
SAN JUAN – Africa Strategy Session
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 – 15:15 to 16:30 AST
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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is the ICANN61 Africa Strategy Session on the 14th of March, 2018, from 3:15 to 4:30 in Room 102-ABC.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Distinguished colleagues, we'd be starting shortly. But may I invite you to sit on the top table? Those at the back, please move forward.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Well, welcome to everyone. I think I suggest we start, then others who will be coming. We want to avoid this bad experience we had some time ago where we couldn't free the room on time for other people who are meetings so we better start at least early on.

So, thanks for coming. And our agenda is there. This Africa Strategy Session is quite regular. We've been doing this for many, many years now. And this is our opportunity that we do have to present what we've been doing, what are the achievements but also to hear from you what we would be doing

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better and also what are your requests so that we factor those in in our activities in Africa.

Our session today, of course, is about the five years report as we're coming again. But I'm so happy to have the Chair of the Board of Cambodia and, of course, we don't have much time but we thank him for coming and visiting us and definitely we'll be hearing from him for his remarks.

Our session is going to be chaired by Jimson Olufuye. You probably know him. He's the Chair of this AfICTA. You know about the AfICTA, right? That's African business we were constituting, but he would tell us more. So let me then pass the mic to him so that he can chair this session for us. Jimson.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you very much, Vice President Stakeholder Engagement for Africa, Pierre Dandjinou. And, of course, recognizing distinguished Chair of the Board, Cherine Chalabi, and of course, my colleagues right here.

Let me, of course, recognize by my right hand side, Nick Tomasso, the Vice President, Global Meeting Operation and of course the African ICT Champion for 2017, Lucky Masilela. Yes. Of course distinguished Board member, Mike Silber and then, distinguished Board member, George Sadowsky and our

distinguished Councilor [Adisha] and many other distinguished colleagues on the top table and on the higher table at the back, distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure. I want to use this opportunity just before I pass the mic to the Chair of the Board, to really appreciate our Vice President for Africa who've been engaging with us in the business. As we mentioned, I'm the Chair of the Africa ICT Alliance. When we started in 2012, he started with us and also with Mike Silber, the member of the Board and since that 2012 been giving support. That time, we were six African countries involved but today, we are 30. So this is going to grow so I really appreciate Pierre for his effort and support.

And as I give to you, Chair, please may I humbly request that you help present this to him in recognition of his commitments to business growth in Africa. We'll hear more about it with his presentation. Yes, if it's possible.

Yours is on the way, the big one, grand. So colleagues, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it's my honor to invite the Chair of the Board. I believe you have some questions for him afterward very briefly. Over to you, Chair.

CHERINE CHALABI:

Okay. Thank you very much. I'm really going to be here for another ten, 15 minutes so I'm going to say a few words very quickly and then really give time to answer questions if that's okay.

First thing, I would like to say is I want to thank you and commend you very much for your participation in ICANN and specifically the hard work and the great strides you have made under the Africa strategy. That's very noticeable.

And over the last five years, we've seen your increased participation in ICANN really almost across all of the SOs and ACs and we've seen major increases in capacity building and capacity development supported by ICANN and particularly the presence in Africa and the opening of the office in Nairobi and Kenya. So that's a very, very good step forward. So congratulation on everything you've achieved and all that you will continue to achieve.

So it's very good that you have a meeting here in Puerto Rico and you should have a meeting hopefully in every ICANN meeting because I think your presence and the time you spend together in tackling major issues and debate and discussion are very important so that your voice is heard. We need your participation in ICANN so that it's truly a multi-stakeholder model.

And particularly, going forward, you've probably heard, we are starting to talk about the strategy for ICANN for the year 2021 to 2025 and there will be participation from across the community. I don't know the exact process but I think it is important that your views are made and your views are heard. And if you'll recall in my opening speech, if you had the opportunity, I mentioned that there are ten areas where we need to focus our attention. So any comments or inputs from you or your participation via the SOs and AC will be greatly appreciated.

With that, I'm going to stop now. I'm here with my colleagues to take any questions and we'd be delighted to answer them to the extent we can.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you very much distinguished Chair. I also recognize the presence of our Senior Advisor to the President, Sally Costerton. The Chair also requested that we could ask questions because he'll be leaving shortly. Do you have a quick question you want to raise? Yes.

FIONA ASONGA:

Thank you very much, Jimson. For the record, my name is Fiona Asonga. I am one of AfriNIC's representative to the SO. My question has to do with the ICANN budget and the impact that

that will have on key areas that ICANN has been helping us within our ICANN strategy because when we started the strategy, we felt that we needed assistance in capacity building and awareness of certain key technical activities. And it would be helpful for us to understand how the adjustments in the current ICANN budget will affect that moving forward because we are still a developing community and we need quite a bit of support in terms of being able to bring in Fellows for the Fellowship program as well as ICANN's participation in awareness in key issues such as a KSK rollover within our region. We are still lagging behind especially we've been able to get the ISPs to participate in the whole process.

So I'm a bit concerned that if ICANN, as a key partner, is not able to support us, it becomes very difficult for the business community to appreciate the value of getting involved in the whole process and being able to fund it on their own. So, what happens?

CHERINE CHALABI:

Okay. Thank you, Fiona. I think you bring in a very important point. And the budget process has created a little bit of I think some anxiety in many areas and we recognize that. And you've mentioned the Fellowship program, other people mentioned the CROP program, other people mentioned the SOs and AC

requests. So a lot of the programs that are community oriented have seen some cuts, in some cases up to 50% and in some other cases completely taken off.

