
MARRAKECH – Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting
Tuesday, March 08, 2016 – 11:00 to 12:30 WET
ICANN55 | Marrakech, Morocco

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting, Marrakech, Morocco, 11:00 AM.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: If everyone could just please take their seats, we're about to start the AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting. Thank you.

I have statements available in English and in French if you haven't already got one with you. Thank you.

[TIJANI BEN JEMAA]: Please take your seat.

AZIZ HILALI: Good morning, everyone. We will start our AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting, and I will speak in French. Please take your headphones.

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.

Hello, everyone. Welcome to this new AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting. This is a tradition that we do have at ICANN, and this is our 15th meeting. The first one was 2010 Brussels.

We have with us today some NGOs that were invited. This is regarding AFRALO's activities. Last night, we had a very nice evening, and we're going to work hard today now. I have my students, as well, coming from Rabat, and I would like to thank them. They are going to listen to us and possibly ask questions at the end.

Very well. Let me explain to you what is going on. This is a meeting for the African community. At every ICANN meeting, we have a general topic regarding ICANN policies and regarding what's going on in Africa. This is the third meeting we have on this topic.

We're going to talk about the IANA transition and the independence of ICANN towards the U.S. government reinforcing the responsibility of ICANN. This is what we're going to talk about. The CCWG group did work on that. We are going to have the entire community work together on this.

We have a drafting committee for our statement that we're going to read to you at the end of the meeting this morning, and I would like to thank two persons today. They became experts,

real experts on this topic. Tijani Ben Jemaa and Seun, a young person who came in the room. I would like to thank them, congratulate them. I only have five minutes, and it goes fast.

Two years ago, March 14, 2014, the NTIA, which is linked to the U.S. government, which works with the Department of Commerce of the United States, decided to free up the IANA function and to finish the contract for the IANA function. The date will be September 30, 2016.

Since that announcement, the world community worked quite hard, sometimes 24/7, on the entire planet. We have two processes to work on this new supervision. We talk about the responsibility and accountability measures for ICANN.

As an African At-Large organization, with AFRINIC, we've been working on those topics to give the opportunity for Africa to be heard. This is quite a technical topic, but it was important for us to work on it. That's why I wanted to thank the AFRALO team that worked so hard on it.

I don't want to waste any time. I'm going to give the floor to Gisella.

GISELLA GRUBER: Hello. I would like to remind you that every time you take the floor, please give your name and introduce yourself. We have interpreters in French and in Arabic, and the interpreters need to give your name so that the transcript reflects your participation. Please, do not speak too fast either.

AZIZ HILALI: I would like to give the floor to Alan Barrett, who is the CEO of AFRINIC, which is the regional entity. Alan Barrett will have to leave the room soon, so I'm going to give him the floor first. I give the floor to Alan Barrett, the President of AFRINIC. We thank him for his support.

ALAN BARRETT: Thank you, Aziz, for that welcome. I'm sorry. I will speak in English. I'm Alan Barrett. I'm the CEO of AFRINIC, which is the regional Internet registry serving Africa. We're based in Mauritius, but we serve the entire continent.

The main task of AFRINIC is to distribute IP addresses – that is IPv4 and IPv6 addresses to organizations in Africa, mostly ISPs but also end user organizations, and not only IP addresses, also autonomous system numbers. In addition to our main role of distributing these IP numbers and autonomous numbers, AFRINIC is also involved in training and Internet development

more generally. We like to teach people about IPv6. We like to encourage Internet service providers to interconnect to each other to improve the performance and the stability of the Internet throughout the region, and we have several projects for that.

It's a pleasure to be here at ICANN 55, which is taking place in Marrakech on our wonderful continent of Africa. We're all aware, I'm sure, that this is a crucial time in the development of the Internet with the IANA transition, which was initiated about two years ago and which is still going on. The CCWG has finalized their proposal. We're just waiting for a few more approvals, and then we expect that to go on to the Board, and we expect the Board to send it to the NTIA. We're really hoping that things are going to proceed.

This time is a time of change, not only for the IANA transition, but also in the Internet numbers spaces. Most of you will be aware that Africa is the only region which still has a fairly large supply of IPv4 numbers. In all the other regions, they have run out or at least have very stringent severity measures where ISPs can only get a small amount of IPv4 space at a time. But in Africa, we still operate under the policies, which we've had for several years, where an organization that wants IPv4 space needs to apply and justify their need, and as long as what they

apply for is justified by the way they're going to use it, we still have stock available.

Some people think that this is an advantage for Africa, but I don't really think so. I think that AFRINIC's supply of IPv4 space has allowed some people to think that there's no need to go ahead and implement IPv6.

I think it's crucial for all Internet service providers, operators, businesses in Africa to start using IPv6. It's essential to remain part of the Internet as it evolves. We don't want to be stuck back in the 1990s when everybody had IPv4. We're now in 2016 where we really should IPv6. Some other parts of the world have more than 30% uptake of IPv6, but in Africa, we're way behind. We're at below 10%. We really need to improve that.

