BARCELONA – Ongoing Engagement in Africa
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PIERRE DANDJINOU: … Straightforward. We are going to go through a few remarks by some of our community leaders and also some of the ICANN executives and leaders to say a few words to you guys. Then, I will continue with the presentation. In fact, [after lunch] we will see the Africa strategy document that you all contributed at least for your comments. Then, second part is going to be a presentation of the result of a survey we just launched as a pilot in Africa and Eastern Europe. We are going to give you the results and then comments around it. Then, you have the floor for your questions and whatever contribution you may have.

So, [inaudible] I would like to just leave it to Nick Tomasso who manages the ICANN hub from Istanbul. Istanbul is also servicing Africa. So, Nick, as I said, to come in and make a few remarks before we start our session. So, Nick, I would like to hand it over to you, please. Thanks.

NICK TOMASSO: Thank you very much, Pierre. It's good to be with all of you here today. Thank you for having me. I have reviewed the Africa strategy document. a wonderful piece of work and I want to thank you all for contributing so heavily into making that a document that we can move forward with. I also understand from Pierre that the results for the strategy document have been quite good with only ten days, having been open ten days,

and he wanted me to remind you that it is still open and will be for some time. So, if you haven't registered your responses yet, please do that.

As Pierre said, I am the managing director of the Middle East and Africa regional office which happens to be headquartered in Istanbul. We are very much focused on the Middle East and Africa. The support of the community and working with Pierre, Yaovi, and [Bob] very closely to make sure that we align our resources in Istanbul to support the community in Africa. We have a strategy moving forward. We have developed new plans and we're looking forward to further engagement, especially in the areas of support at conferences, presentations, etc.

So, I look forward to working with all of you yet again on the strategy an the new survey and hear your comments. Thank you very much, Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: [inaudible] for supporting us. We really appreciate it. Then I will leave it to the Africa [region] to provide the [inaudible] remind you that the Africa [region] Commission of Infrastructure [inaudible] was around for the high-level inter-governmental meeting. Of course, I mentioned the strategy to her, but we are happy to have a good friend, [inaudible], here. [inaudible], please?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Pierre, and hello everybody. For those who are new here and don't know me, my name is [Mocktar] and I am the head of Information Society within the [African Union Commission]. This Africa

strategy is of most important thing to us in the sense that we have been there right at the start. From Dakar we have presented that document that have been built up from bottom to up by all of you and then we present it to the board of ICANN, and then Prague we kicked off the Africa strategy.

I am very happy to say that we have made a lot of progress by now having a vice president in charge of Africa and we have the hub serving Africa. We keep on collaborating with ICANN in a very consistent manner. We participate in ICANN and ICANN participates on AU events, specifically related to ICT policy and regulations and in the cybersecurity part. ICANN was there all the time and we, again, thank you Pierre for being there all the time whenever you are needed. I'll be glad to contribute to whatever in the African Union also to support anything that would be really pushing forward the strategy of the [continent]. Thank you very much.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you, [Mocktar]. Africa Union is our home, so there's no problem. Whenever you really want us, we'll be around.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you very much.

ICANN 63
ANNUAL GENERAL
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Then I would like to leave it to a few of our community leaders, I will say, for a few word before we really move on. Maybe I should leave it to Mary. Please, Mary.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you, Pierre, and thank you all of us. I want to congratulate Africa. We are increasing in numbers being here. I know that some of our participants are conflicted in terms of timing. There are other things that are happening as we are here.

I want to say that the African strategy is a great document for us to work with. But I want to let us know that this is a business piece. ICANN is a business piece and we should also be thinking about business not only coming and taking fellowship to come here, but what business do we get out of it? How do we develop our region? How can we participate better? Who is ready to do business? It is business. It is not a [inaudible] making organization. It is not just to come and go, but to turn it into business. Even if we are doing volunteering work, in the process, let's look at the business angle because if we have business, if we're able to fund ourselves to come, we have greater stability. We have greater stand to say what we want to do in our region.

So, I think that's one of the things that should come out from this strategy. This strategy is done in such a way that we can convert it the way we want it. It is [left] for us to do it. Especially the young people. The young ones that are coming, we are encouraging you to come. There's business in domain name business. Let's do the business. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you, Mary. Then we hear from [inaudible], please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Pierre. Thank you very much. I believe that those who did follow the process of implementing the strategy for Africa at ICANN did understand that we made much progress. Since Prague until today, we did a lot. I would like to congratuate those who became engaged. I remind you that we had a conference in Dakar where the African strategy was launched by the head of state, and after the Prague meeting, we did put together a strategy for Africa. It was not easy. There were many hurdles on the way. And even so, people made sure we were able to put together that strategy with one important element for Africans that show what's at stake for ICANN in Africa.

