discussions we had with the community, we managed to define a strategy that's based on two main points. On the one hand, one of our main

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focuses is the engagement of African stakeholders, but also the presence of ICANN in Africa.

If you know what our situation is, for instance, we started working three years ago, and back in the day we went to the countries. Every time we started talking to people about ICANN, they all said they didn't know what it was. So we had to talk to people and show them what the ITU did and what ICANN did because they knew what the ITU was, but they didn't know ICANN.

What was important, also, about this strategy was to try to show them how Africa could be a stakeholder in the Internet industry. I think everyone needs to understand that. As I always say, it's not merely about coming to an ICANN meeting and getting engaged. At ICANN, there's a lot going on, and we have to stay tuned. As I say today in ICANN, over 99% of our profits come from the sale of domains. That's important.

When ICANN launched its project of having new domain names, they realized that Africa was underrepresented. As you know, there's 1930 applications for new domain names, out of which only 17 came from Africa, and they all came from South Africa.

None of the 54 African countries felt the need to apply for domain names. Either they were poorly informed, or else they couldn't access the program, for different reasons, of course.

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Maybe it was too expensive because it all has to be paid for, of course, but it wasn't enough of a reason for us because ICANN had also set up a small fund for those who needed aid. And yet, people didn't use that fund, so that meant we had a lot of work to do in order to raise awareness among African countries and to show them why it was important to have domain names and also to show that Africa had to participate further. They had to get further engaged.

People should have personal accounts. It's very well to have a Hotmail account or a Gmail account, but do you think it is noble that 15 or 20 years later people have their own ccTLDs, their own domain names that aren't used? There's ten million inhabitants per country and none of them use the local domain name. That's not normal. There's about 500,000 domain names registered in Africa, and roughly 80% of those come from South Africa, so in South Africa there is about 400,000 registrations. If you take out Egypt and Morocco, the rest of Africa has nothing. So that's where we have to work.

That's why we thought we should try to foster the environment in Africa so that people could get engaged and become interested in our strategy. Our strategy, like I was saying, has a number of strategic objectives, out of which the main was to get Africa to participate at ICANN, to get engaged because that's

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what ICANN was working on: to develop policies that are adequate and specific to the specific resources.

As you know, Africa is the only continent today where we still use IPv4. In the rest of the countries, they're already using IPv6. But Africa hasn't even used 80% of the pools that they've been allotted. That is to say, AFRINIC, the African registry that assigns IP addresses, has plenty of IPv4 pools, whereas the rest of the continents have no more pools in the IPv4 version. That either means that, in Africa, they're not used enough, or else people don't understand why they have to upgrade. So people don't really use IP addresses, but they still have those resources available. We have to think about how we can get them interested and how we can get them to use IPv6. That's our purpose.

Our strategy was to create several projects in order to achieve our objectives. We have lots of projects, out of which about a dozen are key objectives. For ICANN, it's not about changing Africa. We don't want to transform Africa. We just want to help this movement, this development, in Africa.

We understood that, for instance, we need to further security in African countries in terms of DNS. Those of you who know Africa know that there are countries that are blacklisted because there's activities that aren't clear in the sphere of domain

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names. As you know, the weaknesses of a network lie in its extremities. Since Africa is at the fringes of the Internet, when you look at the environment as a whole, when you look at the Internet ecosystem, if you don't further security in Africa, you'll have danger, a risk, to DNS.

I've been to 15 countries in order to train people and to give them the DNSSEC technology which would allow them to sign the root file and to have a secure destination. That's all very well because that's implied we have six more African countries who have signed into the root zone file, and it is now a secure destination.

For those of you who participated at the WSIS, you know that people are always surprised in knowing that root servers are, for the most part, located in North America, Europe, and Asia. So how can we go about that? We can't have root zone servers in every country. For historic reasons, the U.S. has always had the first servers.

We started a program that allows us to have copies of the root servers that exist elsewhere. Today we have about twelve African countries that host copies of the root zone. Morocco, for instance, now has a copy of the L-Root zone.

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But we also understood we needed to work with the entrepreneurship in Africa. How can we get them interested? How can we get the African youth to join our initiatives?

Well, Africans soon saw the domain name management as a technical aspect, but there's more than that to it. It is an advantage for the business plan that the different countries can have. There's a marketing plan that surrounds the DNS.

We know we have a problem with statistics in Africa. We're not really sure of the values of the statistics we have. Today we have eight ICANN-accredited registries, but we had merely four three years ago. But, in fact, it's not about registries or registrars. What's important is the number of registrars at the national level. How can we have more domain name registrars per country?

So far, it's been managed as a resource that wasn't open to everyone, and we need to get it to be more open to everyone. That's why we signed an MOU with Egypt, which is a country that hosts the African DNS entrepreneurship. I'm sure Fahd's going to explain that further.

So our main goal is to help people, and we put together a number of workshops on marketing, specifically. I don't want to monopolize the mic here. If you have questions, I can give you more details.



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Summing up, there's other programs, such as the one that is my favorite, which is the exchange program. If you want to get people interested, you have to show them what your greatest successes are, so we've started to establish collaborations and partnerships at the international level. We have the IP Mirror program with Singapore, for instance, where we send people to get trained over there. We've made an alliance with Afilias in Canada.

At the African level, we've also started to work on cooperation programs with Tunisia to see how they've organized their experience, and we've had these exchange programs. We have South Africa lined up next, and we'll go on with the rest of Africa. That's just to give you an idea of what we're trying to do.

Now, to tell you what we expect of you – and this is a message for the newcomers, the NGOs who have just joined us – let me tell you that engagement in ICANN is important. Before becoming a staff member at ICANN, I was also a stakeholder. I used to work on the structure of At-Large. I was one of the twelve people who started the committee to work on what At-Large could be for ICANN. So I was there from the very beginning.

