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BARCELONA – Joint AFRALO AfrICANN Meeting
Monday, October 22, 2018 – 13:30 to 15:00 CEST
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:	Hello.
UNIDENTIFIED MALE:	Okay.
YESIM NAZLAR:	Abdulkarim, can you hear me? Could you please try to speak?
ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE:	Hello. Yes, I can hear you.
YESIM NAZLAR:	I think we need to increase the audio volume. Can you please speak one more time?
ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE:	Hello. Yes, I can hear you.
YESIM NAZLAR:	Okay, much better. Thank you.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Okay. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for coming to AFRALO AfrICANN meeting. I think before we start, Gisella has some notes of order. Please.

GISELLA GRUBER: Just so you know, I will speak in French. We have the headsets, and those are used for interpretation. As you see, the interpreters are here. They do not know you, therefore, when you start speaking, please spell your name each time and speak very clearly and slowly so the interpreters can do their job.

                         If you have a question, please lift your hand in the Adobe Connect or here around the table. Therefore, you can just lift your hand. Once again, welcome to AFRALO in Barcelona. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Great to see you on this regular meeting which is held every ICANN meeting. We gather together the African community here within ICANN and AFRALO to discuss usually one hot topic, and we have usually a draft for that topic, so at the end, we issue a joint statement from the African attending the ICANN meeting and AFRALO community.

                         So we can start the agenda. First, I'd like to welcome Alan Greenberg, the ALAC ongoing chair. He's with us here. And Maureen Hilyard, she's also the ALAC incoming chair. And I'd like to start with Alan. Can you –

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you very much. This is a little bit sad for me, because as Mohamed said, this is my last meeting as ALAC chair, and I've quite enjoyed being at these meetings. I hope you'll allow me to still occasionally drop in anyway. As some of you know, I've done a bit of work in Africa over the years, and it's marvelous to me to watch the development and specifically from an At-Large point of view how much active participation we have right now from Africa where for a long time, it was a real struggle to get people to really join us and participate in the active work.

So it's been a lot of fun to watch and to occasionally contribute. And I wish I could stay with you, but I have a seat already at the meeting next door to us on auction proceeds that I'm supposed to be participating in, so I'm going to duck out right now, but it's not because I wouldn't like to stay here. And I wish you a good meeting, and enjoy the rest of the ICANN meeting. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Alan. Thank you for the continuous support during your leadership for AFRALO. Maureen, the incoming ALAC chair. Please.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you very much. I'm very pleased to be here. And I know that you'll be very sad to see Alan leave, but I hope that I can actually be of service to you as much as he has been.

I just wanted to – they're supposed to be putting up a little bit of a picture for you, but I think what I wanted to use this diagram for was to demonstrate that I really do think it's important that we do hear the voices of the members within the RALOs and that the conduit for those messages that you have will of course be your RALO chair.

The RALO chairs are now part of what I call my ALT Plus. They are now being incorporated into the senior leadership team of At-Large, and it just means that if you have something important to say that you want to be taken to the ALAC, you can do so through the At-Large, through the At-Large leadership, and that will filter up to the ALAC.

But it's sort of important too that similarly, the requests that ALAC will have on the members of the RALOs will go through the RALO chair. When we're actually requesting support for the activities that are happening and the three streams of work that will occur for the At-Large, that are actually the purpose of At-Large.

And that is, first of all, policy, policy input, secondly, outreach and engagement, and of course thirdly, the organizational side of the running of the general activities that are associated with At-Large. And we need your voices, so we need your participation, and I would like to think that you will actually be encouraged or we can encourage you to take part in the list.

Also, we're looking forward of course to our next meeting which will be in your city, Marrakesh, and I'm going to make sure that Aziz does not even try to get me near a camel. So if he starts telling you stories about

that, they're probably true. But I'm looking forward to it, and if I can be of any service, please let Mohamed know and we'll see what we can do.

Unfortunately, I too am part of the auction proceeds meeting which is going on next door, but if there are any questions that anyone wants to ask at this particular point in time, I'm happy to take any. Except from Aziz. Thank you very much, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Maureen. Usually on this meeting, we invite the chair of the board, and in previous occasions, we had them attend our meeting. Unfortunately, the chair, Cherine Challaby was not able to join us for this meeting, but he did send a very kind note which I'd like to read to you and I think has been distributed to you.

It says, "I sincerely hope to be with you today, but scheduling and prior commitments have kept me away. You know this is an important group to me, and I very much enjoyed our time together, most recently in Panama. I would like to extend a special thanks to AFRALO-AfrICANN community for all your efforts and encourage you to please contribute, continue doing what you are doing. I wish you the best of success as you tackle major issues facing your communities and ICANN, and I look forward to meet with you in the future. Cherine Challaby, chair, ICANN board."

And we also invited, as we usually do, the CEO, but unfortunately, he apologized as well to conflicting appointments. So we have here with

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us León Sanchez, I hope he's available here. León, he is the board director selected by At-Large. He might be joining us shortly.