I would like to encourage the entire African community, including AFRALO, to encourage their Internet service providers, their governments, their communities to work on deployment of IPv6. It's critical that the whole community comes together during events like this.

I see a great variety of people from all over the continent here, and that's wonderful. In fact, every time I've been to one of these Africa meetings at an ICANN event, I've seen the same thing. There have always been people from throughout the continent. I

see people from the south, from the north, from the east, from the west. I hear people speaking French. I hear people speaking English. We're a very diverse continent. I hear people speaking Arabic and many of the other local languages. It's important that we all come together, that we all talk to each other at events like this.

AFRINIC is very pleased to be able to support AFRALO, and in fact, we signed an MOU of cooperation between AFRINIC and AFRALO a few years ago in 2010, and we were leaders then. The African regional Internet registry, AFRINIC and the African RALO AfrICANN were the first pair of such organizations to sign a cooperative MOU. Since then, several of the other regions have followed, so it's great for us to be in the lead.

Finally, just a few more points. I invite you all to the Africa Internet Summit, which will be held in Gaborone, Botswana, early in June. This is an event which most of you know about. Many Internet related organizations from Africa get together to organize this meeting. I hope that AFRALO will be able to organize a short meeting during the week. We will be able to facilitate space for that.

Finally, I regret that I'll have to leave soon for another meeting, but I wish you all a pleasant and informative and productive

meeting – not only now in this room, but throughout the week.
Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much. AFRINIC is doing a lot for IPv6. In Morocco, we have two workshops about IPv6. I would like to give the floor to our chairperson Mr. Alan Greenberg.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Thank you very much. I, too, have to leave. The North American RALO is holding a meeting in parallel with this, and since they appointed me, I probably should show up for just a little bit. But luckily, what I was going to say will be very short because Alan has, throughout his comments, covered almost everything I was going to say and a few things obviously that were not in my purview.

These meetings are always a delight partly because of the range of views and the number of people represented throughout them. It is satisfying (and I wish I could say the same for other regions) that there is such, not uniformity, but getting together throughout the region and the cooperation we see here. I find it exceedingly satisfying, and I'm delighted to be here when I'm allowed to.

Alan, I do have a suggestion for you. You can solve several problems at once. I'm told IPv4 addresses go for \$13 U.S. a piece on eBay, so you could solve your monetary problems and make sure everyone in Africa had to convert to IPv6 by simply dispensing with them. That's not a formal ALAC recommendation however.

I think that pretty well covers it. There's so much going on within this community that I find it just delightful to be watching. I wish I could be more of a participant than I am. Keep doing what you're doing, do more of it, and convince the other regions they should do it as well. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Alan. Thank you for being brief. Yes, you could make lots of money with those IPV addresses. But you know that in Africa, we have less addresses because we are a little bit behind. That's true some people are interested in those IPV addresses, people coming from the north of the globe. I'm going to give the floor to the vice president for stakeholders. I'm going to give Pierre Dandjinou the floor.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Thank you, Aziz. I think I'm going to be very brief. We have lots of people in the room. This is great. It was one of our goals, and I'm very glad as a Global Stakeholder Engagement Chair to see that.

Alan Barrett said something that was very important, and I'm going to come back to it. The IPv4 pool is only in Africa. We're asking people to go to IPv6, and we have to do something about it.

It's always a pleasure to meet. I see that you want to contribute, you want to work together on this proposal, on this statement. We hope that the ICANN Board on Thursday will be able to look through it and send it to the U.S. government. You're doing an important work.

I looked at the statement. I think that you have some very good points expressed in it, and that was what the working group wanted to achieve. Your position is clear. We hope for a consensus. We know that not everybody will agree, but it's important. This is an important time. This is a historic time for the development of the Internet.

We're going to be able to make progress at ICANN. We're thinking about the implementation phase. It's going to change a lot of things: the way ICANN works, the way ICANN is accountable to communities. You took that into account.

This is everybody's work, and I would like to thank the Africans that were at the working group. Three or four people were coming from Africa and working on this working group. We can really congratulate you and applaud you on your work.

To finish on the African engagement, we are working at it. We have a strategy. We have defined our strategy. There's a lot going on in Africa. At-Large, you are in the field, and you see all the different collaborations.

To learn more about the strategy and to know where we're going and what we can improve, we're going to have tomorrow at 3:35 PM a special session where we're going to talk about the situation and what is going on. So, please, you're welcome to join us at 3:45 in the big room, the Atlas room. Please come. You'll know more. You'll learn more.

I'm satisfied, I'm happy, and I would like to encourage you so that there is more and more implementation of the ICANN work in Africa in the continent. Thank you very much for your attention.

AZIZ HILALI:

[introduces Rinalia Abdul Rahim in French]

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you, Aziz. Good morning. If you would indulge me, I would like to start by sharing something that's quite personal to me, which I have not really shared with the African community or the ICANN community At-Large. That banner in the back that says "AFRALO engaging Africa for development" triggered this reflection.

I first came to Africa 18 years ago. This was in 1998. I came to attend the first African Development Forum, which was hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa. I attended that forum on behalf of my government, which was the government of Malaysia. That meeting opened my eyes to the challenges of development of Africa as well as the African aspiration on what it wants to achieve.