I think one of the key words at ICANN is volunteering. I really want to congratulate At-Large for that. You truly embody this

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will to contribute as volunteers, and that is very important. I know how hard it is.

When I see the work you do, I tell myself, “That’s impossible! We should clone these people so that everyone can contribute to the Internet.” It’s not just about what you get. It’s about getting engaged, and it’s that participation that counts. It’s countless hours that you dedicate to the work you do.

I met an African minister yesterday who attended GAC meetings. He was telling me, “It’s crazy the work you do. You get pages and pages of documents and you tell people to do them. And I don’t even get the time to read it. I don’t know how you do.” He said, “You do it?” and I said, “No. It’s not me. It’s difficult, but we have a number of people working with us. There’s pioneers like Alan, Cheryl, Olivier. They’re wonderful people, and they’re wonderful volunteers.” I think that’s what it’s all about.

I’m going to stop here. If you have questions, I’m ready to answer them.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Pierre. Thank you for the update on the African situation. As you say, there’s a lot to be done. I’m now going to give the floor to Fahd, who’s the Vice-President of Global Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle Eastern region. As you

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know, there's three or four NGOs here coming from Arabic countries, so they're in the Middle East. You have the floor.

FAHD BATAYNEH:                   Merci, Aziz.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:               Fahd, you may speak Arabic if you want. We have the translation.

FAHD BATAYNEH:               I'll just speak in English. I think it'll be easier for everybody, even though the translators are doing a great job. Thank you so much.

My name is Fahd Batayneh. I work as a manager for global stakeholder engagement, covering the Middle East. Just to define to you all what the Middle East is, the Middle East consists actually of the 22 Arab countries, in addition to Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Of course, when it comes to the Arab countries that are located in North Africa, we work very closely with Pierre and his team to ensure that we are on the same track in terms of what we do there and what's happening there, etc.

In the footsteps of the African strategy, the Middle East was actually I think the second region that went ahead with the

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regional strategy. The initial seed of actually planting that Middle East strategy started at the inaugural Arab IGF in October 2012, where ICANN tested the waters to see if the region really needed a strategy. The stakeholders ICANN spoke to at that time felt that, yes, there is a need for a regional strategy, and let's try to engage more with ICANN.

Of course, I'm saying ICANN because actually I wasn't staff at that time. I was a community member. I was one of those lucky people who were actually asked this question: whether we need a strategy or not.

From December 2012 all the way to June 30<sup>th</sup>, we developed a strategy as a community. We shared it with the community for public feedback. We had two face-to-face meetings. One was in March and in Dubai, and the other was in April in Beijing during the ICANN Beijing meeting, and we came up with a strategy.

The mandate of the strategy was for three years. We agreed as a strategy working group that we will implement the strategy around three implementation plans, or let's say three annual implementation plans. Each implementation plan would cover one full ICANN fiscal year. For those of you who don't know what ICANN's fiscal year is, it starts on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> the next year.

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Today, we are in the third and final year of the regional strategy. We are currently implementing the year three implementation plan. Of course, it was defined within the strategy working group, what will we do as ICANN staff in each and every year in terms of activities and sub-activities.

Some of the things that came out, actually, of the strategy, and which is becoming business as usual for us as ICANN staff in the region: we have an annual Middle East DNS forum, similar to the footsteps of the Africa DNS forum. We had our first addition in Dubai in 2014, the second addition in Jordan in 2015, and this year, it's actually going to take place in Tunisia in 2016.

Anybody interested in joining us at the DNS forum, you're more than welcome. We'll be sharing more information probably after this ICANN meeting, once I have some time to actually think better and focus more on that event.

We have a School on Internet Governance. This is also another annual event. One interesting thing that happened with our regional School on Internet Governance is that we are receiving requests to actually have these schools at a national level.

We helped Pakistan last year in having a School on Internet Governance at the national level. One of the best news I received on what's happening in Pakistan is that they are currently working on the second edition of the school. What makes me

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even more happy is that they didn't consult us as ICANN staff, so they're working on it alone, and that's what we want.

We are ready to go and help communities, but then we want them at the end of the day to actually take these initiatives for themselves, shepherd it, and just keep it as an annual event.

We're helping many entities within the region on having national IGFs. NOGs, which are Network Operators Groups, are not a mandate, but we work with RIPE NCC, with AFRINIC, and APNIC to actually encourage local communities to have NOGs at the national level. Within the Middle East, we have a Middle East Network Operators Group, which ICANN actually supports and has been supporting since its inception in 2007. We are encouraging people to actually go at the national level.

We also have within the region an Arab IGF at the regional level. I understand that there is a North Africa IGF. It's in the initial planning phases. But then again, we're also encouraging countries to have national IGFs.

One of the most exciting projects we have within our region is the Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs. Just to define what a script and what a language is, a language is a language. A script is a group of languages that use the same letters, let's say. I don't want to go too technical from a linguistic perspective, so for example, Arabic, Urdu, and Farsi are three different languages

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that fall under the Arabic script. This task force is actually mandated with tackling issues related to Arabic script so that when we write IDNs, we can actually write it using any of these keyboards.

These guys are doing a lot of heavy weightlifting. Here in Marrakech, the group is meeting for the fourth time. In fact, the second day of their fourth meeting will be starting at 9:00 A.M. today. It's a closed meeting, of course.

Just last week, it was announced that this group actually had submitted what we call at ICANN LGR-1 to ICANN, and that was the first group. Those guys are doing a lot of heavy lifting when it comes to IDNs, and we are really proud to actually support that group.

Another very interesting project that came later on, which kickstarted in July 2014, was the DNS Entrepreneurship Center, which Pierre mentioned a while ago. The center really is there to serve the Middle East and Africa.