Mary just talked about something which is absolutely fundamental: business. It is absolutely true. ICANN is mostly a business for space and the economy. Our African strategy, ICANN African strategy, showed that we are being able to do business. I do remember the study that was made regarding the markets, the African market for the DNS (Domain Name System) that showed the reality of Africa which is not enough of a business opportunity for Internet. I do think that what is important for us today and for those listening in online is to have a strong will to broadcast all over Africa with our heads of states and governments and business people that we are here to do business. We have opportunities that we do not seize regularly. We have to do more.

Regarding the new cycle of gTLDs in the new round for those domain names, gTLDs, showed that we looked at the figures, the stats, show us that for candidates who only had 17 in Africa, which shows that Africa is not doing enough Internet business and we have to show the way and explain in Africa that there are opportunities in this economic context and industrial area. We missed out on a great opportunity, but there's going to be a new round. With technology, with new technologies, like artificial intelligence, Bitcoin, block chain and so on and so forth, those new technologies will represent a new cycle and Africa has to be present and join the bandwagon. The ICANN strategy showed us what's at stake. Let's make sure we are part of those opportunities of this new cycle.

Since the African population is going to have a strong expansion, two billion in 2050, two billion inhabitants in Africa. We will have so many more people, so many more opportunities. Business can be very strong and other continents shouldn't come and exploit that opportunity. We have to make sure this is a business for Africa and Africans. This is an important work. We have to underline this. It's absolutely necessary Africans to mobilize and integrate that business. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, [Emanuel]. I would like to take this opportunity to see if interpretation – can you hear the interpretation okay? That's great. So, we didn't forget about our French-speaking friends. Very well.

We're going to now listen to another leader from the community. Let's not waste any time. We are going to give the floor to Lucky. Lucky is going to share with us.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thank you, Pierre. Thank you [inaudible] and colleagues. Good afternoon. I think it's only [inaudible] to talk to you on this first anniversary of dot-africa and equally coming from Benin where we celebrated 20 years of the founding of Africa in our IG, Internet governance. Also, we had a good opportunity to review our Africa strategy and I think Pierre will take us through some of the salient points that we identified in the Africa strategy, that we need to work on on a continuous basis. We see it as a living document.

But what I would like to say today in my message is in our anniversary of dot-africa, one of the things that I need to bring to your attention is that the use is currently of dot-africa in the large, in the main, outside of the continent of Africa. This is really an indictment on all of us. The countries, again, in the use of dot-africa is still skewed. We are still seeing those countries that have always been the large or countries with large registrations remain [inaudible] uptake of dot-africa.

It is in our hands that we change that picture. We need to see more users of dot-africa domain name on the continent of Africa and less outside of the continent. We need to set the trend. We need to be in the lead. We need to be forefront. We spent many years. You were campaigning very hard for us to gain dot-africa. Many years. A lot of travel. A lot of documents shared. A lot of meetings held. And you committed that you

will be using and you identified the need for dot-africa, and today we are not there.

We are calling upon you to step front, step out in front, and take up the debate and continue with that campaign that we all started together. I thank you, chair. Thank you,

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, Lucky, for providing this insight on the beginning of dot-africa. Specific question, I come later on to you. I would like then to start with the quick presentation of the new version of the Africa strategy. One of the things we should note here is that it's a final version, actually, meaning the one that has been enriched with your contributions.

There are a few things that you wanted us to pay attention to. You also made a few recommendations, so we managed to incorporate those in the final document.

So, what I'm doing here is just presenting the document itself and not really expecting too much questions. Actually, yes, but the questions should be how are we going to achieve this.

So, I think the strategy itself, we should understand that it has been fie years since the first ICANN Africa strategic plan was adopted and we produced – we released a five-year implementational report which is available which really tells exactly what has been achieved and what is still [inaudible] we achieved and what are the recommendations now.

The full report is available. You can download it and you will see the URL coming in the last slide there.

We should also note that the strategy remains the cornerstone of ICANN's engagement in Africa which is basically the tool we use to engage with Africa and through a certain set of projects that I'm going to highlight.

One of the things that we need to bear in mind when we talk about the Africa strategy is having a two-pronged approach. Basically, there were to areas that you wanted us to work on if Africa should really contribute to ICANN and also profit by whatever ICANN is doing.

One of the things was about awareness. The head of [inaudible] declaration of Dakar, head of state was saying, well, we would like to have more ICANN in Africa, ICANN's presence, but we also want to have more and more Africans in ICANN.

I will say, after five years, one of the things … The summary, I will say is that, okay, participation is coming. We are seeing more and more Africans here. What we are probably lacking or we should be working more could be on what's an effective participation, meaning a participation that really impacts, that really makes sure that you guys share your views. Your views based on your own realities from Africa. That one, we are yet to see. I want to see more and more volunteers. A few of you guys are already volunteering, which is good, but we need more and more of that.