So, the board has heard and the board understands that whenever there are proposed budget cuts in areas, it creates discomfort and it creates anxiety. And I think we've said it repeatedly now that we will take all of the comments into account. And our aim at the end is on the one hand, try and strike some fiscal responsibility and on the other hand, make sure that the ICANN community which is mostly volunteers is able to participate effectively.

So we are not deaf, we heard. We heard the anxiety. And we're going to do everything possible to take all the comments into account and help whatever help is needed. So, Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON:

In the interest of time, Cherine, because I know you're very time limited, why don't we keep going with the questions for you? You're okay with that? Okay.

Thanks, Fiona. It's good to have this opportunity to get this more detailed feedback and we've been having many conversations in the meeting about these issues. As well as the process which Cherine has outlined and I can say from my perspective, I now

have sitting in my inbox every single comment on the budget and we are spending the next day just to look at every single one in a lot of detail. We'll look at it, the staff, the board will, the BFC will. So I think there's going to be a lot of scrutiny and a lot of debate about the question that Cherine said which is how do we weigh up and how do we prioritize.

It's fair to say that I've known probably since I joined ICANN that the biggest challenge we would have in engagement is how do we make it scalable and how do we make it sustainable. And sustainable is partly about money and partly about building a stable community who are sufficiently well trained themselves that you have an effective cascade further out [and out].

So we're focusing as much on [that] strategy as anything else. How do we maintain the investment and the support for escalating capacity building programs that use online training as well as offline recognizing that in many countries in Africa, we need to remember bandwidth restrictions, we need to make things available on mobile platforms first [now] on these things, for example, we need to be able to do it in multiple languages straight out, and we've got to be able to do it affordably.

Now, I'm looking here at Adiel, he's just arrived, who is working very closely with me on this particular issue so that we can roll out a much increased security, stability, and training portfolio

for the community. So, in your case, we're getting more questions from business about the [DNSPs]. We never used to get these questions but we are now. And we need to be able to equip you and many other colleagues in our community so that you can have those conversations and you're confident that you don't have to rely on bringing Pierre in or flying John Crain in.

So we are looking in-depth at how we make those programs sustainable and scalable at the same time as taking onboard the changing priorities of the budget. So, we can talk about that as much as anybody wants to whether here or anywhere else but we're very focused on the needs and how do we keep on giving you what you need. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Maybe I could just quickly [heard]. I hope there are questions, any question from this side, from that side, on the back, any question? Okay. Maybe I could just have this comment. As the Vice Chair for the Business Constituency in-charge of Finance and Operation, we're also concerned about the [discord] and things like that.

And internally, we said, okay, we are ready to give up maybe funding for intercessional FY19 so that a number of those outreach program, the things that are enabling activity business

DNS businesses like in Africa that is really growing to remain sustained. So we are ready to at least say, “Okay, let’s keep [FY19]. Let’s see how things go.” That is just to let you know how we’re also thinking in the constituency.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you. And just to close on that, that is exactly what Goran asked the community to do in the budget comment process. It’s just perfect. He said, “Don’t just tell me what you don’t like,” he said, “Tell me what you want me to do differently.” And that is a perfect example of that, I think. Very specific guidance saying, “Keep this, but don’t do this.” So that’s a very helpful way of thinking about it. It’s not always easy to do that but thank you for that. It’s such a very constructive approach, it’s very helpful.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

MIKE SILBER: If I can pick up on that, and I think that’s exactly right. Goran has been saying the same thing all week. And that is we’re constrained by certain things that we have to do and there are certain budgetary items that are fixed. Yes, we can try and do them slightly more efficiently but there are certain things that

are obligatory which means that the opportunities to recognize that our revenue is flattening and the inflation is increasing which means that we're going to have to start trimming, needs to come from some of those discretionary items.

So tell us what can we done more efficiently. Tell us where costs can be saved. Some of those is director's travel, staff travel. But tell us in terms of community programs where cost savings can be made as well because if you don't want your pet project trimmed, then tell us what can be trimmed effectively and we can look at that because otherwise, everything is going to need to get a haircut.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you. That was Mike Silber, board member. If I'm talking about numbers, about that intersession, are just hundred thousand dollars. So saved to keep outreach channel [inaudible]. So I agree with you. So if we will do the cross community, it will ensure that some sectors that are developing will continue to be developed or sustained.

Okay. On this note, I want to thank our Chair. Can we put our hands together for our Chair? As he said, he might be leaving a moment from now but it's not yet 15 minutes so he's still with us.

I've not seen Tarek. He's only on his [inaudible]. Okay. I know we have Nick Tomasso. Sally, okay. I thought my glasses would make me to see better. Sally, please, over to you for your remark. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you. I do sympathize with you on the glass's point. Every ICANN meeting I come to, I seem to be able to see less than the one before. Just a couple of comments from me, and it's great to see you again. I'm so glad we have these sessions at ICANN meetings.

There is so much hard work being done by our community in Africa. And my responsibilities are around the Engagement Team as I think most of you know. I also oversee the Meetings Team and so the ICANN meetings here and the other meetings we have, and the Public Responsibility Support Team which has within it the Newcomer programs. So the Fellowship program, the NextGen program for example, the Community Onboarding Pilot program.

That's given me a lot of exposure to your community and I spend a lot of time with my team trying to work out how we can most effectively continue to deliver what you need and improve and increase it because the reality is demand is going up quite

quickly in some areas. The areas where we get the most requests, and I'm sure you know this, but from all stakeholder groups are on the subject of security, stability and resilience, that is we're just seeing a huge increase in requests from all stakeholder groups particularly in Africa, parts of Southeast Asia and Latin America to help different stakeholders understand around issues of domain name abuse. And they're not just very quite technical domain issues like DNSSEC, although we also do that, but more broadly educating the GAC and the business community members on these core issues because they're becoming very important businesses around the world and increasingly tied up with broad cybersecurity discussions.