When we started the center, the mandate was to cover two tracks. One is a technical track, and the other is a business track. Recently we received a request to have a legal track, and we actually worked with some legal experts to actually kickstart that track.

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We have so far trained more than 175 folks from both the Middle East and Africa. We have more training in the pipeline. In the initial days, the idea was how to market this platform to regional stakeholders. One of the good things and one of the things that we are really proud of is that actually our regional stakeholders are coming to us and asking us for training. This is what we envisioned from day one. It's not that we go and push training programs to our stakeholders. We want our stakeholders to come to us, speak to us, and tell us what are their needs.

One sub-track within the center is a train-the-trainer, where we actually want to build local capacities to be future trainers. We don't want the regional community to depend on ICANN, on NSRC, on the Regional Internet Registries. We want them to have their local capacities, local competencies, and we want them to train their local communities. That's important for us.

L-Root instances: we are trying very hard to have L-Root instances and distribute them amongst the geographies. So really for us it's not about having ten L-Root instances within the same city. For us, we want to see these root server instances distributed in every country and in every geographic region possible because there are some kind of technical implications. There are some technical requirements to have actually these servers distributed in a healthy manner, so it makes no sense to actually delegate three root servers in a city that has an Internet



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population of 100,000. Makes no sense, really, from a technical perspective.

We have a couple of tracks that were not included within the regional strategy, and I'll skim through them really quickly. We are focusing more on business engagement, and we have an entire team at ICANN dedicated to business engagement. Recently, ICANN started a group on Civil Society and NGO engagement, and we have been working very closely with them to actually better engage with the community.

Of course, when it comes to Civil Society in this part of the world, things are a little bit difficult. Even when it comes to NGOs, the definition of NGOs in this part of the world is a little bit different than when you actually go to the west.

A third track is ... What was the third track? Sorry about that. I can't recall what I wanted to say on the third track, so my final point is that we have a session tomorrow from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Palmeraie Room, which is right opposite to this room, which is an update on the Middle East strategy and the way forward.

The Middle East strategy mandate ends on 30<sup>th</sup> June, and what we want to do is, one, we want to update the community on what we have been doing. Number two, we want to seek from

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the community what's the way forward. We invite you all to come and attend that session and interact.

Thank you so much. I still have five seconds.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Fahd. And it's precisely regarding the implementation of servers that I would like to let you know that the AFRALO-AFRICANN joint meeting that we will have on Tuesday at 11:00 is going to start with the signature of a convention between AFRINIC and the Moroccan regulator in order to implement the first server in Morocco.

I'm now going to give the floor to Alan Greenberg, and I'm going to ask you to take a bit less time so that we can give participants the possibility of asking questions as usual.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Thank you very much, Aziz. I was asked to speak here on ALAC and the importance of AFRALO. I can speak on ALAC a fair amount. I suspect I should be asking you about the importance of AFRALO, although, based on our previous two speakers, I think you're starting to get a little bit of a gist, a feeling, of what ICANN – and hopefully you'll understand how AFRALO interacts with ICANN and the importance of it. I think there's interesting things going on.

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I'll talk a little bit about myself and why maybe it's not that inappropriate for me to talk about this. First of all, ALAC. You've been sitting in the room yesterday, at least some of you, with ALAC. ALAC is a 15-person group. We are essentially the voice of users within ICANN.

If you look around ICANN, you go to some of the other meetings in the week that's coming, you'll see an awful lot of representatives of various business aspects of the Internet. You'll see the registries, the registrars, Internet service providers, companies that are providing all sorts of infrastructure or that are using the Internet in big business. You don't see an awful lot of the – whatever it is now – four billion plus users represented here. That's the job that is given to us.

We try to represent the interests of users. We do that through a pretty complex structure. You may have seen a picture. I'm not going to use any slides. The ALAC is the voice, essentially, that can take action within ICANN.

We're driven. We're supported by the five RALOs, one for each region, and the RALOs themselves are composed of both ALSs (the At-Large Structures), the people on the ground in various cities and countries who can be our arms, our legs, and hopefully our minds and tell us what is important in those areas.

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It's a messy structure, but anything which is going to funnel, essentially, the four or five billion users – six billion soon – down to a 15-person group is going to be messy. There's no way to do it easily. That essentially is our job.

AFRALO is one of the more interesting RALOs because, clearly, from the kinds of things that Pierre was saying and you know yourself, you started off in a much more disadvantaged role than anyone else.

Now I'll give you a tiny bit of my history. I've been working supporting technology in the developing world, and in Africa in particular, for about 20 years. I think Pierre I've known for about 2 years. Aziz I've known for about 20 years. I wish I had known Tijani for 20 years. He's one of those people that, to use the word that Pierre used, we'd like to clone.

The way that we're changing the world is by individuals working. It takes people actually doing things – not just sitting around tables and talking, but doing things. AFRALO, I believe, is one of the parts of ICANN and At-Large that is helping to change the picture of technology in Africa.

The importance of AFRALO? I don't know. If it didn't exist, the world would keep on going. If ICANN didn't exist, the world would keep on going. But because of the work that ICANN is doing in Africa, partially through GSE, through stakeholder

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engagement, which is Pierre's area, partially through AFRALO, I think we're making a big difference.

Certainly, if I look at the changes in some of the countries that I'm familiar with and have worked in and look at differences between the year 2000 or 1995 and now, it's amazing. In '95, we were starting to train people how to build the most rudimentary networks in Africa. The networks aren't rudimentary anymore. They're not as wide band, as fast as we want them to be. We have a long way to go. There's a lot of money going to have to be spent, but the difference is quite remarkable.