In terms of leadership positions for us within ICANN, we have yet to see more of you guys, so we need to further work on that how you [inaudible] take some of the responsibilities. I think it is quite open to you.

For that, you wanted us to build awareness, so that's why we conduct what we call outreach and [engagement] in Africa, in different countries. Myself and our two managers taking care of West Africa, West and Central Africa, and also Eastern and Southern Africa.

And we target different stakeholders. I have to say that for the last five years, we managed to reach out to governments, for instance. We understood that it was important that government understand, especially this multi-stakeholder environment that [inaudible] because it's not clear to them.

One example is your ccTLDs, some of the countries where you are still facing issues. ccTLDs manage sometimes out of your countries and once you have heard of this or Minister learn about it, well, they will just come to ICANN or send a word to ICANN to say, "Hi, we want our ccTLD back home." Okay. Well, you don't do those things just by writing a decree or whatever. You have to work on it. There are guidelines that show you how you can get your [delegation], for instance.

So, we are not seeing many countries really working on that. Just come and say, "Okay, ICANN, give it back to us." Yes. But, there are still a few things, homework, you should be doing.

The other thing you wanted us to do is about capacity building. You really wanted us to, as a few, the first [inaudible] about business. Of course, I will say it's about industry. It's an industry, actually, with its own ecosystem. So, how do we work on that ecosystem? Because what we found out is that you need to support that ecosystem so that it could be conducive to what you are calling a business and whatever.

So, one way of doing this was – and you wanted us to do it – was through a set of projects. We've lined up the projects there. We've established a few flagship programs. I'm not going to go through them. We do have eight to nine of them. But [suffice] to understand that it's about capacity building on managing the ccTLDs, managing registrars and registries, but also when it comes to security, all of this are going around the DNSSEC, for instance, monetizing the domain name, at least the domain names. All of this we went through it.

We had a program on coaching or whatever whereby we were able to send some of the registrar reps to even larger registry, registrars outside Africa to internship.

We actually were able to do this because of a kind of strategic partnership that we did with some of those registrars, not only outside Africa but also in Africa. For instance, in Tunis, we were able to send people there. So, it's also about intra-African program here.

We had many engagement events we've been supporting when we come. All of these activities in Africa, especially the IGF, regional or sub-regional. We are doing all of this. We've seen a few results. I'm not going to also do it on that. More and more participation, definitely. More and

more people are now being convinced on the domain name business, for instance. Yes, we are seeing this as well.

At the same time, we are yet to really move the private sector to come to ICANN contribute. We are seeing this is very difficult for them. But, it is quite simple. Some of them, when you reach out to them, they will say, "That's fine. But I'm not going to leave my business for a whole week to come to an ICANN meeting if I don't know exactly what is in it for me," which means that we need to reach out to really explain to them in fact why they should be spending some of their time here. This is something we need to do. We would really like to rely on you guys to help spread that word across Africa.

Now, of course, staffing. We are only three of us covering the whole of Africa. You wonder how this is possible. Okay, this is a question for later on. We are working on that, actually.

Challenges are there. Opportunities are as well. Challenges, simple. Of course, connectivity is still an issue, but also people failing to really understand what ccTLD means, especially if you consider the report we had on the market. It was quite obvious that some of the countries were managing the ccTLDs in what I might call in a conservative way. Countries with 500 registrations, countries with 400 registrations, out of maybe 18 million in terms of population. Those things mean that you have been conservative on those things. So, how do you make sure that you are progressive? We need to think about it.

What Lucky just said about dot-africa, for instance, is something that needs to be though through because it's quite important that we understand what we are getting from those things.

The opportunities. Of course, you all know that Africa is more than one billion in terms of population. [inaudible]. Many ideas over there. There are many things to be built around this ecosystem. We need to work on it.

Now, let's move quickly on is there an evolving document, the strategy. What I am presenting today is in its third version. So, what we are doing here is just implement. We are launching today, then we will have to implement this and finally, again, we are going to review it. It is a cycle that we already have done three times. And of course we will be calling upon you to provide your views on that.

So, what did you want us to do? I'm going to pass all of this process of reviewing to go directly to the outcome. I believe some of the things you wanted us to do in terms of outcome is [inaudible] importance of this strategy document.

A question still around here is: who owns the strategy? Is it ICANN or is it Africa? That question is still there, although of course, all of this has been crafted by you guys. People still think that then you own it and that ICANN can only support whatever you have there. We may debate that one.

Well, they also say that we should focus more on the promotion of capacity-building initiatives. We are doing some. You wanted us to do more.