For ten years after that meeting, I would come back to Africa every year to work with African-based organizations, and I would bring interested organizations from around the world who are interested to partner with the Africans to work together in multi-stakeholder collaboration to spread the benefits of ICT for development. So I was engaged in the African continent for about ten years, and it was a very enriching experience for me.

Since then, as I look back on the fundamental challenges of development in Africa and looking at where we are now, there is improvement, but the fundamental challenges remain the same.

Connectivity and access are still great barriers for participation, and it is something that we need to address.

Last night, we had this wonderful African showcase – the AFRALO showcase and tribute to Fadi – and the theme was “Connecting the Next Billion.” As I look at the African situation where 60% of your member states in the African continent are classified as least developing countries, if we really want to reach out and include them, then our focus is actually connecting the last billion. Because if we focus on the needs of the last billions, then the solution for including them will enable everyone to have inclusive and affordable access to the Internet. So if you are doing advocacy, I would strongly urge you to advocate for connecting on the needs of the last billion so that everyone, not just in Africa, but all around the world will be connected to the Internet.

Now, when we talk about access or connectivity, there are some in this community who will say that is not within ICANN’s mission. That is correct.

But in his farewell letter to the board, Fadi Chehadé wrote about his point of view, which I agree with. We have a mandate, we are clear about our mandate and our responsibilities, and we do what is in our mission.

But we also have a shared responsibility, and access is a primary barrier for people around the world, especially in developing regions to participate. If participation and inclusion and diversity is important to strengthen ICANN as an institution and to strengthen ICANN's policy development capacity, then access is a shared problem. But how we go about solving it is different because we have differentiated responsibilities.

So while ICANN is not responsible for solving the connectivity problem, we have our platforms for engagement within our mission, and we could highlight the challenges that Africa and other developing regions have and encourage those with the responsibility for addressing the problems of connectivity and access to solve those problems. We can support at least at that level.

Now I would like to come back to the substance of your meeting, which is on this draft statement on accountability. I've reviewed the statement, and I think that you have really focused on the key issues. I especially agree with the last point that says the speed of the discussion in Work Stream 1 has gone on extremely fast, and it's very difficult for volunteers to keep up.

Having said that, I have noticed really strong participation from Africa that made a visible difference in the substance of the discussion and the direction of the discussion. I wanted to

commend the representatives from this region that engaged in that process. In the ICG, Mohamed El Bashir as vice president; in the CCWG, we have Tijani, Seun, and many others in the region. I apologize for not naming all of you, but you know who you are.

I also wanted to highlight one thing, which is right now, there is an election from the numbers community. The addressing supporting organization is selecting their representative to the ICANN Board, Board seat number ten. We have two candidates coming from the Middle East and Africa. That's Fiona Asonga and Mohamed El Bashir. In my mind, if either of them wins the seat, it would be a win because that would enhance the representation and diversity in the ICANN Board.

With that, I would like to encourage you to continue in your efforts to strengthen the participation of Africa and to enhance African voice in ICANN itself. There is one particular work that is focused on the auctions of new gTLD program that I would like to highlight for your attention. It will be important to have African participation, voice, and perspective on how to use the auctions fund because you have to think about your region in the context of the world what you need and what would be in the best interest of ICANN within its mandate to also serve your community. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Rinalia. Now, I'm going to give the floor to our representative from AFRALO and At-Large, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Vice Chair from ALAC and CCWG Chair also.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much, Aziz. I was supposed to introduce the subject of our statement.

First, I'd like to explain what is this CCWG Working Group. It is a Cross-Community Working Group, which works on the improvement of responsibility. We speak about [heure d'avabilité] in French. This is the accountability and responsibility. In English, we speak about accountability. If you look for the exact meaning of accountability in French, we don't have a good translation.

This working group has been created to complete the work started with ICANN about the transfer of the stewardship of the IANA function from the NTIA to the community. It was a decision taken by the U.S. government in 2014 to transfer its stewardship from the U.S. government to the community, and there was a Cross-Community Working Group for transition.

Within this working group, we thought that we needed to finish the contract between the U.S. government and ICANN and the IANA function, so ICANN won't have any accountability to

anyone. It wasn't normal for us, so we wanted to create another working group to give the community some system, some mechanism so ICANN can be accountable to the community and so the community can have stewardship on ICANN also.

Now, I'm going to go back to this statement. The CCWG has been working for more than a year. We have presented three statements, and on each statement the African community, AFRALO-AfrICANN, has made its own statement with the opinion of the African people about the CCWG report. Now we are finishing our work. It is the last report that has been presented to the other organization for its ratification, and it will be transmitted to the U.S. government. This last statement completes the other proposal, and it has to do with all the proposal we made at that moment.

As AfrICANN group, we have read this proposal. First, we want to thank this working group for its work. It has been a very good work made in a short time. We are agreeing with the statement, but we have some comments to do.

The first one is that in this proposal, in some cases, the community can recall the Board with three community members only, and for us, this is a problem. For us to recall the Board is a very bad thing. It's like a panic sign, and we think that

ICANN maybe will die after that. It is a very difficult decision to take, and we don't want to facilitate this decision.