I believe strongly that the people who are involved in AFRALO are really key to making sure that the changes that we see reach the people. Certainly, NGOs are a key part in many countries because they straddle the difference between what governments do, looking at the country as a whole and what individual sectors and small groups within the country can do. I find it quite amazing.

I'm not going to speak a lot more. I was told I had ten minutes. Then I had four minutes, and now I seem to have four-and-a-half minutes left, so I'm a little bit confused, but I'm not going to speak for a lot more.

I think the work that's going on is quite amazing. For those of you who are involved, thank you. For those of you who are not

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yet involved, stick around. We can do some interesting things together.

It's interesting. The importance of AFRALO can be read two different ways. Is it the importance to ALAC, the importance to ICANN, or the importance of AFRALO on the ground in Africa? I think both of those are important.

It's interesting. As the most disadvantaged of the RALOs in terms of the level of technology on the ground, AFRALO, in many cases, does more than the other four in trying to be active and stay active and be involved in whatever the current activities are within ICANN and the world.

So I'm proud to be associated with this group. Keep on doing it. Those of you who are here just as visitors, stay. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Hi, everyone. My name is Olivier Crepin-Leblond. Shall we go on?

AZIZ HILALI: Yeah, no. Just let me comment on what Alan just said. It is very important for the work we do at ALAC – that's it, great – because he said some things that were very true, and he spoke of the work we do, whether as ALAC members or within AFRALO. I

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would like to thank Tijani deeply because it's him who's been working on getting the NGOs here.

Why did we want to get the NGOs here? Well, because we want to have new human resources join us. Right now, it's true that we're very few people and we work as volunteers. It's become a passion to me, to Tijani, to the people who are here with us at the AFRALO level.

I would like to thank Seun, who has been recruited very little time ago. He works a lot for AFRALO. We're forced to work a lot because, like we said, Africa is late at the technological level, so we're forced to make more of an effort.

Thank you. Now, Olivier, you have the floor.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I can go now? Thank you, Aziz. I'm sorry I jumped in. My name is Olivier Crepin-Leblond. I'm now the Chair of EURALO, which is the European Regional At-Large Organization. But before Alan, I was also the Chair of ALAC.

Africa was always very important to me because, during the 1990s, I worked on putting together a list to check how far the Internet network had penetrated the world. In '93/'94, there was barely any Internet in Africa. Within three or four years, the

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Internet went from zero connection points to a point where we had full Internet access in most of the African countries.

To me, that was fascinating because the speed at which Africa went from zero to not 100%, but 90%, I'd say, within a few years was something that hadn't happened in the rest of the countries in the world because they'd taken between five and ten years to get to that point. So it was very interesting.

I think, at the level of the African development within ICANN, that's also been the case. A few years ago, the African strategy was saying, "Well, if you want to come to an ICANN meeting, of course there is one in Africa every five." And that's it. Out of five, one happened in Africa, and that was that.

Now, thanks to Pierre and his department, and thanks to the fact that he stole the number of human resources from At-Large because there are many At-Large members who have now joined his department. It's a scandal. That's why I say he stole them. He poached them from us.

But seriously, Yaovi Atohoun, for instance, was a very engaged member of our community, and there's also other people who ended up joining Pierre's team. He stayed with us at the ICANN family but no longer is an At-Large member. He's a staff member now to develop the African strategy.



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So I would like to say that, within At-Large, we have a reservoir of new people joining the organization. We have a pool of people. When you cannot join ICANN because you're already a registry or a registrar, you need to know what ICANN does. There's many people who have started here in the domain name industry and within the Internet ecosystem and all things related to identifiers, not only domain names, but also the Regional Internet Registries and everything related to domain names and IP addresses.

They all start here. At-Large is where it all begins. It's where they get to see where it all works. They join us, and then they go on to the GNSO that deals with generic names. Some of them were even taken on by country code operators. Some of them were even engaged by domain name companies. Some of them have their start-ups to this day, and they come from time to time and say, "Yeah, I remember back when I worked with you. We feel like, boy, you know so much now." It's like you feel they've graduated. That's a pleasure to us.

I think the At-Large community is welcoming. I hope it is, in any event. If it's not, I would like to hear you and to know what can be improved, but we try to make it as easy as possible for everyone to join us by reducing the number of acronyms we use. I know that, in other rooms at this venue, it's a bit hard to follow,

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sometimes you'll see. I don't know how many of you have joined us here today for the first time.

Also, it's a bit special. It's a bit of a circus here because there's so many people and so much going on at the same time that I think that you cannot come to an ICANN meeting and say, "I'm bored." There's always something going on. There's always something to interest you, to catch your attention. I think it's important to get involved.

We talked to some of your colleagues earlier. Don't hesitate to come up to us. This environment is a bit easy to access. Also, in other parts of ICANN, there's a hierarchy and you have to follow a protocol. To talk to this person, you have first have to talk to this other person who's going to refer you to a third person. So it's always complicated. It's easy here.

If you come up to us and tell us you come from an African community and you're an end user and you represent an At-Large Structure or community, I'm sure, for the most part, At-Large members will welcome you.

For those of you who are newcomers, you'll see that you have a green badge. That'll be a key to go anywhere. I think lots of people like seeing newcomers and they like to see people who still join the organization. There's a hope that you will populate

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our organization. That's very important. That's going to open doors for you.

I think I've gone on for too long, but I hope to see you again during the week. I look forward to talking to you. I hope you can participate at our meetings in the future. As you know, our AFRALO community is very present. They're very active. I think they're the most active out of the five regions. As you know, there's people leaving, people coming in, people going to other ICANN sectors, and there's a lot going on at the international level, of course. You must have heard of the process that's going on right now with the transfer of the IANA stewardship and all the discussions on the accountability of ICANN.