Resources should be dedicated to quality participation of Africans into ICANN. It's important. Then, in regards of the DNS industry, you proposed the ICANN should have a differentiated approach to Africa [inaudible] its uniqueness and in the spirit of public interest. That's what you are saying, that Africa should be treated differently. Is that possible? It's up to you. But one thing I know is that we are talking about an empowered community. So, it's not [about staff] to really decide on those things. But this is something you really want us to pay attention to.

Also, you wanted to … Okay, we continue. Let's go to the maybe highlights from your comments. Thanks very much for some of the constituencies that are sent very elaborate comments to us. At-Large, for that matter, the Business Constituency, the registrars, registries. They're [inaudible] consolidated comments on that.

Most of the comments, I just have to ensure balanced engagement and closer collaboration with SO/ACs [inaudible] doing. [inaudible] you wanted to organize subgroupings within the SO/ACs so that you could provide a continental view. Well, why not? I believe Africa Union is [inaudible] to really provide this sort of thing that you guys are requesting.

Now, if I should proceed, you recommended now that we move to ten objectives. I'm going to list them quickly. Then since you agree on it, we

don't need to really dwell on those. The document is available because we still have some other presentations to make here.

One of the objectives was to strengthen the ccTLD development in Africa. You said it. You wanted it. The other one is enhanced local regional and international cooperation with DNS stakeholders. We are doing a lot of this within our DNS, for instance, which is something that's become very popular.

You want us to help support and facilitate competition in domain names business to encourage resiliency and local DNS infrastructure, like ISPs and Anycast servers. Anycast servers, we managed to distribute some of them. Those servers are copies that we can donate to you freely, actually. So, 10 countries out of 54 have benefitted from this. It is still open to you to have the request. We just need to have the appropriate server, 20 people and a few technology lines. Then, it happens.

You want regionalization of the IANA and ICANN operations in Africa. Well, I don't know how this happens, but you wanted this. You also wanted to strengthen the ccTLD support capacity building. You want to strengthen the economic impact of DNS [inaudible] Africa.

My conclusion on that is that you guys dwell on the DNS, which is fine, but some people actually [inaudible] Internet is also about numbers and that we are not really talking much on the IP address side. This is something we need to consider.

All of this has been translated into a few projects. I don't have enough time to get within that but the document is available. I think I would like to stop here with this sort of introduction to the strategy. If you have any questions, we can just take a few of them, if possible, before I move to the second presentation. So, please, thanks for your attention and the floor is for you.

WAFA DAHMANI: Wafa Dahmani from Tunisia, for the record.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Yes, please, introduce yourself because we didn't take the time to go around the table, so do it.

WAFA DAHMANI: Okay. So, Wafa Dahmani from Tunisia from the local registry. Thank you, Pierre, for this interesting presentation. I have just one comment that I saw in slide 11 about saying that the strategy didn't consider the whole ecosystem of the Internet. I totally don't agree with this comment, because as you know, the domain name industry is [inaudible] with the network infrastructure, the DNS infrastructure, the governance of the DNS. We saw also the policies and the governance of the model of the governance of the DNS. All this were mentioned in the strategy. We spoke about the pricing, also the economic model, the ISPs, the network, the speed, the bandwidth of the Internet in the countries. It's a inter-governmental system which was mentioned in the strategy and I don't agree with the comment that you showed in the

slide [inaudible] about the strategy. I think the whole ecosystem was taken in consideration for the domain name industry in this strategy.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you. Any other comments? Any questions? I was looking for questions concerning how do we implement all of this? This thing was not for comment. We have ample time for comments, and [inaudible] discussion I wanted to launch is how do we fund this thing? Yes, please, dot-africa.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I want to comment this objective 10, because objective 10 is one of the issues that we've been discussing at the various DNS forums where we identified a challenge of harmonization of policies and pricing and we had identified that as a shortcoming and it was equally an impediment towards the growth of domain names on the continent. We had already identified across the continent that there is a huge price disparity. There is a domain name that you can get on the continent for $3, the next one for $450, and that is the issue on price [harmonization].

Then, you look at policies, the ease of acquiring a domain name, the ease of registration was equally different across the continent and resulting in very low uptake of domain names. So, that is one of the challenges that we have put on the table for the African community to address as one of those challenges. How do you harmonize policies? We are not taking away the fact that policies at times tend to be a

jurisdiction matter, but they are set in areas that we accept we need to go beyond to make sure that the uptake is realized.

In terms of funding and growing the registries, that is one of the four cardinal areas that has been undertaken by domain, or rather dot-africa foundation. The foundation has undertaken that function of assisting in the growth of African registries and this can only succeed with your participation, in partnership with yourselves. It's not going to be an ISO-related activity. It requires all of us together working in a concerted manner. Thank you, sir.