So from ICANN Organization, we have our dear colleague, Pierre Dandjinou. Pierre is ICANN vice president for Africa, and Pierre, you have the floor to address –

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, Mohamed, and a very good morning to all of you. As usual, it's a pleasure. As I said, when I come to AFRALO, I'm a bit at home, actually. So thank you very much, and also, I'd like again to take this opportunity to really thank you all for your contribution, especially supporting what I've been doing in Africa in the last year. I think we were able to really do a few things.

So my comment here is just to thank you, but also indicate that we're now having our new version, new update of our Africa strategy that will be launching tomorrow in this room, actually, 130. But it's important that we understand the sort of new spirit in which we really want to really want to implement this strategy.

And one of the things we are stressing is partnership, to be able to forge those partnerships that we really need. And then I'm saying partnership in Africa per se. So I would like really to count on you in terms of outreaching to those potential partners that could really help us implement some of the project.

You know what? This time, we've been actually asked to attach a budget to this strategy document, which means that it is in the spirit of

ICANN that you all have seen. So I'd like to count on you. One of the things I also wanted to count on you is how do we reflect this, [all of this meeting that we attained?] How do we reflect that in the different countries? How do we replicate eventually some of the good ideas? [Any] reporting into the countries and this is something we really want to be able to be monitoring, actually.

So, yeah, these are the few points I just wanted to highlight, and again to also encourage this exercise that you do every time [that] we do have this meeting, and discussing any hot topic that you find of interest, and then you provide a kind of African, I will say, vision and African ideas to send to the board. I definitely think it's a good sort of thing you guys are doing.

So with this word, of course, I would like to thank you and hope you have quite good meetings. And thank you again, Mohamed, for having me.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Pierre, for your continuous support for our community. León Sanchez has joined us, and León is our board director selected from the At-Large community, so [only] have a chance to speak to AfrICANN AFRALO community. Please.

LEÓN SANCHEZ: Thank you very much. It is always great to be here with the AFRALO colleagues. I am very grateful that you have me here. I've read the

declaration of the joint meeting from AFRALO-AfrICANN, and I think that you touch upon very relevant topics for our community and for ICANN.

The next round of new gTLDs, we have no date, we have no idea if it's actually going to happen, but what you propose here in your statement, I think it's crucial. I think that the concept of flexibility that you're introducing here as a matter of being able to do corrections in the course of the round and suggesting that we have one more round that is followed by a review period, I think it's very important. I think that it's something that could actually better shape the next rounds for new gTLDs, of course, if this is going to happen, and it could finally lead us to coming to the point of a first come, first served basis continued or continuous round. We'll see what the future of that is, but I think that the concepts that you introduce here bring a lot of flexibility and could actually help us correct any mistakes that are made through the process.

As per community applications, I definitely support all the concepts that you have stated in your statement. Coming from a developing country, as many in Africa, I think that community applications are to be treated in a different way and with priority from other regular gTLD applications. So I want to congratulate you for this great statement. I hope that you vote favorably on it, and I encourage you to continue to work in other processes within ICANN as well.

As you may be aware, we are going through a process to make all the environment, all the ecosystem within ICANN compliant with GDPR. We are having one excellent representative from the African region in the

EPDP. This is Hadia Elminiawi. She's been very active and very constructive in her input to the EPDP process, so you should feel proud of Hadia because she's taking the African region very high with her work and her input. And this is, of course, part of the work that you all develop and perform here. So I want to thank also Tijani for having me here, Mohamed for having me here, Sarah and all the AFRALO leadership.

We have some important topics in which we are looking for your input. As you might have heard in this opening ceremony, we are in the work of building the strategy for the next five years. We will be publishing in the months to come a draft strategic plan for the coming years, and I think it's essential that the points of view from the end users in Africa is reflected in this strategy. We cannot have a strategy that doesn't contemplate Africa in it. So I absolutely encourage you and would welcome your comments when time comes to feed into the process of shaping this strategic plan in order to consider and include the points of view and the needs and concerns from the African region.

Tijani, I would like to thank you all for having me here. Mohamed, Sarah. It's a pleasure to be here as usual, and I am open to questions if you feel you have any questions.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, León. And it'll be useful to have you here while we discuss the statement. So without further ado, I'd like to introduce Tijani Ben Jemaa, and Tijani will go through the statements and give

you an overview about what exactly the focus of the statement is. So Tijani, please.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, Mohamed. So as you know, each time we hold this kind of meeting, we do before the meeting a call for topics so that we choose a topic that the community asked for. So this time, the topic was about the community applications, and also about the concept of rounds of the new gTLD subsequent procedures.

You know that the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group released their initial report, and they asked for comment on it. And we as community of At-Large, we did our remarks, but now as an African community, we want to focus especially on two aspects, which are the concept of rounds and the community application.

So, for the community application, as you know, people now are asking why we are doing successive rounds, why don't we open a round forever and we treat it as first come, first served? And this is an approach which we can understand, but if we do that like this, we will not have time to evaluate the result and the problems that were raised during the application, so we will continue to make the same mistakes.

The merit of successive rounds is that we have time between rounds to evaluate and to correct any mistake we did. So we as community normally – this is what the statement says, that it is the process in general, the new gTLD program in general doesn't have sufficient maturity to permit us to say we prefer this kind of application and

rounds or this other kind and one open round on the basis of first come, first served.