I see Seun Ojedeji, who's there in the middle of the table. I think about a year ago he was about six or seven years younger than he is today because he hasn't slept for a year. So he needs your help. He needs you to help him. A year ago, he had no idea what he was getting into. He felt like, "Well, I'll try and see what it's all about." Look where he is now. So I hope you can all join us. Join Seun and help us be present all over the continent and in all the environments of discussion that are going on at ICANN right now.

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**AZIZ HILALI:** Thank you, Olivier, for those nice words regarding ALAC and AFRALO. I'm now going to give the floor to our dear Cheryl Langdon-Orr. As you know, you have before you the three former Chairs of ALAC, out of whom Cheryl was the first ever to chair ALAC. She was a pioneer at the ALAC level, so I'm going to give her the floor now.

**CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:** Thank you so much, Aziz. I will speak in English because I'm an Australian and that is my second language – English. No one can actually understand Australian. Advanced apologies to the team over there.

Well, we have the Chair, the past Chair, and the way, way, way, way past Chair. Or I like to think of it as the father, the son, and the great grandma.

I want to just stand here with the boys and say to you the importance of AFRALO and the AFRICANN movement that it's associated with is easy, measurable, and demonstrable. Look to your left and look to your right. You are the importance. Whether you're an ICANN old-timer, like me, whether you are absolutely fresh and new to this environment, you are bringing voice. You are bringing valued opinion. You are welcome and able to contribute. You will learn. You will argue. You will probably get a little cranky, and you will wonder why Seun is awake at 2:30 in

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the morning on a social network because I was, as usual, awake at that hour, and he's talking to me about street markets for food.

So sleep deprivation is probably one of the things that you will, if you go and get involved in policy development and working groups, which we want to encourage you all to do because that's a direct influence you can have for your communities, for your people, to the interests you care about. But sadly, it is predominantly in very unfriendly times, so a few of us have to give up sleep from time to time or totally switch it and just think you've done night duty so that the African voice, just like the Asia-Pacific voice, can be heard.

Why is this important? Because you can't convince someone with superb bandwidth, with cheap and affordable connectivity, while having things in a number of densities, a number of choices of format, right back to information out on radio and MP3 in some areas, is still important. They will forget about the needs of emerging and developing economies, unless we are there at the table and making reminders.

Your contribution, as with all regions, is vital. But just like part of the regional I am born and bred to, Asia-Pacific, Australia, and Oceania, with small island states, are still quite literally a week's boat trip away from the next island. Until we keep reminding

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people who are sitting in Los Angeles and London and Geneva that it's not necessarily all like they experience. Why, for example? To contribute to policy development, which is something I want to encourage you all to be involved with. Why? Unless it happens during your business hours, you may not have good enough connectivity to maintain both phone, audio connection, and the Adobe Connect rooms.

So we have to be there. We have to make the effort. You have a superb platform. You have the African strategy. You have leadership in staff and teams and projects that is par excellence. They are some of my favorite people, and, yes, I'm biased. But that's okay.

We have focused a great deal of ICANN's attention on Africa because we have to. We cannot be a global internationalized entity and ignore Africa. We have to help make sure that all your voice is heard.

I am proud and privileged to act as a mentor to a number of people in this organization, and I have two African mentees out of this meeting for the next twelve months, Isaac and Beran. They are examples of the future. There is assistance. There is support. There is friendship. There is concern. There is the ability to just check: should I say this now, and if I say it, how is the best way to say it? From all of us. Olivier offered to help. Alan is

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always there to help. Our staff is always there to help. Our doors are open, but you have to come in.

Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG:

There's something I have to say. We often talk about, and Cheryl made reference to people in certain areas having been disadvantaged because of poor communications. Their phones don't always work. Their Internet bandwidth is restricted. Cheryl does more work within ICANN than anybody else I know, and often, as she said, in the middle of the night, because the middle of her night is when we insist on – no, no. That's not the point of what I'm saying. I'm just pointing out she does an awful lot.

Cheryl lives in Australia.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

True.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Nominally she may say she may come from Sydney if she's trying to tell someone who doesn't know anything about Australia where she is. She actually lives, what, 50 kilometers away – something like that – in a little corner which has exceedingly poor Internet connectivity and exceedingly poor telephone

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connectivity. Her wired telephone works most of the time. Mobile? Eh. Internet? Eh. If she can do it, you can do it. Join us.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Cheryl. Thank you, Alan. Yeah, go ahead.

ALAN GREENBERG: When you invite Chairs, this is what happens.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: No, because we could go on for hours, so there is no problem. That's no big deal. We hold conferences that last for five hours at times, and some of you have participated and you attended those meetings.

But I just wanted to add one more thing because back when I started At-Large, one of the questions was, how can you get involved? Because there were teleconferences and I thought, "I'm going to have to phone," and telecommunications are very expensive back home. You should know I also speak too fast, so I must think of that. I must bear it in mind. When I drink coffee, I go even faster.

In any event, you should know that in order to get involved, you first have e-mails. Most of the work is done via e-mail, and then there's teleconferences that we organize. But a lot of people



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have the operator dial out to them, so it's not expensive. You can get the call. It's even possible – I know a lot of you have mobile phones. You can get a dial out to your mobile.

Fortunately, ICANN is very sensible and very sensitive to this issue, so they use a company that calls us. That operator that they have engaged has the possibility of calling you, of reaching you, at almost any African country.

To some of you, I know the problem is how much battery you have left on your mobile before you have to plug it in. I know you laugh because it's happened to us all. You were in the car, maybe, and you'd think, "Well, the call is going to take another 20 minutes, and Olivier is not stopping. I haven't had a chance of speaking yet, and there's only one bar left on my battery. I have to figure out a way to participate."