Where does this concern come on the five members of the community who will participate to the decision? We thought that we needed to have at least four members approving this decision, and we were agreeing on that.

But then afterward, another problem appeared about the GAC and the governments. There were some proposals to change the rates in which the Board should analyze, should address the GAC Advice. Before, it was a rate of 50%, then it was asked for 75%, then now we are on 60%.

But they say we increased the power of the governments. But if the governments give an advice to the Board and if the Board takes into account this decision or doesn't take into account this decision, and if the community doesn't accept the Board decision, then the community will have to take a decision, will have to act.

There are different kinds of actions that we can take as a community, but we can't recall the whole Board. Those who made this proposal thought it wasn't normal that the GAC, who was originally taking that decision, who gives this advice to this

proposal of the GAC, obliged us to take this decision, so they won't participate to the decision to recall the Board as GAC.

So it's very difficult. It's really difficult. Yes, you're right. You are going to tell me it's difficult. There are some reasons behind that. There are some spoken reasons and some reasons that are not said.

But the AfrICANN At-Large thought that in all cases, we didn't want the Board to be recalled by only three members of our community. So at the end, we found a halfway solution to say that if it was like that, we could use only three members to recall the Board if the Board in its decision had violated the ICANN bylaws. this was the decision taken. But in other cases, we will need four members to recall the Board. It's a compromise we found.

But all we have in this proposal are compromises to compromises to compromises. Finally, we don't want to stop the system, but we need to express our opinion. So we are saying that we accept but that our opinion is that we don't want to facilitate this possibility to recall the whole Board.

There is another issue that is essential in this statement, and it is the ICANN mandate about human rights. Of course, ICANN needs

to take into consideration human rights. It needs work, but it must be inside the ICANN mission.

At the beginning, we thought it was going to be like that. Then the Board wanted to put the human rights into the ICANN core values. But the ICANN core values are always valuable, and we can have some people who will sue us because they will see the contents because it is not said in our text. It must be limited by our core mission.

So we have worked on that. We think that we need to accept this proposal because it's a compromise, and we can't have everything in a compromise.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani. Thank you for all the work you've done for us.

Now, for the newcomers, I'm going to explain to you that Seun has worked with Tijani. Seun is going to read our statement, and then we are going to give the floor to the participants, so you can give your opinion, you can comment on this statement, etc. Then afterwards, we will approve and adopt this statement. Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much, Aziz. I will just go straight to reading the statement. I think Tijani has given a good background of the statement. Permit me, I'll be reading in English obviously, but I still have some "bonjour" left in me.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bonjour.

AZIZ HILALI: Those who have the text in French, you can follow the statement in French. We have a French and an English version.

SEUN OJEDEJI: "AFRALO-AfrICANN Joint Meeting, Marrakech, Tuesday, 8 March 2016. Statement."

"We, African ICANN community members participating in the ICANN 55th International Public meeting in Marrakech and attending the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting on Tuesday, 8 March 2016, discussed the final report of Cross-Community Working Group on an Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG) put forward for approval of the chartering organizations.

"We first want to congratulate the CCWG for the huge amount of work undertaken in a so short a time towards developing this

final proposal. We also observe the great improvements made in comparison with the third report that was put for public comment. Nevertheless, we still have remarks to make about this final report that we hope will be noted during implementation and beyond:

- “We observed that the report proposes to change the conditions required for the community to remove the entire Board in certain situations so that the number of SOs and ACs supporting the decision be decreased from four to three. Because of this very serious nature of spilling the Board and its heavy consequences on the ICANN stability that may affect the stability of Internet, we are quite concerned as we believe that there should be a minimum threshold required for such an important decision that must not be made easy to be taken, and we find that the threshold of four would be an appropriate minimum.
- “We support the proposal for adjusting the thresholds presented in the report according to the total number of ICANN SOs and ACs forming the empowered community when this number increases. We do believe that the minimum number for such governance model is five, and below five, the whole model should be considered for review and we expect that such review will ensure absolute balance

between SOs and ACs participating in the empowered community. Our reasoning behind this is built on the fact that in order to promote multi-stakeholderism within ICANN, equal footing on the two broad categories of stakeholders which are labeled as SOs and ACs must be ensured.

- “We observed that certain parts of the proposal tend to discriminate between the components of the ICANN community in exercising community powers. We like to emphasize that the multi-stakeholder model should be based on equal footing between them. Therefore, if there is a need for removing an SO or AC recommending policies or advices to the Board from the decision-making group when the community challenged the Board because it acted or not acted upon the advice or the policy received, it should be a general case for all SOs and ACs.

“That said, we do not think it is necessary to remove any SOs and ACs even if the Board decision concerns its policy or advice. The CCWG proposal is already designed in a manner that disallows a single SO or AC from exercising the community powers, which we believe is an adequate factor for promoting multi-stakeholderism.

- “We also consider that the ICANN obligation to respect human rights should not exceed the borders of the ICANN

mission. Therefore, the bylaw drafting should be well detailed to make the scope of ICANN commitment to respect human rights limited to the issues included in the ICANN mission only.”