The other area is Internet governance which continues to be an issue of great importance for us and our unique multi-stakeholder processes which is difficult for newcomers to understand, they're often very unfamiliar. We do a lot in partnership with the RIRs, with the IGF and with ISOC. And increasingly, we're bringing that online.

ICANN Learn, which is our online university, is also in my portfolio. And I hope to see this coming year a lot more training courses that you will be able to access and that your communities will be able to access on these topics as well as the more general topics of understanding the domain name system

and ICANN. But particularly, those two, Internet governance and security and stability and the domain name system so keep a lookout for those.

The other tricky issue, if you like, is how do we help people to get to our meetings. And in your region in particular, there are a lot of people that have practical problems actually physically getting to a meeting, either because they can't get a visa or because it's very complicated to get in long flights, expensive flights or because they feel that their employers won't let them have the time-off at work, these sort of issues.

And a part of my remit, as I said earlier, is the Fellowship program. And I wanted to let you know because in this group, you come from all different communities in ICANN, that we have started within my team with the SO/AC leaders a Fellowship consultation process.

Now, let me explain what that is. The Fellowship is ten years old. It's actually 11 years old at this meeting. This was where it was created in Puerto Rico by a strange coincidence, 2007. And in that time, around 600 people have gone through the program. At the end of last year, we did a survey with everybody that we could find of that 600. We asked them to tell us what they thought of the program, where they were now, what did they learn, what would they advise us to do differently, what do they

want more of, what do they want less of, and also trying to get some understanding of the journey, where did people end up, how many people in the program are now involved in ICANN, this sort of thing.

We took the results of that and we drafted a questionnaire which looks at the program as a whole. This is before the budget was done. So, we did ask a question about the size of the program but it's just one question, it wasn't a major focus. So it's happening at the moment, it should be coming to you through your SO/AC structures or your leaders have it. And if you haven't had that conversation yet, we've asked for contributions back by the end of March so please feel free to go to your SO/AC leader structures and say, "What are we doing about the Fellowship consultation?" And if there are any problems with that, let me know or let Pierre know.

And that gives you an opportunity and I think particularly in this community, we really need to hear your opinions, not just about how big the program is but how can we make it more effective, how can we bake the pull through better. So, if you like, it's a stickier program if you know what I mean. How can we make sure that we're equally representing stakeholder groups? We don't have that many from the business community, for example, is one of the things that we discovered in the survey.

Why is that? What should we do differently to encourage that? Do we need to change the way we bring people in? Do we need to have more different qualifications, different rules? This kind of thing.

So please do. I know it's been the subject of a lot of discussion at this meeting. And I really wanted to just take this opportunity to ask you to let you know that that exists and that's the way we're doing it through the SO/AC structure. So, I hope that's helpful. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you very much, Sally. You've touched a lot of subjects and I believe there are questions or comments, but let us hold those things. Let me call on Nick because we're looking at time and we still need to hear about this report that we need to also still contributing to so if you can do it within one minute, that will be perfect. Nick.

NICK TOMASSO:

Well, with that in shell, I would certainly be brief. I am the Managing Director of the Middle East Africa Regional Office in Istanbul. My responsibilities and my roles there are to deploy the resources that we have both in our Istanbul office as well as our Brussels office to ensure that we service the Africa community as

expeditiously and as thoroughly as we can of course working with my colleague Pierre who works with you every day. So I'm very pleased to be here with you. I'm very pleased to be supporting the region and I look forward to working with all of you as time goes by here. So, please, if there's anything I can do to help, either reach out to me directly or certainly through Pierre. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Fantastic. A lot but within 60 seconds. Thank you very much. And Mike has been outstanding in Africa. He's always supportive, he is there at any initiative, whatsoever, to ensure that the community moves forward. Mike, it's been a great pleasure. Please, could you just give us some [inaudible]?

MIKE SILBER:

Jimson, thank you and thank you for the invitation to be here. I think it's a very positive situation where we're seeing greater African participation in the community and more Africans in the community. Now, I think we have an exercise for the next ten years which is improving the quality of that participation. Once we've got people in the room, how do we actually give them a voice because it's greater people are here if people are following and understanding? But at the moment there are very small

number of African voices that are actually speaking out on many of these issues. And I think that, in my mind at least, is the challenge for the ten years is not increasing or not only increasing participation but focusing on the quality.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Excellent. And that one reminds so that I don't forget, this folk, Sally, I got a feedback that they'll be [inaudible] the section can be more interactive in such a way that new people come in, they look at the video and at the same time, they can ask question. "What did you know about this? What is this?" Something that will try to get them to be reminded about what it meant, something more interactive, some form of interactivity going forward. That could help to retain Africans.

Okay. George, this is for us as we go. Thank you very much. I will now hand over to the Chair or the Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for Africa, our dear Pierre, please. Let's see how far we are really doing based on data or based on facts. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINO:

Thank you very much, Chair. And then of course let me again really thank you all for coming and especially our board members around, well, of course, George Sadowsky. Of course, George was there when we actually crafted this strategy. He was

one of those who went all the way to AfriNIC to do this. The CEO of AfriNIC is around but at that time, it was Adiel who welcomed us over there. Anyway, we came up with this strategy and then this community has been so supporting.

So what I'm going to do is actually quickly introduce this report, this five-year report. So we wanted to capture what have been achieved and so that we see where we are as you said. But this report also, though it's quite interesting maybe but we'll see. We also want to be able to be looking forward, exactly what should we be expecting.