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PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much. Any questions remote before we move on? Please, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The question is from Farrell Folly from the NCSG Policy Committee. "Why must the policy-related issues are done at the GNSO levels and its SGs? We haven't been seeing people joining a stakeholder group, for example, NCSG, following [an action]. Outreach events, capacity building of the GSE Africa. I may be wrong, but why is that the case? Refer to the ICANN strategy reports. There's almost no figures about SG's membership participation and contribution. How the GSE Africa is planning to correct that and encourage more people to join in SGs and contribute more to the policy work after they have benefitted from any financial resource from the GSE then participate actively in the PDP working groups?"

ICANN 63
ANNUAL GENERAL
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Okay, thank you. I believe we did have a kind of comment from the NCSG. I hope we reflected that one in the document. You question is about how we are going to promote better participation and things like that. Hopefully, this is something we understand. So, thanks for the question. There's nothing much to add. We will make sure that we follow-up with that. Are we through with the remote questions?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: There's another question also from Farrell Folly. "How is GSE Africa [inaudible] supporting Africa members within SGs and PDP working groups to participate more? What are the short- and long-term metrics, given that within the five-year strategic reports, the GSE Africa did not address specifically how they will make sure that people who are supported, trained, or benefit from any financial resource from the GSE then participate actively in the PDP working groups?

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Again, of course, GSE Africa does not really fund any direct participation to ICANN meetings, actually. You all notice we don't have directly what I might say a fellowship sort of program. We have a global follow program for ICANN. Different. SOs and ACs also have their own fellowship platform. So, we don't really contribute with that. But, of course, what we do during the outreach is to explain why people should participate.

ICANN 63
ANNUAL GENERAL
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

Now, on the metrics, you are right. This is something we really want to work on. Again, we will just consider how we better evaluate all of this and provide you much more kind of facts and figures and metrics for that matter. This point is taken.

Thank you. We just have two minutes before we run the next slides. Yes, please, quickly.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible] from Gambia. I would like to comment on objective number six. I would like to emphasize the importance of objective number six, especially to other countries who are experiencing difficulties in running their ccTLDs or transferring them, like the case in Gambia. Although we are taking up which is working on getting our ccTLD transferred, we do have issues with DNS technical capacity and I believe we are not alone in that. So, this is one approach that I would highly emphasize on. And we don't only focus on training DNS experts but also training trainers which will help.

So, in Gambia, we decided one approach we take in the transfer process is we form a multi-stakeholder committee by recommendation, which includes representatives from the registrars, the ISPs, the ministry, the regulator. I am part of that committee, as the vice chair person. So, we are as a [inaudible] of the Internet Society Gambia Chapter. We also are trying to see how we support this process through capacity building.

I'm currently trying to see how AFTLD can help in providing DNS training [inaudible] support these efforts because we believe this would lay a

very strong foundation. So, yeah, we would highly, highly recommend the GSE team to put more effort and emphasis in this capacity building aspect. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much. Obviously, that's already on the strategy documents and we also are ready to do whatever is possible to build capacity and you rightly also pointed to AFTLD as our partner in the Africa DNS forum. They are [inaudible] from AFTLD and they hear you.

With that, may I suggest that we probably continue this discussion after that and we move on to the next presentation. Please, [Migault], unless you have any urgent question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: One more question. The last question from Farrell Folly. One more question and one comment. The last question from Farrell Folly. "Can we have details about expenses and budgeting of the GSE Africa for the sake of transparency and accountability?"

PIERRE DANDJINOU: That's a good question. Of course, one of the things that we note is that there is no budget attached to this strategy document. Funny enough, [inaudible] recommend this, actually. But, this is something we really ought to be doing. It's a good question, actually, and for that, we might think about attaching budget to that for the sake of transparency. You really understand what we do.

In the past five years, what you have done is rely on whatever budget is available to us as the GSE Africa team or in the details. We don't know [inaudible] those things.

Again, I know that we need to be much more transparent, in fact, so that you understand what we do have because some of the examples that we have is that people come and say, "Okay, I'm organizing this in my country. Do you have $50K for us?"

If I were to tell those people the amount of budget we have, maybe that question will not come to us. So, meaning, yes, we do have some budget. Maybe we need to be much more to be informing you about what you have. And I take that point seriously. Yes?

LUCKY MASILELA: My take on this question, it's really exposing us. It's saying to us whatever we have on paper is not implementable because we don't have a budget to execute it. A budget supports any initiative that is put on paper. So, we need to rethink this question and when we see it again, we need to talk budget. We need to talk how to make this action item achievable. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Good points, Lucky, and they are taken. Maybe we can just move to the next one.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [off mic].

PIERRE DANDJINOU: No, maybe you have last comment later on, please. Let's move on to the presentation. I'm sorry because we are going to run out of time now.

So, the next presentation actually is aboit the kind of survey that the GSE – GSE meaning Global Stakeholder Engagement, one of our departments here. We are launching the survey to do actually one of two things. They are quite important to us.