- “The Work Stream 1 was developed at a pace beyond average. This has made it difficult for some volunteers to follow up with the process, which hence may have reduced the level of diversity of views in the development of the proposal. In view of this, we recommend that adequate and flexible time be provided for the development of Work Stream 2.

“Finally, we would like to reiterate our appreciation to the request from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to ICANN to ‘convene a multi-stakeholder process to develop a plan to transition the U.S. government stewardship role’ with regard to the IANA function and related root zone management. We hope that our remarks and comments will be taken into consideration in the bylaw drafting and implementation phase.”

Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. We're going to now have a debate on those issues on this statement. I'll remind you that it's regarding the possible adoption of the statement.

You have a timer that you see on the screen. Not more than two minutes per person please. Give us your first name, last name, and where you're coming from. Please be brief. Who wants to take the floor?

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Dave Kissoondoyal [speaking in French]. First of all, I want to commend the work being done by the leadership team of the AFRALO, including Tijani, Aziz, Seun, Mohamed, and others. They are really working for the interests of the community, for the interests of Africa, and I want to commend for this.

After having read this declaration, I do go on the same line with Rinalia, who mentioned that the points mentioned in this report are very pertinent. I think the final report doesn't take into consideration the points we have mentioned here, so it will be very difficult that as per the report says that the points be considered in the implementation phase.

What I'm proposing that, okay, we still have some time. From the leadership team, if the points can be raised in the public forum, at least, the points could be heard. Because, for me, if the

points are not in the final report, we can say goodbye to the points in the implementation phase. It is important that these points be raised by the leadership team of AFRALO on the public forum. At least, it is being heard there. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Dave. I give the floor to Arsene.

ARSENE TUNGALI: Thank you very much. Arsene Tungali from the DRC. Thank you very much for all the work that was done by the team working on the proposal and the different recommendations from AFRALO regarding this proposal. I think it's very pertinent.

I have two worries. I listened to Mr. Tijani presenting the statement. I think we are in a position of weakness when we have important points for which we have to fight. You talked about compromises. I agree with that. But I think we might be pretty weak. It might be accepted or not accepted.

When I look, for instance, at the first point regarding spilling the Board, you talked about it. This is an issue that would be very detrimental to ICANN, and I think we cannot accept that. We have to insist on our position to protect ICANN.

Second paragraph of the document for the final report which will be taken into account at the implementation phase, what we have to take into account would be done before the implementation phase, not after or during – not after the adoption. That’s what I would like to say.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Arsene. I think Tijani is going to give you an answer.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I’m going to give Seun the floor to give us part of the answer, but let me say a few words about what you said. You talked about being in a position of weakness. I don't agree with that.

Why? Because, like I explained during my introduction, the issue of spilling the Board was nearly resolved. We have only three members of the community, and this is a case that is nearly, nearly impossible. Only a [unique] external issue could cause that. It would have to be away from the bylaws.

If the Board doesn’t follow the bylaws, then it would be a spilling of the Board. That would be the only case. If it’s not in that case, we’re going to stay with four, so it’s not as bad as you think.

At first, it was like that, but with negotiation, we compromised. We compromised. We try to avoid the worst case scenario. You

have to understand that it's the entire community which [talks with just] different interests, so we have to find the balance between all those different interests, and we'll never be able to get everything we want. It's not a position of weakness.

We talked about two points that are nearly resolved. We wanted to put that on the record. We wanted to put it on the record that was our position, but it's nearly resolved. We have to mention it, but this is nearly done.

Seun, you want to take the floor?

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you very much. I think that Tijani has said a lot. But in response to you, it's a tough one. I understand and definitely agree with you that some of the things that we probably wrote in this statement are in "rhetoric" in terms of the fact that the report has actually gone to the [phase] it's final, and it's final at the moment.

However, the intent of this is not necessarily to change the report at this point in time but to actually communicate some of the things that were considered as redline for us at the AFRALO-AfrICANN level but which are not necessarily a redline for us at the ALAC level or at the cross-community (CCWG) level because the priorities at that point were different.

We really want to allow the transition to go and to succeed. We don't want to be seen as the stopping block, as the community that actually blocks the transition from progressing.

But at the same time, we want to make sure that we make our views noted by the ICANN Board, especially see it as a way of expressing what we would expect the Board to defend much more, so that is the intent of part of the statement. We really cannot change anything much right now, but we hope that the Board will actually read the statement with the mindset that in future, or even perhaps during the implementation, some part of the statement will be taken into consideration – not necessarily changing the report at the moment. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Seun. I'm going to give the floor to Sébastien Bachollet, who used to be a member of the Board, and he played an important role in choosing the meeting in Marrakech.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET:

Thank you very much, Aziz. I would like to thank all the people that worked so that many of you can be in this room, many different people, Aziz and Tijani.

The French-speaking world played an important role in this meeting. This is wonderful. This is why when I was at the head of a working group for the new ICANN meetings, it was extremely important that we regularly come in each and every region because at one point, we thought we would only come to big cities. That's easier maybe, but that's not what counts just when you're coming from the U.S. I am very happy that you participate. Many people can talk to you in many languages.