For those who read that, actually what I say Africa strategy, you notice that in fact, the strategy appears as a kind of catalog of programs, of projects, many of them. But that's my personal view. The only one thing missing on our strategy that time was there was no financial – there was no figures attached to it actually. But it was quite ambitious and we can see it.

But nevertheless, ICANN was supporting this. And what we are going to hear is what we were able to achieve in terms of some of the projects that were highlighted in this report. So there are so many of us down there. But it boils down to two things, actually. Next slide, please.

It was about awareness, actually. And first of all, it was the African minister in charge of ICT who after the Dakar declaration, we're requesting ICANN to make sure that Africans participate much more in ICANN but at the same time that we do have an ICANN presence in Africa.

And the second part of it was building capacity in Africa. So this is what I will say the two pillars of our strategy. And of course, well, you may not be able to read this but maybe if you could increase the figures. By the way, the slide deck and even the report, all of those are posted.

And by the way, how many were able to read this report? Yes, because the plan was that you guys should be going through that report. So what we are doing here is just to quickly report that but in fact we are actually here is to actually hear more from you, having read this report, what are your observation and what sort of suggestion you will be making to us because this report now is going to be published we hope in time for AIS which is the Africa Internet Summit will take place in Dakar early May. So we will be happy to receive your questions, your observation so that we are able to include them in the report and for Dakar.

So these are the two pillars and what the report did was to then get into detail, detailing the program and the activities turn into project. Hundred plus project were actually included there.

Now, more info on our next slide, please. I see that you cannot maybe read this but it's posted anyway. You can already access in there.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Any link?

PIERRE DANDJINO: There's a link. The link... everything is up there on the schedule so you can actually access the document.

So, let me quickly unpack some of those things you have there. What is here is about that flagship projects that we started. So what have we achieved?

In fact, the flagship project was about the DNS Forum. Today this has been [inaudible] all over the different area of ICANN. But the first ever DNS Forum was organized in Africa. That's where we really brought together those who are actually in charge of managing [will be] the ccTLDs but also the registrars in Africa. It was the first time they were really meeting as a group and we're discussing those issues. We've now achieved this. Okay, five of

them of those DNS Forum and this is one is plan to take place in early July.

There's something we call the DNSSEC Roadshows as well. And there again, the idea was, of course, to build capacity in such a way that the African registrar/registries could sign their zone file. It went into 15 African countries. There's still more work to be done here because as I'm speaking, probably six to eight of them have actually signed their zone file. We need to do more on that.

The Africa DNS Market Study also was fundamental. That one, we produced and that was last year which really provide a clear picture of the domain names environment in Africa. So that's where you'll definitely know exactly, well, how many domain names actually have been circulating in Africa.

And also, what does the African market looks like in terms of business that will be [inaudible]. But also the report stress on the handicaps in terms of connectivity, for instance, for a continent of more than one billion population, we can only set five million domain names that have been quiet. We need to do more. And when you come down to the ccTLDs, it's something around two million for one billion. In terms of population, we need to do more. But the report is really detailed. Some of those things and you can also download in this report.

Of course, we also have this DNS mentorship and internship program. The idea was to make sure that the registrar, registries from Africa be in a position to actually get more exposure especially with the global registrars and then some of them are kind enough to accept [some] that's from Africa. And we really hope that it is also open to them their way to do a business.

Of course, root server instances also in Africa was important to establish those, we managed to have. And then I would like also to thank I think AfriNIC who has been partnering in that field.

In terms of engagement, events, many of them, so our strategy from the beginning has been to leverage on regional meetings in Africa. We did participate in most of them at least and we also make sure that we sponsor some of them. We facilitate organization of those and we also maintain regular channels of communication including our African discussion list issue. Some of you are not on that list. It's [item] that you actually be on that list. That's exactly where we really share information concerning ICANN and also that you could also be sharing your issues.

We did have a specific engagement. For instance, with academia. The younger generation, we have our YouthComm Workshop which is quite interesting. It's not just actually the NextGen sort of thing. This one is about those who are under 30

years old but it's about introducing them to ICANN and to the issues. We are just preparing them how to become ICANNers.

So many other things anyway, public lectures are going to continue. Of course, then we found out that there were emerging issues where we also needed to bring some support. And the good thing is that we also have in-house some of the functions within ICANN. Sally mentioned our colleague from OCTO, for instance, especially when issues such as DNS abuse pop up. And then most countries, law enforcement agencies were getting interested. So we needed to deliver on that. And our colleague from SSR and OCTO were really helpful.

In Africa, one other thing maybe we need to mention here is that we do have the ccTLD governance Issue. As I'm speaking here, of the 54 African countries, at least eight to ten of them are having specific issue, either their ccTLD is being managed by someone sitting outside the country, either some of them actually got into contract now that was not really beneficial for them or some of them are running this thing from the country but give the impression that they are not really marketing this thing.

So you end up getting to a country where you only have 500 registrant which is I think there's a work to be done. But few countries are now trying to really move forward and we can cite, of course, Kenya, Nigeria, for example, and of course South

Africa. By the way, of the two million ccTLD I mentioned, South Africa alone accounted for one million and something like 200. So there's seen more work to be done.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We're going to catch up.

PIERRE DANDJINO: You want to catch up? I don't know if it's about catching up or it's about doing what has to be done.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, and those kinds of things.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Yes, and also getting experience from them.

Of course, I had introduced the GSE Africa staff. There are three of us but as you know our managers, Yaovi and Bob Ochieng, we'll be seeing them in the events.