Basically, it's about your interests. How do we prioritize whatever capacity building services that we rendered. We noted that if you relayed this in the former presentation and the strategy whereby our first strategy document looks like a wish list, actually. So many of [inaudible] projects. Where are the priority areas? What are we tackling?

So, the GSE team is launching a kind of global survey that will exactly do – how do we prioritize in terms of capacity building services coming from ICANN? Our region, Africa, and Eastern Europe region has been selected as pilots. [inaudible] is going to be a global sort of survey.

So, what I am presenting today quickly is results that we were able to collect after we launched this. Of course, this took starting first of October, I think. So, we didn't even have one month to do it. But, the point for us was to pilot this and the survey will still continue. So, no problem with that.

But, a few things to note. There is a methodology. I hope I have time for this. It boils down to, actually, through the survey we put you a few questions. A few questions that relate to what you'll be expecting,

especially in key areas. Key areas being, of course, vis-à-vis the services we render on ICANN, not only in ICANN but also in the DNS.

But, the second part of it is about yourself in terms of [inaudible] personal development within ICANN. What are the things you will be expecting us to [inaudible] on?

These are the two [inaudible] of this thing. Then, that will help us see actually what are your priorities and then consent to it, our services on it. But, also, it will help us really plan our resources. We were talking about the budget. Planning our resources is going to be key for us. That's why we are doing this thing. Please, take the survey, if you can, because we are still continuing.

So, what I am [posting] here is going to be some of the results. I don't know whether you can read those things. But, it's about the presentation globally on this survey.

Some of the things I'm seeing here is, for instance, what I will call the methodology that we used. Of course, we targeted civil society, government IGO, business and private sector, DNS industry in the technical community.

Some of the questions were just yes or no type of questions because we wanted also to provide some sort of group identification. Also, participants should rate those points from one to four, one being the highest priority and four being the lowest one.

So, one of the first pillars of this was increasing ICANN/DNS knowledge. We wanted you to tell us exactly in terms of technical function, for

instance, or between technical functions, identify system security, stability, and resiliency, capacity building for registrar, registries, and the registrants, Internet governance and ICANN ecosystem as a whole.

Of those four priority areas [inaudible] to us which one for you are priorities. So, that's where you put one to four, depending.

The second one was about your personal skill-building. Again, that one was split into, for instance, is it about drafting policies? Is that what you are feeling as your priority area when coming to ICANN? Or is it about sharing effective meetings within ICANN or facilitating consensus? Because we work out of consensus. Some of you guys might say, okay, I would like to get more skill on consensus facilitating. Finally, technical skill enhancement and knowledge sharing, which is about you. It's not about us. But, what do you think, what skill do you really think that you should have better, if you have better participation into ICANN?

Quickly, number of responses. Bear in mind, this is 15 or 18 day survey and it's still going on. So, please, if you haven't taken that survey, please do it. But, we wanted to just show you some of the results we got.

Responses by country. I don't like this, but yes, I don't like it. Of course, some of the countries, it's 107 for Benin but you can understand that because the [inaudible] were able to of course have people do the survey because they were having the meetings there, so they used that opportunity. But, of course, the countries [inaudible] all of them.

Anyway, close to 17 countries have responded. We would really like to have all of the 54 countries respond to the survey. It is still available and I'm not going to dwell on that.

The percentage of responses. From the technical community, you have 31%. Civil society, 27% responded. DNS industry, 8%. Business sector, 19%. And then government IGOs, 15% in terms of what we could see so far. It's telling a few things.

When it comes to community participation, for instance I think we do have – it was about yes and no. Of course, yes we have 44, and then no 113. We also need to comment on those things. Community responses. At-Large – 11 responses from At-Large. [inaudible], ccNSO 7, the GAC 4. I would say most of the SOs ACs actually reacted, except from the root server, security and some of the Nominating Committee, for instance. But this means that we need to do more on that.

Quickly, in terms of high-level category priorities prioritization, meaning personal skill building, increasing [inaudible] DNS or ICANN, for instance, 44 of you guys is high priority. [inaudible] 43. It's quite important meaning we need to work on your skill-building on some of those areas.

Then you also have sub-category prioritization figures are there. You can go through them and the survey is available actually on the website, so I'm not going to do it on all of this. Let's move quickly. But we do have details. We have figures on those things and we are going to provide, obviously, some comments on those things and of course you'll be [inaudible] when the time comes.

So, when we say, for instance, the sub-category prioritization, if it comes to drafting policy, your skills or how to draft policies, 38% was the highest. Sharing meetings, 35 people. And facilitating consensus, 29. For technical skill, acquisition of [knowledge sharing], it was high. It was 82%. Meaning personally you really wanted to beef up your skills to better participate.