I'm going to hand it back to Aziz because I think his phone is going to go off any minute now.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Cheryl. Thank you, Olivier, and thank you, Alan. I think it is now time to give the floor to our participants so we can hear what they have to say regarding everything that Pierre said regarding Africa, everything Pierre said concerning the Middle East, and everything our former Chairs said.

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I had to give Tijani the floor before. I'm sorry. He was the organizer of the NGOs session. All I'm going to ask of you is that you state your name when you take the floor and to say what NGO you come from before you start for transcript purposes and for the interpreters, as well, because that's important.

First, we'll have Tijani. After that, [inaudible]. After her, [inaudible] – no, no. You're no member. Well, okay, and then [inaudible]. Tijani, go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you. Just for your information, the NGOs we've invited here have a schedule starting tomorrow. They are starting tomorrow because we have only ALAC activities today for them. But then, starting tomorrow, I've set up different activities for them to go see the other constituencies. So that's the program for them.

Secondly, Aziz, I'd like you to give the floor to the new NGOs first and then hear the old members. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

We all agree entirely? Is that it? If we all agree, I'll apologize because this session is actually organized for NGOs. So first I'm going to give the floor to Mrs. Hadja from Tunisia.

No. To clarify, for those of who weren't here at the beginning of the session, I'll repeat. AFRALO has made a great effort, and

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thanks to a small fund that ICANN gave us, we've invited five new NGOs to train them for capacity building purposes, that is, the purpose of which is to enhance AFRALO so that its NGOs can apply to become ALSs within AFRALO after the meeting. That is why at this time, between 8:00 and 9:30, we intend to train NGOs.

So we're going to give the floor to NGOs first, and then we'll think of old members, like you and me. Thank you. [inaudible]

HADJA:

I'm a member of the Lawyers Order of Tunisia. I'm going to start with what Mr. Pierre said at the end of his intervention. As we must be accurate in our efforts, as we lack the presence of ICANN in Africa, its presence is lacking. It is this lack of presence that forces us to define a specific action plan in Africa.

Mr. Pierre focused on a double-edged strategy; on the one hand, ICANN towards Africa and Africa towards ICANN. To me, the problem is the following, and I'm going to ask it as a question. What could ICANN do to enhance the position of Africa, whether it be within its organization or in terms of planning of its work?

On the other hand, what can Africa do to enhance the presence of ICANN, whether through its NGOs or else through its

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individuals? Because the work at hand, as Mr. Alan said, is here. It's about volunteers. It's individuals who do all the work.

But, Mr. Alan, let me tell you: the work of individuals must follow a strategy. We must plan the work ahead. Personally, when I came here, I had no idea about what ICANN was.

As a lawyer, I still wonder a bit what it is they do. I'm a lawyer. You see, what can you say of regular individuals? The work to be done in Africa is huge, so there's this two-pronged strategy that is to be implemented. We ask individuals to participate at ICANN, which is necessary, certainly, but we also ask that ICANN be more present at Africa. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Hadja. It's about asking questions now. That's what we asked of NGOs. I hope, Pierre, you heard her.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's okay. Can I? The question is about how to include Africa?

PIERRE DANDJINO: Can you repeat?

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HADJA OUATTARA: Yes. I'll repeat. What can ICANN do to enhance the position of Africa, whether within its organization or at ALAC or another constituency, and in terms of a working strategy? I'm being specific here. What specific measures can be taken? It's not merely about capacity building, but also about what Africa can do to enhance ICANN's position among individuals in the different African countries.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: It is a broad subject. ICANN has answers, but I would like to invite you to participate at our session on Wednesday. We're having an AFRICANN meeting that's going to discuss the Africa strategy. We're going to give you a report on what we've done so far, and then we're going to discuss on what still needs to be done. There's a lot that's been done, but it's not enough.

AZIZ HILALI: Now Isha has the floor.

ISHA-CHARLIE MCNEELY: Peace be upon you all. [inaudible] I'm interested in everything that's local, everything we do on the ground, how we can help unfavored NGOs. I'm happy to know that Cheryl shares the same environment with me. She works on the same environment as I do, and that's reassuring for me. My project is that in a region

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where poverty is depressing and there's no access to technology, we still have to find a way to get Africans citizens to become members of the Internet community and of the technology community. I have a project that we can talk about later on if you want. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Isha. I suggest we hear all questions and then give the floor to your Chairs for answers. Fatima, and [inaudible]

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: As my colleague, I would also like to congratulate Cheryl for the work she does. I'm very happy that users –

AZIZ HILALI: Introduce yourself, please.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Yes. I'm Fatima. I come from Mauritania, and I belong to a network for gender equality and access to ICTs. I'm happy finding out that users have dynamic representatives as dynamic as Cheryl because back home we still lack electricity, access, lots of things. At my NGO, when we put together projects, even the U.N. development program tells us that we cannot work on ICT

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initiatives where we'll lack infrastructure. So it's hard for us. It's a struggle, but we have managed to get some funds.

I participated at Durban, and I was in Sao Paulo for NETMundial. My country was not represented, neither by the government, nor by the private government. I was the only member of my country, and that's something that made me want to address my government.

I was surprised. I told them, "How can it be that at an Internet governance meeting, Mauritania is not represented, neither by the government, nor by the private sector?" So I think AFRALO might help us out in that regard.

Even in terms of the Internet in Mauritania, I think we've gone back. We're going backwards because there's an organization that provides fund for us to work, and then no one does anything. There's no follow-up. There's no applications. As a militant, I'm truly very worried about that. That's alarming to me.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll try to speed up. [inaudible]. I represent an NGO, which is the African observatory on the business practices. We belong to the OHADA. Those of you from sub-Saharan Africa know what the OHADA is and all the countries that belong to this organization.

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The OHADA has a council of ministers who decided to open their initiatives to electronics and to the Internet, which wasn't the case before.