We do have a few challenges and we're also seeing opportunities there. One of the challenges, of course, is about what the participation and I think Mike said it. I think it's not about quantity, it's the quality of our participation here. And how do

we really make sure that are we prepared before coming to ICANN meetings? That one is still a great challenge for Africa.

We also know that there are issue about lack of data if you want to go into that business. That's why one of the byproducts of this market study was this Africa DNS Observatory which came as a proposal that we are trying to support that one with ISOC. We are working on that. And fTLD, of course, is key for that our registrar. Setting up a DNS Observatory in Africa is a key project we do have.

There are other things such as, okay, how does Africa, I will say, behave in terms of the ICANN's so called Empowered Community? Have you really realized what we should be doing as a community to really participate within ICANN? These are things we really need to think about.

We also initiated this IDN. IDN is about the Internationalized Domain Names. We succeeded in one country which is Ethiopia. Now, they have the script [known] there. Now, we are also moving to other countries and areas. So the suggestion here is that we do have either national or regional team that would be working with our colleague to make sure that the script concerning your language is also embedded. I know we are working with some of the major original languages, being a Swahili and the rest. But there is still more work to be done here.

The opportunity, we see them. But the issue is also about partnership, how this partnership which makes sure that we can deliver on some of the things without actually necessarily just expecting it to be coming from the ICANN. So, this is something we really want to look into and see how we could do things better. So I would like to be hearing you on this issue. What can we do better but what can you contribute? Like I said, this is an ambitious project.

And then I would like to finish also by saying that you just heard from the Chair of the Board, you also heard from Sally, when we started this journey, it was about what we said, it was ICANN, it was a new season for ICANN. And I remember the Chairman of the Board and then the CEO then, of course, wanted Africans to tell exactly what they wanted in terms of what are the issue and then what strategy to put in place. That's why they seize them.

Now, five years later on, we did achieve a few things definitely but at the same time, ICANN itself has moved, has got into – I wouldn't say transition but at least the environments are not the same actually today in terms of what we are having, new bylaws, we are talking impart communities and there are issues here, GDPR, all of those are there.

So, provided we also need to eventually revisit our strategy at some point but I'm just following this one. It's not ICANN views per se but it's my view on observing these things.

So this is briefly I think what it is, the figures, the details, that document, do you want to go through it? I wanted to actually give you the opportunity to really come up with your question, your suggestion and all of this. So, we are looking ahead. We are going to deepen our engagement and especially with the business constituency. It's important for us.

The engagement with government, yes, possibly. We are now having more and more members from countries, the GAC. Now, we really need to inform in the 50 below participation from this area. Of course, new audiences, especially your [inaudible] academia.

I think apart from that, [toiling] and all of the capacity building, we will, of course, continue with them and then we will certainly be using a system platform, a platform of ICANN for instance. So it's going to be quite important for us if we learned.

So this is briefly what I would like to say. There are of course more details but they are in the report and I would really encourage you to take the report. It's posted there and go for it. And we are expecting you to provide us with whatever

observation you may have or suggestion you may have given the environment.

So, let me keep it short here. So we seek your feedback on what has worked, what can we do differently as a community going forward? And you can access the full report. If I may have the last slides? Could I just keep that so that we do have more time for discussion? The last one, please. Yes, that's this one. So, you have the link, you can access the report. So, please. Thank you again for your attention and back to you.

JIMSON OFULUYE:

Thank you very much. Can we just give our Vice President a big hand? I'm [inaudible] to appreciate him and appreciate the team because I've gone through the reports, a 30-page report, quite concise and professionally packaged.

Well, maybe I could just provide a very quick feedback before I open it up to others. Well, a lot has been happening really. First, the DNS markets study reports, very useful. I can tell you it has enabled some entrepreneur to begin to invest more because we got it right that without data, investors may not be convinced that they need to put in resources so that's very good.

I also noted that the rule of business even in ICANN was not captured because I saw there that even work we've been doing,

the Business Constituency was not noted. At least being the Vice Chair for the Global Business Constituency, I think it should be noted. And we are playing very active role, a leading role in that regard.

And since we started in 2012, when you started with us, one African membership grown to about ten African membership now in the BC. And Mike said we need to improve the quality of participation. So we should be able to measure it. So you can measure it. We have a bunch of number of contributing, and they are contributing, and we need to be sustained. So that is my brief remark on that. Good reports but we need to take notes of progress made. And [Observatory] program/ project is important because you need to continually measure progress. So I hope the budgets would be sustained for that. We need to get those feedback.

And as he said, the meeting is scheduled. Please ensure that your [inaudible] is very small and concise and very relevant. I will open the floor now. I can see Fiona, you want to take it? And then I can see Daniel. So, Fiona, Daniel and you.

FIONA ASONGA:

Thank you so much, Pierre, for the presentation of the updates of our African strategy and where we are at. And I would just like

to take this opportunity to share on something that we can do maybe differently. And this is the opportunities that are arising within ICANN out of the whole IANA Transition. As a Chair of Work Stream 2, subgroup on diversity, we have created a lot of opportunities. But it's going to be up to you individuals from Africa to make use of those opportunities and to be able to participate because we are encouraging diversity across all the SOs, ACs and groups within ICANN.

But that diversity, the way we've structured the recommendations will not just be about ticking boxes, it is encouraging participation, quality participation. Why? Because we believe that across the world, in every region, we have extremely capable and skilled individuals and brilliant minds that can appropriately contribute to the development of ICANN as a global multi-stakeholder organization.