So we didn't say that we prefer this or this, but we said that we didn't have sufficient maturity. The problem doesn't have sufficient maturity to permit us to say that this is better than the other.

Also, the same thing, we don't have sufficient maturity now to say, "Let's start tomorrow the round," because everything wasn't done. The evaluation didn't finish. So we need sufficient time to say if we advise to start now or if we need more time. And as I said, we are not able today to say it is preferable to have successive rounds or one open round.

But in any case, we think that a mechanism to be established for course correction, very important. Even if it is an open round, we need a mechanism for course correction, otherwise, we will continue to make the same mistakes.

Also, we think that community-based applications should be prioritized in case of string contention. We have another problem with the panel of the community priority evaluation, the CPE. Last time, if you remember well, several community applications were dropped because of this panel.

This panel is made of people who don't know anything about us. They are experts in evaluation, etc., but they don't know the real problems of the DNS. And they made evaluation so that, for example, [dot-kid] wasn't accepted as a community, and etc. This is one that I know, but there is a lot.

We [noticed] that the composition of the panel should be reviewed so that in the future, it is not composed of people who are absolutely far from the community, from the ecosystem. And also, we prefer that the community will be involved in this process of community evaluation. Not exactly in the panel. It could be another way, but – because this will give the dimension of what is the community and environment of ICANN.

Also, there is another problem of transparency, because this panel worked in a dark manner. You don't know anything. You know only that you are dropped. That's all. So we advised that it should be more open, more transparent.

Now coming to the community application, there was a discussion about the definition of community, because this is one of the problems for the panel. The panel had its own definition of the community and the interpretation of this definition was dependent of the person, of people. It wasn't something objective, it is subjective.

So this time, we thought – and even the Subsequent Procedures Working Group thought that we need to define the community in a better way. And we gave a modified definition of the one given by the European Court of Human Rights that in our point of view will meet better or the best, the closest definition of what we find is a community.

Yes. Also, we also think that we have to differentiate the treatment of the applications between a community application and the other applications. Because in 2012, there was a difference. A community application had priority on the other applications.

Also, the eligibility for applicant support program, we have to favorite the community applications for this program, because the community applications don't have commercial interest or political interest, they are more for the community, for the culture, for the language, for the interest of the community, not for personal interest.

Okay, I spoke about the panel. I think that's it. Sarah will read the statement, and you have it, you must have read it. We consider that this panel of community evaluation is one of the most disturbing problem regarding the community application, because everything should go through this panel, and this panel in the past prevented valuable application from communities to go forward, and they dropped them. Thank you, Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Tijani, for highlighting the main points on the statement. I just want to emphasize also the statement drafting group was a multi-stakeholder group within our community. So it's not just one person, this was a group of colleagues who produced this draft.

We have our colleague, Abdulkarim. He couldn't make it to the meeting to be physical with us, but he's on the line, and he's going to go through the statement and read it to you. Then we can open the discussion.

Abdulkarim, if you're online, then you can try to start so we can give you a chance to read it quickly so that we can have a discussion about its content.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you so much. I hope everybody can hear me.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, we can. Please go ahead.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Okay. [inaudible] go to the statement now. We, the African ICANN community members participating in ICANN 63 international policy meeting in Barcelona and attending the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting on Monday, 22nd of October 2018, discussed the initial report of the New Generic Top-Level Domain – gTLD – Subsequent Procedure Policy Development Proces Working Group, and especially the concept round and the community application recommendations.

First, we want to congratulate the new gTLD Subsequent Procedure PDP Working Group members for the huge amount of time undertaken to prepare this initial report and thank them for the time and effort. Nevertheless, we would like to make the following statements.

Number one, concept of rounds. Regarding whether the new gTLD program should continue in the form of successive rounds or open rounds, we believe that the program didn't get sufficient maturity to be able to definitely announce with certainty when the rounds should be as well as if it is better to go to a first-come, first served open round or stay with consecutive rounds.

We recommend that more time is provided for the TLDs [emerged] from the previous round [and assessment mechanisms are] put in place to reach a certain level of maturity before a next round is started.

We propose to conduct one additional round followed by an [inaudible] final review period to determine how future application for new gTLDs should be accepted. [inaudible] regardless of whether the introduction of the program is done via consecutive rounds or an open round on a FCFS basis, we think that there is a need for, one, a mechanism to be established to allow for cost corrections mandated by policy development processes to make substantial policy-driven changes to the program.

Community-based application be prioritized in the first instance. The community priority evaluation – CPE – panel composition and procedure review, the data transparency in ICANN. We also [demand data transparency] in ICANN organization selection of dispute resolution service providers, DRSPS.

We also – an outreach effort should be undertaken to better create awareness of not only the program but also parallel programs such as the application support program promoting greater awareness of the program in the regions where number of applications from the 2012 rounds were comparatively very low. Using appropriate means and channels is key for the success of the program.

The second issue is on the community application, we [inaudible] definition of the communities. We think the following definition should be the European Court of Human Rights –used by the European Court

of Human Rights is most accurate. A not-for-profit group of individual or legal entities brought together for at least three consecutive years in order to collectively ask, express, promote, pursue or defend [a field] of common interest.