Regarding our topic today at hand, I am the ALAC person who abstained. When we have a decision in front of us, we have to balance the different elements, and I still think that the proposal is too complex and is going to prevent the simple participation of end users in this process at ICANN. That is why I abstained.

I don't want to stop the transition, but sometimes you are in a situation. Do we want Ebola or Zika? It's a terrible choice. I didn't know which choice to make.

We have different points of views. This is important that it is known. We have to see the implementation phase, which is going to be another fight, and we're going to need your support.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Sébastien. Before giving the [inaudible] to Beran, Ariel, I think you have some people in the chat room.

ARIEL LIANG: [inaudible] work with the tech and try to figure out his audio issue.

AZIZ HILALI: Beran, you have the floor.

BERAN GILLEN: Thank you, Aziz. I'll just make it very short and sweet.

I sort of want to agree with Dave, that maybe we might want to take some points from this statement and possibly read it at the second public forum. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: I give the floor to this lady.

[RANA]: Good morning, everyone. My name is [Rana] [inaudible]. I'm a student here in Rabat. Actually, I had a little observation.

As we all know, 10 of the 13 root servers physically are in the United States. I was wondering, even though we are talking about the transition from the IANA, since the root servers are physically there in the USA, can't we say that maybe we're not

totally getting out of the control of the United States, of the American government?

AZIZ HILALI: Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you. Just a quick one. I think I would like to acknowledge that what [inaudible] suggested about reading some parts of the statement out at public forum, this will be done. Perhaps, we should also, after this meeting, look at which part of the statement that we should read so that we maximize the time. Thank you very much, Beran, for raising that point again, so it's noted. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you. Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes. I'm going to say two things. I'm going to not read the statement at the public forum. I don't think it's a good thing. We are at a step, the ratification of this proposal by the chartering organizations.

If the transition doesn't happen, it can only happen if it's accepted by the chartering organizations, and it shouldn't be contradicted by the Board. I think that the transition is an opportunity for everyone.

Even if the ten servers are in the U.S., it doesn't mean anything. What is important is who is in charge. It used to be the U.S. government who had the last word. They didn't intervene. ICANN was working very freely. The American government didn't intervene, but they were, in theory, in charge. They could intervene.

So if we get rid of this oversight, we win a lot. This is a great opportunity. Everyone is aware of that. Even in the U.S., it was a very favorable climate, and that might change. If we do contribute to the transition not happening, we would lose a lot.

We have the points we want to raise. Everybody will know about it. I am a member of the CCWG. I did a minority statement with those points under my name. It's on the record. I worked on the ratification of that proposal from ALAC because I make a difference between to slow down the process, to stop the process, and expressing your point of view. I know the strengths and the strong points.

Whatever you say, what we can say cannot change anything. We do not have enough power to do so. What we need to do if it's for the transition to happen, and I don't think we should give any statements at the public forum.

Regarding the servers, we're going to talk about the oversight of the IANA functions. It has nothing to do with the other issues. We have to just concentrate on these IANA functions. So let us do our work all the way until the end, and then we'll talk about the rest.

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, it's not important. The location of the server doesn't count. The decisions regarding the servers do count. The persons in charge. Who wants the floor after – wait, Sébastien? Somebody else? And then?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

[inaudible] at the mic. I would like to thank Seun and Tijani for coming up with this statement. It's a very difficult work, and I know that it's not easy. I agree with most of it.

Regarding the first paragraph, we talked about those chartering organizations. We could add about the successful IANA transition. We should put in parenthesis the English terms

possibly, AC and SO. I would like to add in parenthesis SO and AC.

AZIZ HILALI: I think that we can go to the chat room.

ARIEL LIANG: [inaudible] statement from remote participant, [inaudible] [Kang].

“Just wanted to congratulate the working group that has produced this proposal on behalf of Africa. The ACSIS, which stands for African Civil Society on the Information Society, is very supportive for two reasons: the need of maintaining the stability of the Internet and the need to have a real multi-stakeholder process. We are very grateful to this group that has produced such technical document for the interest of African communities.”

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. Now, we are going to give the floor to Sébastien Bachollet. Oh, first to this young girl. You have the floor. Please, microphone.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes. Good morning. I have a question for Sébastien Bachollet. You said that it was not the statement made by AFRALO about the IANA transition. You were speaking about the IANA transition, well, you said that you wanted to keep neutral, so I'd like to know what is your proposal if you don't want to choose between one possibility and the other.

AZIZ HILALI: Sébastien Bachollet, you have the floor.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: When there is this kind of discussion, it's difficult for me to answer to tell you what I would like to have, which solution I had preferred. I'm going to give you an example.

The main problem we had at the beginning was how we can make the Board more accountable, and I'm not sure that the best solution was to give the Board a committee of a number of persons overseeing the Board.

There are several things that we need to change in the Board. I have been a member of the board for four years. I had a lot of difficulties. I can't tell you to express my position, to express my opinion that was different from the other Board member who

had studied in the United States, who were coming from an English-speaking country, how I was like a stranger in this group.