And so, I would like to encourage all of you who are here, if you don't have time yourself, you definitely know somebody in your region, in your country who has certain skills that are important and required within ICANN who can participate in the different working groups, in the different ACs and SOs. And we are really encouraging diversity even at the leadership level. Reason being, Africa is one of those regions where we really see leadership, participation at ICANN. And congratulations, Jimson,

for being the Vice Chair of the BC. That is one of the few opportunities we get within the ACs and SOs.

Within the Board, we have a structure that ensures that diversity. But within the different ACs and SOs, we have not had a structure for that. It has been up to a voluntary participation. So I'd like to encourage more volunteers, more active engagement. Please don't come so that you just help to check a box.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Okay. Thank you very much, Fiona, and really big thanks for your great work in diversity as the Chair. Well, just before I release to you, I have right here that the Chair of .africa who does want to say something.

Yes. Lucky, please. Just briefly. I want everyone to contribute so maybe one more minute if possible. Thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA:

Now, thank you. Thank you, Chair. The only thing that I'd want to say, it's I want to commend ICANN for the study. The DNS study, this Africa DNS study has been a very helpful mirror for us to understand, the scenario across the continent and where we are and what challenges are facing us.

And I would equally now encourage that we do need a follow-up study and we shouldn't just end there with the first study that we've done. This is groundbreaking. And critical out of this study is that we need to be ensuring that as a continent, we address the issue of the cost of domain names. We have huge price disparities across the continent and we need to bridge that gap of pricing.

We also need out of the study, everything identified the policy disparities that make it easy to acquire domain names. We need to address that. And I want to also share with you, we're recently on the 22nd of January, we submitted Mt. Kilimanjaro where to the top, the highest mountain of the continent taking the flag .africa. We believe as a .africa and our champions that this must be an alternative for us in Africa because .africa provides a lot of value for assets of continent and it must be seen as an alternative. Thank you, sir.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you very much. Just to quickly mention that .africa is working very well and the websites of AfICTA is hosted right there and we are proud of it. Thank you, Chair, Lucky. Yes, Daniel.

DANIEL KHAUKA NANGHAKA: I really appreciate and I've gone through this report of the Africa strategy, it really brings out key issues. But amongst the emerging issues, little has been mentioned about the KSK rollover and I think this is one of the key issues within Africa region. This is one of the key issues within Africa region that I think both as a community, we need a lot of support from staff from ICANN and ICANN.org itself because the fear is not only from other regions but let's also consider Africa region. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Thank you very much, Daniel. Next. Yes.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you, my intervention will be in French. There's diversity also. My name is Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong. I would like to thank you, Pierre, for your presentation. It was greatly informative and I would like to thank you and congratulate you for everything you've done together with your team.

Africa is a big continent and the challenges we need to face are a bit too much for three-people team. So I would like to know whether at the ICANN level, you could perhaps envisage having a bigger team and as for the engagement for the governments and the civil society, I think [inaudible] is a good point. It's a [city]

that's very well positioned to enable you to be in touch with the civil society and with the rest of the governments.

And then I think that thanks to the new initiative with universal acceptance and the initiative to integrate African languages, perhaps we could improve the situation in Africa as well. So through webinars and through all the contents that you put it on disposal in a local language, it's also very helpful to us.

Within our Fellow, in fact, the different ALSes already collaborate and I think it will be very useful to us to have a local office to gather all that we do, all our efforts and where we can meet and where we can garner the support we need so that we can integrate people from other constituencies and from the Business Constituency in particular. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Okay. Thank you very much, Abdeldjalil. Yes, next. One minute.

[ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE]: Thank you very much. My name is Adulkarim. I'm from Nigeria. I want to thank everybody that has come today and I want to thank especially the ICANN Board members that are here. And I want to take us a little bit back especially talking about the ICANN budget and things like that. And I also want to thank Sally

for what she has said and for what she's doing in terms of engagement.

One thing I want us to note is that especially with the ICANN Board and the ICANN budget is when we are trying to cut the budget, let us think of how all the cuts we are going to make is going to affect Africans, not just Africa but especially sub-Saharan Africa because in terms of the Internet, the Internet is meant for everybody, and today, we in sub-Saharan Africa, we are not really enjoying the use of the Internet because of so many things. And I know ICANN can still do a lot more in order to support us especially in terms of engagement.

One thing I wanted to look at is a situation whereby in the near future, we're going to have an Africa and ICANN meeting in a country in sub-Saharan Africa. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Okay. I need to quickly say that yes, will be the African ICANN meeting, well, we had in Senegal, we had in the South Africa. Yes, [inaudible] sub-Saharan Africa. Thank you. To the back, I have someone here, the back. Just one minute.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Yes. I am Abdalmonem Galila, ICANN coach from Egypt. I have one comment and [don't coach it]. I will start with the question. How many participants here are part of the Fellowship program, maybe this current one or the previous ICANN Fellowship program? Please raise your hand. Please count. Yes, is this [very strong]? I hope my message you received [inaudible].

Yes, I would like to take this great opportunity to encourage African countries representative to be part of the mission to get [NIC stable] online through adding more languages to the root zone and the joint taskforce in internationalized domain names. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Okay. Thank you very much for making this very snappy. And then Alan to you before I go to you and then Alan.

ALAN BARRETT: Thank you. Hi, everyone. I'm Alan Barrett, I'm CEO of AfriNIC. I just want to remind you all that the Africa Internet summit and the AfriNIC Policy Meeting will be held in Dakar in Senegal in the last week of April and the first week of May. And our website is using a .africa domain. It's internetsummit.africa. You can go there to get the agenda, the map to find the venue and the city,

information on how to get an invitation letter, all those sorts of things.