We believe the communities should continue to be given special consideration. The special treatment for community application in the form of priority in case of string contention, eligibility for support through the application support program, particularly those from underserved region and on those which are conceived to serve underserved communities.

For the community priority evaluation – CPE - we are of the opinion that the CPE process needs to be more transparent and predictable. Details about all the procedures [issued and decision making must be] available to applicants well in advance of the deadline for submission.

The concept of membership must be flexible enough to take into account the fact that geographically distributed communities often do not have traditional membership list and should not be penalized for this.

Background information about CPE participants, including support team, must be fully available to enable conflict of interest oversight. [Data] documentation research materials consulted in decision-making must be referenced and released as part of the decision. Applicants should be updated periodically about the status of the application.

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It is important that the CPE team include representatives from grass roots community organizations. Finally, we consider that the real is assuring that the members of the CPE have a full understanding of the types of community [putting applications forward] and are able to deal with them in a flexible way. Subjective interpretation and biased definition applied on an ad hoc basis discriminates valid community applications. Thank you very much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Abdulkarim. So I think we open the floor for discussion, and you can see that the draft statement have highlighted the two main issues. Will the next round be first come first served or be [consecutive] rounds? There's discussion now within ICANN about which community to be first trademark applications first and then followed by maybe geographic names, and third, first come first served for everyone.

And I think for us, for Africa, the concept of the community application is very important, because this is a chance where our future applications of our applications form the continent could get support. And in the last round, I think we had about three applications, one that requested support and unfortunately didn't get support. So this is an important topic, and I'll, I think, open the floor for you to discuss the statement. Mary, please.

MARY UDUMA: Okay. I want to first congratulate the drafters of this statement and the fact that we're anchoring it on something that we are concerned about. First, I think I've heard in the corridors people talking about what has happened to the first – what we did before in 2012 and how far are those ones implemented, and then starting another one.

So, is a good thing, is a good – I don't know whether we spelled out very well the issue of support. I think this will be the concern of our community in particular, the issue of support to community applications, and also, we should also [inaudible].

I thought the third thing we should consider, not even putting it within the statement, as we said, concepts of round one. The next one – and you said the concept of continuity of application. So from here, we'll bring up the aspect of outreach. It should stand alone as something that we have emphasis on, an aspect of support is also something that is of great emphasis for us.

Just a minor thing I want to say in bullet point one, and when we said first come first serve, maybe in bracket, we just say FCFS. So that when we read it again down there, it would – thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you, Mary, for the comments. I'm not sure if we have any comments coming on Adobe Connect channel. Nothing. Okay. I have Daniel, and followed by Barrack.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Thank you very much for the drafting team that happened to compile this awesome document, at least mainly to highlight just to simply reiterate when it comes to emphasis for outreach and engagement. I'm wearing my hat as the chair for outreach and engagement. Still, there is need to reach out to the real communities, because most of the communities are not aware about these processes, especially when it comes to the CPE.

Our involvement is still low, and there's need to come up with appropriate indicators of appropriate engagement of the valuable members into drafting of the requirements. I think when we place our position, it brings at least a strong milestone to achieve all this. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Barrack, please.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you, chair. On bullet point five which talks about outreach, I propose outreach and capacity building efforts be undertaken to create awareness and build capacity, of not only the program but also parallel programs. I propose outreach and capacity building efforts. I think capacity building is a critical component, especially in regions that had low applications. Yeah, so I would like to add that [inaudible].

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MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you very much. I think just to echo the feedback, we need to emphasize more on outreach and capacity building. And Mary mentioned also we need to stress as well on the community support importance for us. Yeah.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: First come first served, write the abbreviation.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. And some edit updates. So if there is any other further comments. Okay, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I will speak Arabic. What do you think? So put your headset. Thank you very much, everybody. And if you do not see any other recommendations or comments on that statement, I would like to ask you, what are the things that you see that are going to make our work better as AFRALO and AfrICANN and our joint meeting? What are your recommendations, suggestions? Or how do you see also that it will be more beneficial for us that we should do so that we can improve and enhance this kind of meeting? And if there is any kind of topic that you have or you see that it's very important for us to put it for our next meeting. So give us your opinions, give us your ideas about those points. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. So I think we have a queue. Dave, Lucky, and Hadia.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: I think Tijani, before we go to the next point, let us adopt this document first. So I propose the document to be adopted and see if somebody can second it.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you very much. It has been seconded. Yes. Okay. Lucky, please.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thank you, chair. You know, giving blessings to this document equally supporting the adoption, [it informs it better,] because I think the thinking of this committee is important, because to rush into another round when we have not yet established a very stable name for our continent, here I am thinking more of dot-Africa which is still needing a lot of traction to stretch across the length and breadth of the continent.

It's important that we find that space. It's important that we find the success and the programs that are associated with dot-Africa, and the fear is if we introduce another process, we might lose our intended results that we haven't quite achieved to this point. So this statement, in essence, it is very critical and important, and in my personal capacity as the head of registry Africa, I strongly support it. Thank you, sir.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Lucky, [for this point.] Hadia, please.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: So, first of all, thank you for all the drafters of the statement. And I just wanted to make a quick observation. So we were at the Middle East space, and we had a statement also talking about the community applications, and some concerns were raised that do we really need to define the community as a nonprofit organization?