These are, I would say, preliminary [inaudible] of what you have, and based on I think 170 in total of participants to this survey. It is still open and we are certainly going to refine this.

But, let me finish by saying that the objective of course was to be able to really assess your priority area, taking into consideration those two pillars and see exactly how best we really want to plan the resources for those.

So, that really concludes my presentation, if you have any comments on that. But, of course, my final word on this is that [inaudible] survey is still on and you can still take the survey in [inaudible] because now we are going to open that survey globally. So, be it Europe, the US, all of those different regions are now going to [inaudible], so that way you provide a global view on where to prioritize our capacity building development services.

Great. So, with that, I would like then to hand over to you, if you do have any questions, any comments, any contribution to the survey or also even to the first presentation related to strategy. So, the floor is yours. Barrack?

BARRACK OTIENO: Thank you very much, Pierre. My name is Barrack Otieno for the record. I think I just want to emphasize on the need for continuance collaboration. Our continent is really wide and diverse and I think no single institution can be able to deal with the issues or the challenges that we are facing. So, inasmuch as we are as different as the climate is within our continent, I think we have to work towards a common way of tackling the challenges that we are facing on the continent.

I'm happy to see a number of partner organizations that are working together for common good of the continent or if AFRNIC registry Africa, Africa Union. I just wanted to encourage the At-Large Structures within AFRALO, those institutions within the country. Whenever our workshops are done in the country, I think it is incumbent upon those structures to continue the capacity building or the exercises on the ground. We can't just have, let's say, one major meeting and then wait for another five years for us to come back and continue.

So, we need a lot of help by those institutions on the ground to close the gaps as we try to deal with some of the challenges that we are facing.

We have unique challenges. Of course, we train many people, but they get greener pastures which is normally [inaudible] society. So, I think as we continue with his process, we need support from grassroot organizations within the countries. Even ccTLDs need the support of At-Large Structures and civil society within their countries just to make

ICANN 63
ANNUAL GENERAL
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

sure that they are able to sell the domains. So, that's what I want to emphasize on.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you, Barrack, for those comments. Anyone else? [Marie], please.

[MARIE]:   I just want to echo what Barrack … [Marie] is my name from Nigeria.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: We know.

[MARIE]:   I think we have to think out of the box a new way we are to handle our environment, our region, which is diverse, as Barrack has said. We've had people come to ICANN meetings, fellowship meetings, to the fellowship program of the ICANN which has been facilitated more into a greater [inaudible] by the At-Large, the ccNSO, the Business Constituency.

So, it would be nice for us to track those attendees. Where are they? What are they doing? How far have they carried what they have learned from ICANN to their own environment? And whenever there is a program that is happening, as Barrack has said. For instance, if in Nigeria, when we have our IGF, we make sure that we involve those that have been coming to ICANN to come talk to other people about ICANN, whether they are in any constituency they are in. That's very, very key.

Also, we have been trying to build capacity as much as we can. We have these [inaudible] where we are telling young people what to do. We have blogger group. We have young entrepreneurs and the startup. So, wherever there is a program in our countries, we should be able to activate or reach out to those that know about ICANN to tell them [inaudible], so that people are aware about ICANN, one.

The other one is that they will also carry out. Like the dot-africa we are talking about will be able to [sell] dot-africa, not only [inaudible] ccTLD name, but [inaudible].

So, I support the fact that we track anybody that has been on our list, so that we can continue. In country, we have been doing that. Anybody that attends ICANN, we have a platform we discuss. So, you can also create … Now, we have a tool. There was a platform you can use to track in each of the countries. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you, [Marie], tracking people. I don't know if … [inaudible]. No, but that's good. Of course, one of the things we also note is that in a few places also there is no – how should I say? Reporting back to the country on ICANN meetings, for instance. So, we establish what we call now the [read-out] sessions where we, through webinar, we would like to be able to provide these sort of country or [inaudible] debriefing on those. But, yes, obviously, it would be great to have [inaudible] different countries to organize these sort of [read-outs]. It would be great.

We obviously want to expand the reach. Actually, today we are just organizing this remote participation to two places in Africa as a way of having them also contribute here. Great. Any other comments? Remote person and then we come to you. Please.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Comment and question from Abdulkarim Oloyede. "I would like to commend you for the wonderful job you've been doing and for the wonderful presentation today. I would like to just find out do you have any strategy for hosting ICANN meeting in Africa? I'm asking this because Nigeria has been indicating interest in hosting but has not been able to put the [act] together because so many stakeholders within a formal coordination. Is there any way you can help with this?

"Secondly is the issue of obtaining visa for ICANN meeting. There seems to be [a list] of problems and it would keep affecting participation from Africa and also [inaudible] of slots from Africa on the fellowship program."