First, we need to improve the functioning of the Board. Then when it's about taking a decision, well, since a long time, I want the U.S. government to get out of our system, and when there was a proposal, we have this proposal now. It is not a very well-expressed proposal, but I think it's okay.

If we look at this proposal, it's for free today, but how much will it cost us in energy, in money, this proposal? Just an example, if we take all the committees that were created, we need 60 persons to work in those committees. We need 60 persons.

Where are we going to find these persons? Are they going to be the old people as me, who have several functions in ICANN already, or are they going to be the young people, who don't understand really what is happening into ICANN? It's a real difficulty, 60 people, it's too much. We have a very complex system.

So I had to declare that I was abstaining because I like the transition to go on, but I think it's not a good path, so I had to state that this is the reason why I have abstained on the proposal. Now, thank you for your question, and I wanted to speak about the root servers.

Thank you for this question. I think you are new in ICANN, and if you are new in ICANN asking this kind of difficult question, I congratulate you. The answer is difficult, too.

We have servers with images or pictures, so if tomorrow, you decide that this server with its picture will be autonomous, well, it's okay. It can work with a part of Internet. But the idea of this 13 pictures of roots among the [world] is very tricky. Those who manage that in the United States are not all of them from the U.S. government. Some of them are independent.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Sébastien. I think there are no more questions. I'm sorry. Hajer, you have the floor.

HAJER ABDELKEFI:

Thank you. Hi. My name is Hajer Abdelkefi. I'm here in the name of the lawyer bar of Tunisia, and about this proposal, I would like to say that we understand that this proposal of statement is inside a discussion with the CCWG.

But when I read this proposal, this statement signed by all the African community members, I have to say that among the four issues that you address here, none of these issues speak about the problem of the African community, the specificity of our

community. So when you are speaking about the spilling of the Board, okay, Tijani, I have to say that I believe, as a lawyer, that we have to be very strict with the institutions. If those institutions are really oversighted, there needs to be a really oversight of these institutions.

The second item is very useful because the fact that we are going to confirm the position of the SO and AC, it is very well. It is okay. It is positive. But there is a lack of specificity when we speak about the problems of our continent.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Hajer. Tijani, do you want to answer?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. Thank you to all those who participated to this debate. Daniel is going to contribute to this debate, too. But I'd like to answer to Hajer.

We are speaking about the Internet role, the Internet code, and it's a common code for everybody. If there are not any questions about Africa and if you don't participate for this reason, no, it's not good because the Internet code is an interest for all the Internet users. Without any exception wherever you come from, from Africa or from any countries in the world, you have to work

on this Internet code, so there are no African questions, African issues here.

If we want to be very strict with the institutions so they are more flexible, okay. Here, there are no institutions. We have a policy system, a global complex system. In this system, if you have an opportunity today, maybe this opportunity will never appear again, so this is the reason why we want to address this issue in a very vigilant way.

But when we have the consensus, when we reach a consensus – because it's not easy to reach a consensus – the consensus means that all the ones who participate won't have exactly what they wanted, but if we want this transition to take place, we need to accept this through the consensus.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Tijani. I wanted to add something. Maybe Hajer was not with us. It is the third meeting we've had on this subject, and you can believe me. Those who were here for the first time, you must understand that it is a very complex subject, a very complex issue, and we can't say that we understand it perfectly.

There is another thing that is very important for our organization. We are creating, we are inventing a new governance model, the Internet, and we are at a moment in

which all the community, the whole community is blocked. Sébastien said it. We have a Board, an accountable Board. If we have a committee overseeing the work of the Board, we need to control the one who control the Board, etc. It's very complex. It's very difficult.

Hajer, please just wait a minute. You have to realize the complexity of our work. I'm going to give you an example. You are going to laugh.

The example of FIFA. FIFA is the problem. Today, ICANN is afraid to be in this same situation as FIFA.

Before, we had a link between the U.S. government and ICANN and the IANA function. Now, we are going to cut this link, and we are afraid to see how this new situation will be.

I think we have all decided to not speak about the legal issue. ICANN is under the California law of the United States jurisdiction, so we need to speak about the legal problem also. We have some lawyers here in ICANN.

Imagine the problem we can have in ICANN if you have a problem – if I understand well, maybe Tijani's going to correct me – but if there is a problem, imagine a conflict as ICANN is going to be autonomous, how do we solve this conflict among several places in the world? We are only speaking about domain

name. We are not speaking about the new gTLDs or these kinds of things. Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much, Aziz. I wanted to give you another information.

This working group, when it began to work, decided to share its work in two parts, in two phases. First, the part that was necessary for the Work Stream 1, and then we wanted to address the other accountability issues afterward that were not necessary for transition, and we wanted to address them in a Work Stream 2, a second phase. So this final statement is about Work Stream 1.

The jurisdiction topics about which Aziz was speaking are in the agenda of Work Stream 2, so everything was addressed, everything is going to be discussed. Now, we have a work to allow the transition to take place, we are going to do that work, then afterward, we will speak about jurisdictions, etc. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Tijani. I think we still have some time. If there are no other questions, oh, I'm getting tired. I'm sorry.