And the discussion there was stemming from the fact that in our region, the industry is not able yet to make profit or pick up. And asking for registry from the region to pay that amount of money is like almost impossible. Of course, there was another argument that this could introduce sort of unfair competition, and I can see that as well.

I just wanted to just make this observation, because we clearly define in the statement a community as a nonprofit organization. Having said that, I do support the statement. Thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Hadia – I'm going to speak French now. So if we do not say that this community is any not-for-profit group, it's going to be a company, a commercial entity, for profit is going to be a business. It's not going to be a community anymore. We're talking about a community, people with the same interest that work together for certain objectives and to reach certain goals. Not to make money, but to serve their community. Not to become politicians either.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, everyone, really, for the thoughtful contributions to the statement and the feedback. We're going to have slight adjustments. Abdul, I think you want to speak. Please go ahead.

ABDALLA OMARIA: The statement has been adopted, but I've seen something which – I think instead of the bullets, if we can put A, B, C, D or roman I, roman II, so that it's easy, because I can see my colleague Mary trying to say bullet that – so if it's 1A or I roman II, that's it. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Abdalla. And we have a comment from Adobe Connect. Yesim, maybe you can.

YESIM NAZLAR: Thank you. We have a remote comment from Seun Ojedeji. Seun says, "I suggest this statement is not just put to the board but also to the group working on the subsequent procedures." Thank you, and I also see that Abdulkarim Oloyede has raised his hand. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: So we can give also Abdulkarim a chance. Abdulkarim, if you're online and you can hear us, you can proceed.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you very much. I hope you can hear me. Yes, [inaudible] would like to add is I want to, first of all, commend all the drafters of the

statement, and to also encourage a lot of us from the African community to please participate, especially the policy development process, and also in these working groups.

On the definition of the community, I think it is one area we really need to contribute and make sure our voice is actually heard. We really need to come up with a definition that is going to be accessible, because I think one of the major problems is especially in the last round was because the definition of community was vague. And if [we still] have a vague definition, then there might still be a problem even in the next round. Thank you so much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Abdulkarim. I think we have a good set of comments that we will incorporate. So final comment from Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: It's not a comment, it's a question for Abdulkarim. Do you find the definition we gave is vague?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: No, I don't. I don't find it vague. [I will just] say I want more contributions from the African community.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you very much, Abdulkarim. So Daniel ,and then we close, please.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: I'd like still pose the same question to Abdulkarim. Could you please at least summarize what you think the best definition for the community is? Thank you. So that it can keep our heads thinking for next discussion.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Okay. Thank you very much, Daniel. I think one of the best definitions is what is given in the statement. I just think we all need to look at it critically and make it a little bit more robust. The definition in the statement is good enough and I totally agree with it.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Thank you very much, Abdulkarim and everyone. We are making a slight adjustment to the agenda. It's good if we can hear from AfrICANN participating in the different constituencies who are attending here. For example, we have Barrack from AfTLD is here, Aziz Hilali representing us on the NomCom, and Sarah as well as AFRALO. So there's newcomers from our region here attending this meeting, and it'll be useful to give them a quick update. So if I can start by Aziz and Barrack and Sarah. So Aziz can give us a quick update about the NomCom participation.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Mohamed, to give me this opportunity. I am sorry for not being with you during this week in the ALAC room, one that I miss a lot.

I asked for the floor to inform you about the position for this year from NomCom. This year, the NomCom will be recruiting, assessing and selecting candidates for three positions of ICANN board. For your information, the only two positions currently occupied by African colleagues will be open. So if we take into account the geographic diversity, I think there will be a big problem if NomCom doesn't receive good African candidates, because the program of last year, it was a big program because we haven't [candidates good] to take the position of the board.

We have also one position for ICANN Public Technical Identifier, PTI, two positions for GNSO, one position for ccNSO, and three positions for ALAC, including the position for African region. That's all. Thank you very much. If you have some question, I can respond.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Aziz. That was very useful to know which positions for Africa is coming on the next NomCom. I think we have a question for you. [The gentleman at the end.] Okay, you can just introduce yourself and you can ask, yeah. Please go ahead.

ABDETOLA SOGBESAN: Okay. Abdetola Sogbesan from Nigeria, from ICANN BC, and at the same time, [inaudible] fellowship. Two information I want to pass across. We're fairly represented at the fellowship, and I'd like to pass through information one. We had issues with visa for three of our brothers.

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One brother from Togo, Emanuel couldn't attend the fellowship because of Visa issue. We have [Joan] from Uganda, and there's Christiane from Cote D'Ivoire. Now, I don't know what role we're going to play in this exercise, but bottom line is we had about four of our brethren that made the fellowship. Of course, it's going to be deferred to ICANN 64, but we had issues having our people attend the fellowship for this year.

Now, the second point I want to raise has to do with the qualification for the next round of fellowship is a bit going to be tedious now and we need to ensure [whatever I want to do] through AFRALO to ensure that whoever we are promoting to attend fellowship must be familiar with ICANN land. They need to pass the exam before they can qualify. There's number one.