And also, I'd like to talk a little bit about diversity. We need diversity in all our African institutions not only in ICANN. And let me focus on AfriNIC. Today, the AfriNIC Board does not have any woman. I like that to change. I know there are many qualified women in Africa. They're not all in this room of course but they're out there. And the people in this room know them. So please, encourage the qualified women who want to be on the AfriNIC Board to stand for election. Thank you.

JIMSON OLOFUYE: Okay. Thank you very much. That's very good. Thank you very much. Yes, next please.

EMMANUEL ADJOVI: Emmanuel Adjovi from Francophonie. I would like to speak in French. I would like to begin by congratulating Pierre Dandjinou and his team. I commend you for your leadership inspiring the engagement of different stakeholders. Your work has been most interesting. And over the past five years, we've seen what Africa is capable of when there is great commitment.

With that said, the current situation makes us change the way we consider the situation. I think we now have an ICANN strategy and not an African ICANN strategy. So it is important that we all work for an African strategy for ICANN. What I mean to say is that it's important that the African Union Commission engage the regional organizations such as ECOWAS, the East Africa Economic Society amongst others to work on putting together an African strategy for ICANN. And I think it will only be then that we will be able to face the real challenges we face in Africa in terms of Internet governance and Internet access. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Thank you very much, Emman. Yes,

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you, Chair. [inaudible] for the record. I just wanted to make a follow-up to what Pierre Dandjinou has said about the strategy and the results of the strategy. One important thing is the DNS Observatory. And as an fTLD member, I wanted to update on this issue. We had the subworking group who is already done with the document of the DNS Observatory. We set the document to define the metrics and the process

implementation. Me, Barak and [inaudible] is in this group. Barak is here.

And with this document, once [ratified] by the fTLD will be shared widely with a wider community to receive the feedbacks and your suggestion. And I encourage you all of you when once we share it to please give us your feedbacks to implement it as soon as possible. That's what I wanted to say.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Excellent. Thank you so much. The work is already ongoing. That's very good. Any other comments? I think we've done very well with timing. Yes, thank you.

[ALPHA ABDULAIJAM]:

[Alpha Abdulaijam] from the Regulator of Senegal. I will just speak in French. Thank you very much. We encourage and commend the team that was created by ICANN. It is a team made up of three people as it has already been said. And these three people made great strides and accomplished a lot.

My question will actually deal with what ICANN is doing currently. ICANN has implemented an African strategy. And as a representative of the Francophonie, Africa should also consider its strategy for ICANN.

Currently, ICANN has its own strategic plan that is being implemented. And what I would like to know today is what the relationship, what the mechanism that should implement to have this synergy between the ICANN African strategy and the African strategy for ICANN because through my research, I have seen that there's already a document that has set some goals by 2020. So I think the ICANN strategy will actually not be related to what would be done for Africa and for ICANN. There is no link between the two. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you, Abdul. Pierre, I hope that he has noted. Just hold on. Yes. So, let's take this last intervention then you can do your respond to everyone that's commented.

[MARGUERITE]:

My name is [Marguerite]. I am the Chair of the Freedom and Information Technology Commission from Burkina Faso and this is my first ICANN meeting. I would like to thank the OIF that's enabled me to be here. That's the International Francophonie Organization. I would also like to commend those who organized this session because they allow us to be diverse within the organization and as Africans, they are the ones that enabled us to express our views here.

Pierre spoke of the GDPR. That's a new European regulation. And we have many databases in Africa so I wonder if within this group we are at today, there have been any considerations on what protections and databases could need knowing that these databases are privilege targets for some groups. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Good question. Thank you, Madam [Marguerite]. Pierre, you want to respond to these observations?

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Yes. Thank you, thank you very much. And before we move forward, [inaudible] do we have any question that coming from the phone because I need to apologize we are experiencing a few issues with the Adobe Connect, that's why. But the audio is functioning and we'll make sure that those who have any question eventually could send it over. We apologize for our remote participants.

Thank you very much for your contribution and for the point that have been raised. I will just speak one or two of them. And like I said, we will also be expecting your even written contribution at some point once you've gone through the report. And the objective being that we do have a final report by the

time we've reached AIS in Dakar. AIS which stand for the Africa Internet Summit.

There are question about the – is that our Africa strategy in line with the ICANN's own strategy. Definitely, we did this exercise I think two years ago to try to align the Africa strategy with the ICANN's own. But as you also know, ICANN has now opened up face of working on a strategy and definitely, your question is well noted which we'll need to align our strategy.

Of course, then we'll have to maybe reconvene or organize a new set of working group. You remember the Africa strategy didn't come from the blue, it was actually developed by a group that we call the African [such as] working group. There were nine people and volunteers. So yes, definitely, we will need to realign this with the ICANN strategy and we will be certainly calling on a few of you to really do that job.

Whether there's going to be any Africa strategy for ICANN and that was the recommendation for you guys, not for ICANN actually. I think this [inaudible] has taken note of that one.

GDRP yes, it's important that at some point this be discussed also in Africa. But again, you'll be hearing more on that in the coming weeks or so and it's good that you've come for the first time and it is good that you also be tuned to what's happening

in ICANN, what ICANN is doing is how ICANN is going to cope with that GDPR and who is on the race. That's what ICANN is doing.

Now, if you are talking about what Africa is doing, that's again another issue. And by the way, I'm not disclosing any. We want to do something in there but during AIS, we are having the ICANN Day and then we'll be talking about GDPR. But again, it's going to be perspective from ICANN. So if you are thinking of any African perspective on that, this is homework to be done, actually.

There are question about only three staff member to cover Africa. While this is a recurrent question, ICANN Leadership knows about it anyway. And we'll still be discussing this and hopefully it will happen.