PIERRE DANDJINOU: This is an interesting question. I will defer the first one to Mary. I hope some of you saw Mary and Nick when Nick was coming the way they embraced each other. So, I have no comments on that. But, yes, I think that [inaudible] has been coming up for this, [waiting list] to actually host. This is done by our meeting constituency shared by Nick Tomasso. Nick provided some answers on why it will happen. I'm not going to go into any details on what we can do because, as ICANN staff, we can only

support which country wants to host. We can only reach out to countries so they do have the appropriate environment to host those things.

Basically, the issue in most places also will be the ability to meet some of the terms of references of these things. Sometimes, it can be an issue for our country. It's a big one, as you are seeing. But, definitely, we know the issue and we are also pressing for it and hopefully it will happen.

I understand we will be going back to Africa in June 2019. Marrakech again, so get prepared. That was the first-ever attended meeting by Africans. You are talking about 900 people from Africa for that one. So, it is an issue. We knew about it, but I think upon working on meetings, the requirements, and it will happen.

Now, on the visa issue, again, let me be frank. We were alerted on those issues and we managed to talk to some of the embassies. ICANN did what it had to do, providing the supporting letters. All of this was done. And that's exactly what we have to do.

Now, of course, it's [inaudible] to the local immigration law offices in order to deal with that. Again, meeting constituency knows about it. In fact, I talked about this with Nick again, but today what we are experiencing is that there may be cases where the whole thing boils down to your personal – I mean, the question is are you ready to come back home? We are pushing that question. As far as ICANN is concerned, we did what we have to do. So now, is it about your own position in your country? I have examples in places where they are yet to renew their

ICANN
ANNUAL GENERAL 63
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

own contract in the country. It was not renewed and then people could not [inaudible] visa. Anyway, these are the details that we obtained.

So, what we are saying is that we know about it. We will keep on working on it, providing all the documentation that you need. But, the one thing we can't really do is actually dictate to those embassies to provide you with the visa.

But, the issue is going to be also reported to those countries where there were any issues. We just apologize for that. And yes, I know to come here, Africans are now losing three, four, five fellowship because they couldn't have their visa. We know it. Thank you. Thank you very much. [Mary], if you want to, please. Oh, for one time I agree with [Mary]. So, thank you very much. Any questions in the back? Over there before we close? Okay, please. We still have two minutes.

[ROGER]:   My name is Roger, Internet Society of Ghana. My comment was to support what [Mary] was saying earlier with regards to the community engagement. There was a decision of Africa in university program that ICANN had booths there and then ICANN fellows were called upon in Ghana to [inaudible] the booths.

So, one day, while the meeting was going on and people started coming to the booth, they got to understand what ICANN was doing. In fact, there were professors. There were a lot of big guys who didn't even know. And when they got to know, there and then, some people started

sending [mail] to the [faculty] that they need to get involved with this because this is something good that the students need to know.

A lot of people started signing up. People started joining the mailing list. So, I think this should be looked at as part of the community engagement. Most of these meetings that keep happening. We should start scouting for those and then possibly get these fellows around within those countries. Just put flyers, put a small stand, and it's going to go far with that. I think that's something we should be looking at. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much. Let me also find those countries who have been helping out, especially the fellows who are countries [inaudible] when we are around and for the booth and [inaudible] providing information. I really want to thank you. We had this in Senegal. We [had it in many] other places.

Yes, that's exactly what we should be doing. I know our friends from At-Large are very helpful in that regard. We should manage to have all SOs ACs help us out. Thank you for flagging this one. [inaudible].

MARY UDUMA: So, Pierre, sorry. That means that we should inform your office whenever such meetings are going to happen so they can send [booths] or send materials to us to be able to [inaudible] something as they did in Ghana. Thanks.

ICANN 63
ANNUAL GENERAL
BARCELONA
20–26 October 2018

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Okay, thank you. With that, I would like again to really thank you and hope you have responded to some of the questions. We will see you around and we can still continue. It's about networking. It's also about maybe sharing some of the best practices you are seeing in terms of partnership in different countries. Thanks, all, for your good continuation of this ICANN 63.

MARY UDUMA: Please plan to be at Africa IGF. It's happening in Sudan. I thought [inaudible] made the announcement. But, Africa IGF.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Mary. The African IGF will be organized in Khartoum, Sudan, from 4-6 November 2018 and the theme of development of the digital economy and emerging technology in Africa. So, you all are welcome to join us in Khartoum, Sudan. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: One last announcement. Maybe I should start having you guys pay for your announcements.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm challenging you to do that because the more you charge, I will charge you double.

Now, we in collaboration with the [inaudible] are organizing a meeting for registries and registrars to see how we can improve the take-up of dot-africa. The meeting will happen the first week of December. First week of December, Addis Ababa, headquarter of African Union Commission. [inaudible].

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]