Number two, they need to be very active to AFRALO. Okay? So it means we need to promote as much younger people as we can for them to understand the leadership procedures in AFRALO before they can apply for the fellowship. That is the information I wanted to pass across. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much. You raised two important questions. The visa issue was a major issue in this meeting, and we have a colleague who's an ALAC member representing Africa who also was not able to join us physically here, so this has been noted, and I think also, it has been communicated to ICANN staff about the issues of the visa.

Regarding the youth participation and fellowship – and I'd like also to highlight that AFRALO have an individual membership. So also, that's a route for yourself and other colleagues to join AFRALO. You don't have to be associated with an ALS. If you are not affiliated with an accredit ALS, an Internet Society or any organization, you can apply individually, and you can participate in AFRALO, and you can also be active. So that is another vehicle or venue for individual membership as well I wanted to highlight. Tijani, do you have anything to add to that?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes, thank you, Mohamad. This issue of visa is a perpetual problem. I used to be member of the ICANN Meeting Strategy Working Group, and I fought very hard to include into our recommendations that we avoid to go to countries where the visa is hard to be obtained. Of course, this is not something that everyone will accept, but they say that they don't have a lot of choices to go all over the world.

And also, I tried to explain them that if we continue and if this issue of visa become worse, we will not have diversity. You will have only [north] people who are coming to the meetings. But I can tell you that ICANN tried to do their best to help people to have visa.

Sometimes, they don't manage. It is not because it is impossible, it is because they didn't take the right measures. And this is what happened to Seun, our colleague in ALAC. It wasn't because it is impossible to get a visa for him – he traveled a lot and he went to Europe several times – but because there was a small problem that the people in ICANN weren't able to solve.

So we will face this problem of visa continuously. We will need to give the information very early to the staff, because when the staff is aware of the problem early, they can solve the problem. If they are aware very late, they cannot. And I can tell you that it is impossible to guarantee the visa in any country in the world.

So this problem shouldn't be something that frustrates us, it should be something that we have to take care of and something that we have to address very early.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Tijani. Okay, because we have a time constraint.

ABDETOLA SOGBESAN: Just one minute.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Just one minute, please.

ABDETOLA SOGBESAN: Alright. I understand perfectly what you've raised, and of course, there's nobody that can guarantee visa to another country, but why I raised the issue is because we've had three members from Africa that are deprived of this fellowship, and they have been deferred to ICANN 64, meaning that three members from Africa will not be in Kobe, because the slots for this one is going to be taken by the one for the next one.

And that is the other point I want to make, so that we see if there's anything to do from this end to support them. Because I'm a fellowship coach, so I'm bothered because three of my mentees that I'm coaching are not here. And I'm not happy because they've not benefitted from what they're supposed to learn from ICANN from Africa.

So if there's anything, if they need to reach out to AFRALO to get the letters out on time or whatever, we need to do [inaudible]. Thanks so much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much for raising this issue. Yeah. I'll give the floor to Barrack to give us an update of AfTLD.

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much, chair. I will just touch on the work that is going on in the ccNSO. AfTLD as the regional organization for Africa is also an observer, active participant in the ccNSO, but I also sit in the ccNSO as the ALAC liaison, as you can see.

So let me say that we have a number of councilors in the first place. In fact, all our councilors are here. We have Souleymane Oumtanaga there, we have Abibu Ntahigiye who is also outgoing but very active member, and we have Abdalla Omari. So you can see that our members are really part and parcel of this community.

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Of course, we also have a number of ccTLDs that are represented here. I can see Wafa from dot-TN and my friend from dot-SO, he's here as well, Somalia. So participation – and dot-NG.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: dot-Africa.

BARRACK OTIENO: Very well-represented. Yeah. So participation from the Africa region in the ccNSO, let me say, has been good, and it's a good example. As I mentioned yesterday in the ALAC ccNSO meeting, if we are not on the table, we are on the menu. It doesn't matter whether we have a fellowship or we don't have a fellowship.

So, we have to find ways, by hook or crook, to be on the table. And being on the table means also participating meaningfully, not just being seen. I think that's the challenge to us. And also, the other challenge is partnerships. I recently attended the APTLD meeting in Tashkent and I saw APRALO make a presentation during the APTLD meeting, and there was an agreement that a partnership will come out of it which I heard yesterday was really fast tracked.

So we are also looking forward to doing the same with AFRALO within the next month so that we don't waste time, just like the others have lead the way, AFRALO has always been ahead, and we believe that partnerships with the At-Large structures are really going to help us to overcome some of the challenges we are facing across the continent. I think that's all I can report, Mr. chair. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Barrack. I have, I think a queue. That's going to be – we'll start with Hadia to give us an update about EPDP.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: So, the Expedited Policy Development Process team is working to see if the – so the board adopted the temp spec on the 17th of May, and this is because the European General Data Protection Regulation came into effect on the 25th of May.

The Expedited Policy Development Process team is entitled to see if the temp spec could be adopted as a consensus policy as it is or with modifications. And we need to be able to do this – and the temp spec, the new one or the modified one should be able to be adopted by the 25th of May of 2019.