I think the other question were about the communication, languages. Well, we talked about the IDN, the scripts that you need to think about. Again, it's homework. If any university or if any resource center who would like to be working on that, if possible, our team ICANN team is ready to assist and to form the group to work on any specific African language.

Like I said, we did it with [inaudible] and Addis Ababa. It was a group of volunteer from university from the business industry.

They grouped together and worked on that with the support from ICANN. I think we are actually open to do more on that.

I think apart from that, you wanted us to open up to technical and business. I don't know whether Adiel is around, this is quite important, a technical component. And [Hiku] have given you what agenda we have but we do have an agenda to really respond this technical engagement and you will be hearing also from him.

I think the rest, they are recommendation that you made, definitely, the team will consider those. But we still have close to one month actually for you to be sending your recommendation, your suggestion. But I really would like you to get through the report. It's not that long. It's 30 pages and then provide what the remarks you may have.

With that, maybe a few announcement. We are going to have our DNS Forum in Cotonou. It's going to be 5th of July. We are going to have also an event which is a celebration of what we call the first ever Internet Governance Conference in Africa, happen in Benin. And that's where we really, I would say, crafted AFRINIC and the rest of ICANN associations, it's important and then we're going to celebrate. And as we look forward to the future also, we would like to be having also younger generation there, [25th], well, what Africa is going to do with the Internet in the coming

five to ten years for instance. That could be one of the topics there. So, we will be coming back to you with more details. So this is what I could share at this point. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Thank you very, very much. It has been a very lively session. We appreciate all the work that have been [put today]. But let me just wrap it up here. Okay, Mike.

MILE SILBER: Sorry. Let me take my prerogative as a Board member at least for the next nine months. I'm really very encouraged by what I was hearing from the OIF. That's exactly the sort of initiative that I'm talking about. I think that some of our complaints about Africa not being included is because we sit and we wait for Pierre and his team to come to us and we wonder why we only have three and why we only have one office. It's because we are sitting on our hands and waiting. And I'm really encouraged to hear an organization saying, "We're not waiting for ICANN to come and deliver to us. We're going to develop a response." Now, I may not agree with everything that comes out but at least it's the right way that we're building bottom up instead of waiting for ICANN to come helicopter in and run initiatives.

And I encourage everybody who's not an OIF member and whose first language is necessarily French to look at ways in which they can either endorse or start their own process because that's the way we're going to grow as a continent and that's how we're going to grow as a community. If we start working at how we want to approach ICANN instead of trying to wait to see how ICANN is going to deal with us. So I'd like to commend the colleagues on that work and I'd like to encourage everybody to try and start their own initiatives in that respect.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you very much, Mike, very, very structural. And that is the spirit when AfICTA started and you are right there to encourage us. Thank you.

Two things, DOA talking about trend, this [object] architecture so we need to be also be sensitive to how it affects the DNS or what is going on. So we need to have that [re-read]. And also IOT, this Denial-of-Service attack is becoming more massive so we need to take cognizance of that. We can come up with some regulation to encourage regulation. The regulators are here in terms of IOT devices and the need for them to be adding and what have you.

So security is very important especially with the database issue. And then we also need to be concerned about the protection of our own databases, citizens' identity and what have you.

So, on that note, I want to again appreciate the board members. Distinguished board members are here, Pierre for taking the lead on the team and everyone that has spoken, everyone that has listened and listened carefully and everyone that will be making contributions.

So Pierre, please, let me ask this question. Will you be adding everyone to the African list? Those that are not there, will you be adding them in?

PIERRE DANDJINOU: By there, we don't force people. It's about private. We can talk about privacy.

MIKE SILBER: Yes, in terms of our data privacy compliance, people would need to self-subscribe.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Definitely. I don't know whether it's about GDPR but anyway, you have to.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You have to send an invitation to subscribe.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Invitation, anyway, we circulated. Yes, wonderful. So yes, we'll be communicating to you and then you'll have it.

But before we really close, I would like to recognize George Sadowsky. George was with us in 1998. Okay. Some of you guys were not there, were not born anyway but that's the point.

And this came out of the ISOC. How many also know about the ISOC workshop for developing countries? I'm certain not many of you guys. But George was there and he also participated in providing ideas for this strategy we are talking about. So I think he has seen us doing this and now for five years. It would be great that he maybe share maybe one or two word for us. George.

GEORGE SADOWSKY: Thank you. I've been listening. I worked in a different Africa than what you come from. I started my work in Africa in 1975 and although I stayed with it for a period of time, I haven't done much in the last ten years or so, maybe 15, maybe even 20, I don't know. Time marches on.

So I've been listening to what you're doing and I see progress, I see involvement, I see interest. What I don't see and maybe this isn't the appropriate time for it but I don't see a cutting analysis, the level of detail of what resources do you need, why, how are you going to use them, what will be the results. And it's almost like I like to do an autopsy on what you've been talking about. Cut it open and see what's really there and it probably is there but for me, I'm more of an engineer than I am of a lawyer or a politician. And for me, detail, how you get it done is really important in addition to choosing the right thing to get done.

Anyway, I wish you a lot of luck. I think this is a worthwhile initiative. We've got to keep at it. And I look forward to being both a spectator and a participant in those activities. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much, George, for those words. And I would again like to thank all of you for turning up here, and also that we'll be expecting your comments, your written observations. We still have one month for that and definitely go download the reports and go for it. And then don't tear it but at least read it and let us know what are your views before we have a final publication.

With that, I think we can just adjourn this meeting and then thank you and proceeding with, again, good meetings before the end of this ICANN61. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Okay, big hand for progress. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]