The role of the African observatory is to see whether the principles and the rules of the OHADA are effective, or else if they are deficient within the different countries. I'm here to further research and studies on electronics, so I would like to talk to Pierre here and tell him that we are an observatory, which is to say we have questions to be asked for each country. Each country has to answer to these questions to know what their situation is regarding domain names.

But we know for the most part it's about connectivity. The main issue is connectivity. Is it a submarine cable? Is it a satellite? Is it a radio loop? We have a number of problems, so we have a question form to fill in to know what their status is. Then we put together reports that we send back to the OHADA to the specific committee dealing with the electronics within the OHADA.

So why shouldn't we participate at AFRALO to see what we can do to improve the situation? Pierre, it's not really a question. It's almost a cry for help. We have an observatory, which is ready to get engaged, to get involved, to examine, to analyze, and to make reports and to go on working. Thank you.



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AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, [inaudible]. I'm now going to give the floor to Moataz from Egypt.

MOATAZ SHAARAWAY: Thank you. I am Moataz Shaaraway. I am representing NGOs that is important to render the service of Internet to settlements in Egypt. From my point of view, I think that, in addition to NGOs in At-Large, we have to focus on communities, not by forcing them, but through these NGOs that are working hard and have their entrenching activities in these applications.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Moataz. [inaudible], Moataz. We're going to give the floor to [Rada], and then [inaudible]. She's an AFRALO ALS, so Rada, you have the floor first.

[RADA LABE]: I'd first like to thank Pierre and Fahd for presenting the initiatives that they've implemented. I thank the two former Chairs and the current Chair, and ALAC veterans as well.

After a brief passage through the Fellowship Program, I landed here at ALAC, and I recognized that there's a number of questions that have starting to come back to me over and over again. We need performance metrics today. It's true that the

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programs are very interesting. They're very interesting, and there's a lot of follow-up, but I think we should get an idea of the number of ALSs per country in Africa and in the Arab region. That's what we need.

In general terms, it's about two or three, and it's not glorious. Their participation is not as active as it should be, perhaps, so the involvement of two or three ALSs in Africa and in the Arab region is too little.

As part of a wishful thought here, I'd say we should perhaps try to launch a specific ICANN program as soon as possible to deal with two situations: on the one hand, to try to motivate people to become ALSs, to encourage the organizations in the different countries to apply for ALSs, and then, besides everything that Pierre and Fahd do, to try and get this mindset into people's lives. That's what they discover here: the bottom-up process. We generally have this idea that decisions are taken at the top, although they should be taken at the bottom.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Rada. We have only about three minutes left. Balbine, I'm going to give you one minute so that we have two left for the rest of the people. Balbine, you have one minute. Please, I want to see one minute in the backwards count.

BALBINE MANGA:

Thank you. I'm Balbine. I'm a lawyer in Cameroon. I've already participated at ICANN once or twice but I'm always lost. I still am. My goal is to get lawyers involved, and I'm happy to see I have a colleague here, two colleagues in the room. So there's lawyers here with us.

My project is to get lawyers interested in the matter because I say it's all too technical. That's what I find, in any event. Once the technical aspect is done with, we need lawyers because people have to be represented at the courts, and lawyers have to understand what it's about.

I have a project I've put together, but as I was saying, ICANN is too complicated for me. I don't know how to go about it. I have formulas for training programs, but who should I discuss this with?

I would like to thank our moderator because he said we're going to organize a training session. I hope at that training session I get a chance to understand who I have to work with. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Balbine. You took only a minute. I could tell you who to talk to here at ICANN. He's turned his mic off. We have 30 seconds for each of you.

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Wafa, I'm sorry.

WAFI DAHMANI ZAAFOURI:30 seconds. I'll go very quickly. I want to answer to what was said here. As you know, Africa is a concern to us all. I'm going to be a bit more dramatic than the rest of the participants here.

When you see the future of ICANN and when you think of the future of the Internet, there should be a certain maturity in Africa in order to get to the objectives that we've set upon ourselves, but in Africa, we don't have the necessary infrastructure. We don't have the networks we need.

So we're trying to work with the registries to get more registries signed. In that case, I think we should focus on that. You want to have a domain name industry. You have the infrastructure, the contents, and the services, but with all that, you can have lots of domain names without using all the resources available to us.

Regarding TLDs, there's a fake culture in Africa which considers TLDs as something belonging to the state, and they're protected as if there was a border. You need a visa to get to the TLDs from outside. Once you're in, you need lots of laws to be applied on you so that you can use them. That's the situation in Africa, in many African countries, in any case.

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I still have a few seconds left, I think. You talked about exchange points. I think that's very interesting. We should have exchange programs in Africa between more evolved societies and our countries. We have lots of problems but we can evolve together in Africa.

In Tunisia, we did everything; the root, the DNSSEC, the exchange program, the workshop. We've also been accredited at ICANN, but we're always isolated. We're still isolated because there's no cooperation between us and the rest of Africa.

I think, Pierre, that's your role. You should not only work on exchange programs with Africa and the rest of the world, but you have to open Africa to this reality and get us to exchange among ourselves.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Wafa. I'm going to give the floor to Fahd and then Alan. You each have 30 seconds. Go ahead.

FAHD BATAYNEH:

Thank you, Aziz. I wanted to leave this part until the end. I wanted to really quickly tell you a little bit about how we engage with At-Large Structures within my region, the Middle East and North Africa.

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Most of the At-Large Structures within my region are ISOC chapters, and we work very closely with them in hopes that we can actually engage them in the ICANN process. For example, last year we had our School on Internet Governance and it was hosted by ISOC Tunisia. They are an At-Large Structure. We are working on some initiatives with ISOC Palestine. We are working with Mona from LITA, who's the latest APRALO-onboarded ALS.