So what we have done so far is that we attempted to go through several ICANN purposes, and then defining each of the ICANN purposes, and then the activities, the processing activities related to each of the ICANN purposes defined, and the lawful basis of the processing of this data. Lawful basis of course based on the GDPR.

And also, we've been defining the roles or who are the parties responsible for each of the activities. And also, we've been defining the data elements related to each of the processing activities.

There are some questions, of course, that we are – there are some charter questions that you can look at, it's up there on the Wiki page.

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But I think one of the important ones that I would like to raise here is whether the contracted parties, registries or registrars, should differentiate registrants be permitted or required to differentiate between registrants based on the geographic location.

Also, there are other questions whether they should differentiate between legal or natural persons, but maybe the geographic one is very much related to us and to our community.

The initial report, we should be able to submit the initial report 16 days from now, so it will be out there for public comment. And the final report should hopefully be out there in April. There will be another opportunity for public comments between end of February and March. So thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Hadia. This was very useful. I have Abdeljalil, and after that, I would like to give Lucky Mesilela a chance to update us about dot-Africa quickly. So Abdeljalil, go ahead first.

ABDELJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you, Mohamed and the whole community. I wanted to add something to what Barrack said. As ALS, we played a great role, a key role with the TLD managers. We accompanied the delegates at the GNSO [who we have place application.] Different decisions were taken, that is a plus as a member of At-Large. It's a role that we have to play for the community, the African community.

We are the [representative but we] accompany colleague [inaudible] here, it's because of them as well. It's a win-win situation. We have councilors role at the [ccNSO,] and [tech] ALS. We have a role also with the civil society. We have a very big role to play, and this is where we're going to keep on working. Thank you for your support.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Abdeljalil. Lucky, can – and I think maybe in the next meeting, this [round update] is really useful for everyone to get update about what's happening in the different part of our community. Yeah, Lucky, please.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thank you, Mohamed. Thank you, chair. Just as a quick update, you probably would be aware that dot-Africa, the domain name, was launched last year, and this is the first year of operation. We've seen the new renewals and we've seen steady growth of names, and we're quite excited, but we think against the four cardinal areas that dot-Africa has been charged with, we still need to push for growth, one, the issue of registrar development across the continent, two, the issue of ccTLD development, three, the issue of content development, and ICT programs.

We'll need much more than 17,000 registrations. So it becomes very important for us to realize those four goals across the continent. We need to increase the uptake of the dot-Africa domain name, and we should go and preach across the length and breadth of the continent

for the uptake of this domain name. And we are glad we should be meeting with the [SteerCom] tomorrow to discuss further the areas of the function of the foundation.

The foundation is the instrument that will be implementing those four programs, and the foundation is now going to soon be commencing on those functions. But key to this is the growth of the names, growth of the registrations. And I want to say we've also taken a bold step in this year. We have in July this year reduced the price for the domain name dot-Africa to make it more affordable. So you'll noticed we were starting at $18 last year. This year, we reduced it even further to a wholesale price of $12.50. So I think this is to make it affordable across the continent. I thank you, chair, for that opportunity.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Lucky, for the good news about dot-Africa. We have Daniel. Could you give us an update about your participation in ALAC Outreach and Engagement Working Group, as you're the chair?

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Thank you very much for the opportunity to update AFRALO and the community about what is happening at Outreach and Engagement. Over the period of time, we have seen a lot of [twists] coming in with the recommendations coming from different leadership calls and different leadership group meetings just to mention.

I'll just simply summarize a few issues. First of all, I'm very happy to share that so far, AFRALO's performance as far as Outreach and

Engagement still remains tremendous, especially with the drafting of the outreach strategies.

Out of the strategies that we have drafted [still,] there is only one RALO that hasn't yet finalized its strategy, which is LACRALO. But they'll soon be finalizing.

So when it comes to the general outreach strategy draft, that is ready, it's ready to be reviewed and for collaboration together with the GSEs for the next FY, and still, we call upon more participation from the region as it has always been.

And also, I'm very happy to share that as our VP for stakeholder engagement mentioned, Africa still plays a very important role as far as collaboration together with the office of the GSE, of the regional [inaudible], which is also some of the recommendations that are being given to other different RALOs to take up in order to enhance outreach and engagement.

Despite the fact the key recommendations that have come up also include the hot topics, I'm happy to share for those who are here in the previous meeting whereby we're talking about AFRALO hot topics implementation and also other regions, still, a consensus is going to be driven about how the hot topics is going to be broken down, because some issues of hot topics are cutting across different regions, and Outreach and Engagement will be taking on this to analyze. So I'll still call upon AFRALO participation when this comes up in one of the calls in the nearby future.

Still, another recommendation that came up in regards to outreach and engagement comes to ATLAS III and engagement activities. We still call upon the AFRALO to send in their ideas of what they think could be appropriate for metrics regarding to ATLAS III that'll be coming up.

So still, [there's a process] of CPWG comments. A lot of feedback regarding outreach and engagement. And for those who are part of the Outreach and Engagement Working Group, we still ask you to please post in your comments or send it to the mailing list [so that we can] be able to gain discussion about appropriate engagement strategies.