There is one of my students asking for the floor, then Daniel is asking for the floor. First, Daniel. Daniel, go ahead.

DANIEL [NANGHAKA]: Thank you very much for those remarks. I would like to go back to the statement.

I think this statement is really great because it shows our stand as far as the transition is concerned. I feel that if we just simply let the transition go ahead without this being outlined in the public forum, it will make us be holding ourselves back and looking at ourselves as being so much inferior.

So I propose that probably either Seun or Tijani, you move to the mic and then you present our statement at the public forum so as to get the say from the Board on what this can happen. I think it will do us much good.

The fact that the Internet affects the whole region, if we say that it's too late for us to create a change, it's not really late. We have at least more mandate and more power within the Africa region to be able to make our voices be heard, and I think this is the chance for these voices. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Daniel. You have the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good morning, everybody. I'm a student in the INPT as an engineer, as a student, and as a newcomer in the ICANN community. The penetration rate in Africa is very low. It is the lowest at the global scale because it's more expensive compared to the rest of the world.

I'd like to know what the African community and what I can do to mitigate this problem, and I'd like to know what are the real reasons of this situation? From the professionals, why is it like that, and how can we mitigate this problem?

AZIZ HILALI: Now, I first want to answer.

The African community is always making some statements. We want to make some statement about ICANN policies. ICANN is not taking care of what happened in the country. ICANN doesn't take care of what happens in some countries.

What we can do is we can do statements. But it's not the place to speak about countries and states. We are here. It's a joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting. We are discussing the policies related to ICANN only.

We have six minutes left, so we have here a person who is asking for the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I am from the University of Rabat. My point is almost the same as my friends. I want to go back to the transition. I think this is a very important decision because the Internet involves all the countries all over the world.

I would like to know, since we African people have a lot of problems, for instance, we have had less IPv4 addresses, what do African ICANN members do to make our voice be heard in different opposition?

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. I'm going to give the floor to Mamadou, who is well known. You can try to work with him. You will receive a lot of information from the African community.

MAMADOU LO: Hello. I am Mamadou from Senegal. I wanted to speak here about as communicants, as persons working on communication, I want to tell you that when you come in this kind of meeting – speaking about the ICANN accountability – we have some students asking questions that are related to problems linked to

the Internet governance. We see that the level of information is a little low, so I invite you and everybody to work with our lists newsletter about Africa. You need a lot of information to be able to participate, so I recommend you to come and find this information. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI: Tijani, you have the floor. Seun? Okay, Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Quick ones. First, I'd like to commend the comments that were made by the students.

Wearing my hat as the Chair of AFRINIC Policy Development Working Group, that is where we actually discuss policies related to IP resources within our region that is within Africa. I would suggest and I would encourage all of you to come in there, participate. We normally also have an AFRALO session during that period, so I encourage you all to participate. You may see me after the meeting so that I can give you some of the details on how to participate.

To the statement, I think Tijani has said some very important points. We don't want to stop the transition. We have actually documented some of our views here, not just because we want

to send, we want the public to know, but because we also want ourselves to know the issues that we try to fight for, the issues that we believe that are still existing – not just for today, but for the future.

However, I encourage anyone who have personal views to come on the floor. I, for instance, as a person, personally don't think we should read the statement on the public forum. But we could challenge the community to be more united, to do things more collectively.

We could also challenge the Board to ensure that the community is accountable, etc. I think we can do that on the public forum, but I strongly suggest that we don't read the statement verbatim as it is in our recommendation.

Finally, I'd like to use this opportunity to challenge us all. This statement was sent to AfrICANN list over one month ago, and I can tell you that we received few comments on it. It's not until we meet physically here – as you can see, the time is so short – that we can't really discuss things here.

I encourage us all to actually make our comments on the mailing list. Let's discuss these things on the mailing list, develop something that is more of the view of all of us, and then we'll know that when we get here, it will just be we will be maximizing

our time to do other things, so I encourage you all to participate on the mailing list. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. We are reaching the end of our meeting. Two students are asking for the floor. You have one minute each.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hello, everyone. I am also a student from Rabat. I was just wondering if this statement concerns only the African community, and if it is so, what do the other communities think about this statement and the IANA transition – the American community, the European community, and the Asia-Pacific community? Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I wanted to tell you that we are doing online capacity building. If you have Internet, you can participate. If not, we can call you by phone, and the session are on these topics, so if you want to know some more, you can follow us on the webinars. If you are

on the mailing list, you are going to be aware of it, but if you are not on the mailing list, please ask us, and we will tell you.

AZIZ HILALI: Sébastien, you have the floor.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: I wanted to answer your question of why do we have a statement. Well, it's because your continent is very well organized. You have some leaders who work on that. It's not the case of all the continents. It is the only region who has all its representatives present here today, so this is the reason why we are here. What the others have done is not so well done as for the African region.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. We need to finish this meeting. They are waiting for us for a photo, so we consider that this statement has been adopted. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This session is closed. The Rabat students please go to the front part of the meeting venue. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]