Of course, for me in specific, when I talk to entities that can actually become At-Large Structures, for me it's really not just to throw them into the work of the ALAC, whether the APRALO or the AFRALO, and tell them, "Okay. You guys should become an At-Large Structure." So at the moment I'm working with an ISOC chapter, and I'm not going to mention which country. We're trying to gel them. We're trying to have them more involved and have them more understand what ICANN is all about.

Actually, once I feel that they are mature enough, I will be tossing them the concept of actually becoming an At-Large Structure.

So really for me, it's not just throw in as many ALSs as we can and make them pile up. No. We are trying to do our homework and getting them more aware of ICANN is and what they're going to sign up for and what is needed from them, and then they can be more engaged.

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If you want to know more a little bit about ICANN, I think some of the ways you can do that is really to ... There are many resources on the ICANN website. There is the newcomers' session. You can always talk to your regional team. Talking to your regional team is always an advantage. Of course, there is the community. You have experts like Alan and Olivier and Cheryl, who are always willing to talk to you.

So there are many ways where you can actually find your way within ICANN. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Fahd. Okay, Alan Greenberg.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Okay. Thank you very much. I'm going to make a couple of very brief comments, but targeted at a couple of the comments that were made. We have to be realistic. ICANN's remit, ICANN's scope, is very limited. GSE and Pierre's group do a lot that really is outside of what ICANN is really here for, but we know it's necessary to get Africa to the stage where you can participate in the other things.

Our scope is limited. We do do a lot of technical things, and to be honest, not everyone who was interested in the Internet is interested in ICANN. So we're not trying to squeeze everyone

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into ICANN's form. It may well be that in any particular case there is no strong connection, and that's good. We're not trying to pretend everyone should care about us. We're just doing a little bit. We hope it's important. We hope we're doing it well, and it's important work, but it may or may not fit in your particular world.

Do take the time to talk to people, but it may be in some cases that there is no intersection, and that's fine.

Overall, we are deeply involved in trying to make sure that Africa can participate in our activities when it is appropriate. I think it's important to remember that. We don't do everything, and we're not going to be everybody's favorite thing.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Alan. Olivier, please?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Aziz. I just wanted to go back to Internet technology and communication for development. I think this is very important. It's a subject we always discuss at the Internet Governance Forum and at the U.N. We all think it's conceptual, but it's very concrete. It's a reality, all the more so here because in order to benefit from the Internet, you first have to have users, and here at At-Large, we're users. In the modern bottom-up



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system, users have a voice. They can participate in the decisions that will impact on the future.

There's also the matter of local powers. Back in the '90s, how many countries decided to install all the necessary machinery to have Internet 24/7 and to have air conditioning and all the rest? It didn't work.

Then I'll say we need local providers. Pierre talked about this, and I would like to reinforce the message. All that adds up to the development.

To finish, everything we decide here has an impact on the entire world. The IANA stewardship transition, for instance, has a great impact on us all. All the decisions taken will have an impact on us all. So Africa needs to participate at that because the decisions taken might go against your development. They might have a negative impact for you if you don't participate. So get involved. If you're not there, we'll never know what the local problems are. We'll never know what they imply for you. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you very much. Very briefly and to one or two of the questions – I'd love to answer every one of them but Aziz won't let me – I'd encourage you to look not only at the link that was

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put in your chat to look at the distribution and numbers of At-Large Structures. Of course, all the regions are either already accepting or looking at how to accept individual members, as we as these organizational constructs that we have as well.

But please, have a look at our brand-new, very accessible, albeit still beta – so we need to have you testing it – website. Click on the map, look at Africa, and see exactly who and what is where. That would also assist for reaching out for some peer support for those moments when, yes, it can get very confusing with the alphabet soup and that “where is my natural home?”

You can find peer support. You can find other types of support., but you can only do it if you put in the energy and the effort.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Aziz [inaudible] Olivier.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Ah. Perfect. There we go.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Cheryl. Pierre?

WAFI DAHMANI ZAAFOURI: It will be a short intervention.

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PIERRE DANDJINO: I thank you for your questions. I think they all deserve about an hour or two in order to address them, so I would like to invite you all to join us on Wednesday at 15:45 in the Atlas room. We're going to discuss the African strategy and what comes next, how we'll follow after the end of our strategy. I'll invite you there because we'll define what you want from us there.

I don't have much time left, so there's not more to be added, but you are part of the Internet. Africa is a part of the Internet. We have problems regarding infrastructure, so we need to think about that.

I truly invite you on Wednesday. Please come. [The more the merrier.] We'll discuss all this.

I thank you for having started all the work you've done, Aziz, Tijani. You're the ones who led us to put together this initiative. I thank you for having welcomed and having invited the former Chairs here. I think it very important. You'll understand better if you look at the individual work. It's not merely about what interests you. You have to see what interests every one of you. Africa can no longer count on aid, on assistance. No one's going to do it for you. That's a mistake. You have to do it yourselves, so get involved. We need help. We need aid, but that cannot be it. Thank you.

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AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Pierre. Tijani to conclude.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, Aziz. I would like to remind Aziz, Gisella, and the five NGOs that we will need to prepare a briefing session, maybe, at the first coffee break this morning, so don't forget that. We need that briefing session.

On Monday, we're holding a showcase. You're all invited to join us. It's on Monday at 7:00 P.M. at the magic tent. I don't know what the name of it is. I truly invite you to come join us because this showcase is going to be very special.

Thirdly, we're going to have our ordinary AFRALO-AFRICANN joint meeting, where we'll discuss the AFRICANN position regarding ICANN's accountability on Tuesday. I invite you all to come. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, everyone. We'll see you again for the next session.

GISELLA GRUBER: The session is now over. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**