As we all know that we have had an increasingly large number of ALSes within the region, but still, there is a gap that is missing. We are outreaching, but we are not getting closer to the point of engagement. I think Dave will be giving an update about what AFRALO is doing regarding to the building the capacity through the AFRALO hot topics, and also, some of the suggestions that have been picked up is the decentralization of activities based on the region as far as engagement is concerned.

What does this statement mean? This mans that in case there is – once the calendars have been consolidated between the GSE calendar and the outreach and engagement calendar, we should be identifying which ALSes are available or which members [who can willfully] attend the respective events and slots be given such that they can be able to engage with the members during these activities. I think that is a brief of what is happening as far as outreach and engagement. Thank you. Back to you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Daniel. We have very few minutes remaining. I think it's like five minutes, so what we're going to do, the next speaker, if you can be brief, and maybe in one minute, you can update us. I have Mary, Dave, and Sarah will be concluding. So please be brief.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you. First, I want to – [mine is question] and contribution unto what [inaudible] the leadership would do to be able to encourage some of us to become part of the At-Large. Because of the restriction that At-Large – we are looking at the ALS in the continent, so I think outreach is focused on them only. So because I had [asked whether there are] a lot of [iSTAR] programs are happening in Africa, so whenever there's this program where there is Africa Internet Governance Forum or [E-week] or whatever it is, so there could be a collaboration.

I'm happy about what Barrack has said about the AfTLD and ccTLDs in their countries being identified. So I have attended some of the programs, I've attend the online since I became more active, online webinars. They were every good. So those are things we could ask people to continue to attend. Not only on your mailing list, maybe [cross-community] like give AfTLD [so they're going to –]

Then preparation for leadership from Africa is also a very important thing. I read when [Mike] was saying why Africans don't qualify to be leaders in ICANN, so AFRALO, Africa, maybe we'll look at how do we

prepare [inaudible] capacity building, maybe AFRALO may do a call for people that are willing to be leaders, like Aziz told us.

Aziz, I want to ask, is there specific seats for Africa in the NomCom? I mean the leadership seats.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. Briefly, Mary, you mentioned many questions, but Aziz, you can just quickly – [if] there is a specific NomCom, let's say, seats for African?

AZIZ HILALI: For NomCom or for the board?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah, please go ahead, Aziz.

MARY UDUMA: For ALAC, ccNSO.

AZIZ HILALI: Okay. Yes, I'm going to respond in French, it's easier for me. When it comes to NomCom, there are different constituency which are represented. When it comes to ALAC, there are five representatives from each region. I am the representative for Africa, and I'm designated by my RALO, which is AFRALO. We have the same thing for the other RALOs, etc.

When it comes to seats for NomCom, for all these roles, all these people selected by NomCom, they're not specific to a region, but we accept recommendation from all communities, and then the NomCom has to take for account the geographical diversity. So this is always a problem for Africa and for the region.

And I am repeating because I gained that experience during that year I spent at the NomCom, when we get the application and when we compare the applicants, they're not excellent when it comes to that region. I am saying that, and you might not like it, but we have to look – we, the AfrICANN, we have to go in our countries, we have to look for good candidates. I'm saying that very frankly.

There are people who came two or three times at the ICANN meeting who wanted to be candidate for the board. I know some people at the leadership in AFRALO who haven't dared to go on to the board. Now we need participation, we need applications that are valuable, we need people who take this seriously. I'm saying that because personally, I've studied every single application that were submitted.

There are applications, as soon as you start reading that application, you know that this person has no chance to get on the board. You have to know that there is a preselection. It starts in March, I think, until June. We will make a section. It's like a final, quarterfinal, final, etc., semifinal. We need to come to a point where we'll have three or four candidates for each position.

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MOHAMED EL BASHIR: One minute.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yeah. I know that we are out of time, so I'm going to be very quick. Okay, in the year 2017, we had the hot topics group with the aim of spotting the hot topics within the boundaries of ICANN that AFRALO had set up, and then following the recommendation of this group, we have the hot topics implementation working group which has been set up. There are three co-chairs, myself, Daniel and Abdulkarim.

We have, as per the list of hot topics, we have already done one webinar in August 2018. I will say that we had a very good participation, but we are encouraging our community members, one way to be able to engage or to participate is to have the knowledge through the webinars.

We have here Tijani Ben Jemaa who is the chair of the capacity building working group. So with his help, we have organized the first webinar. We are planning to organize another one for the community members. we are doing our best to promote the webinar through Facebook, social media, etc., but I encourage other community members, once we already decided the date for the webinar to spread the message so that we get more participation in the next webinar. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much. I think for AFRALO [– the time is] already done. This is Sarah Kiden. Can you raise your hand? So, anyone who'd like to join AFRALO as an individual membership member, want to have more

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information about AFRALO, you can find Sarah and you can find myself. We are here to answer any questions.

Last thing is there is funding for ALSes, AFRALO members to conduct in-country events, we can provide you with materials, and there's an application process to utilize funding which is available for about $4000 U.S. dollars. So please reach to Sarah, reach to myself and Tijani, and the staff here, At-Large staff if you would like to utilize this funding for activities within your countries.

Thank you very much for joining the meeting, and hopefully, we'll see you soon again.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: There is flyers here for those who want to have a flyer of AFRALO.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

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