
MARRAKECH – Africa Engagement Session
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ICANN65 | Marrakech, Morocco

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Good afternoon and welcome to this session. We still have seats around the main table, so if you don't mind, we can all sit there. We will try to start on time, meaning that in two to three minutes we will start this session. We will have simultaneous interpretation of French and English and also we have people attending remotely.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, we are starting the session. We want to thank you all for being here. This session is about engagement. As you know in the tradition, any time we have an ICANN public meeting somewhere we try to be together and to talk about a specific topic. As you know, this is a policy forum, this meeting in Marrakech. We have seen the community the implementation of the ICANN African Strategy very involved during various activities. And we have seen also a report reproduced after five years of implementation. So, in this session, 90 minutes, we are going to present what we have seen as activities from various initiatives and then we will try to give maximum time to you first to SO/AC leaders and then also you make your input.

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So, this is why we are here. The objective at the end is to see where to improve community participation from Africa. And then we are very honored this afternoon because we have the Chair of ICANN Board, Cherine Chalaby, who is here always during our meetings, so we would like to thank him a lot. And then we have also Sally Costerton, Senior Advisor to the President & Senior Vice President for Global Stakeholder Engagement. So, with your permission, I would like to invite Sally Costerton for some remarks. Thank you Sally,

SALLY COSTERTON: Merci, Yaovi. Bonjour to monde.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Hello everyone, that's it for my French.

SALLY COSTERTON: It is bilingual so it has no need of the translator. It's so good to be here, back here together. I see so many familiar faces, friends and colleagues from our African community, from the Board, from the Org and we really are in this room, a subset of ICANN's multistakeholder community, and thank you all for not just being here today, the extraordinary work you do all the time in this region to progress ICANN's mission and to help us to stretch

out to more people whose lives are affected by the work that we do and the mission that we have, and bring them into our processes and to help them to participate in our policy making work.

In terms of my comments, I think many of you know I'm responsible for ICANN's global outreach and engagement and as part of that, the team here, Yaovi, and my colleague Bob and Pierre Dandjinou who unfortunately can't be with us due to a family issue at this meeting, work together with our colleagues around the world to facilitate the engagement work, and particularly in this case of you, the community group that leads the regional engagement program, you've been so active since the very start, since 2012, in programs that drive outreach.

Being back here in Africa of course sort of underlines our commitment to this region, and I'm very happy that we continue to have this session, wherever we are in the world, to reinforce our work together and to allow us to catch up and to share ideas about what's worked and what we might do in the future. There's a good participation, not just here today, we have very good signups to this meeting from our African constituency members and specifically Moroccans, I'm pleased to say. We've just come from the internet summit in Kampala, which many of you, or some of you anyway, I think were participating in, and

this has grown a great deal. It has been very encouraging for me to see how much more popular, if you like, our topics, ICANN's work and topics are becoming in these more general summits.

Certainly when I joined ICANN five or six years ago that was not the case. It often felt that we were sort of banging on the door saying please can we have a seat at the table. Please, can we talk about our work because it affects you. And it was much harder, not just in Africa, but around the world for the broader internet community, they were much less receptive and responsive than they are today and much of that I believe is due to your hard work in raising awareness over the past years, more broadly in institutions in Africa to understand the importance of what we do. So thank you for that.

In a more operational sense the team that I look after is doing as much as it can, it's doing its best to support your engagement activities in Africa. And we have expanded that in the last year or so by having a much more hands on involvement from our colleagues in the Istanbul hub, which is supporting operationally this region from a stakeholder perspective and a staff perspective. And so for example you saw Nick Tomasso, some of you would have seen Nick Tomasso and our colleagues in our Global Domains division, especially on the Compliance Registry and Registrar Services side starting to be much more active

participants in our meetings in Africa. So we are expanding that support and I hope that's been helpful to you.

You probably know, and I think because many of you participated in the survey run recently, I'm asking our community to give us some priorities about capacity development. Much of the work we do, all of us together, on engagement, takes the form of capacity development. We all know that even once we have a raised awareness and people are interested in what we do, they need help to participate in that work without question. It is very difficult to be a newcomer to internet governance processes or two ICANN's processes without some assistance, some training and some capacity development.

So we said to you there are many things we could do, but there is only so much money and there are only so many staff hours in the day, and as part of our overall prioritization of activities at ICANN through our strategic plan, our operating plan, our community discussions about the multistakeholder model, this is part of that debate and you gave us a lot of feedback which was much appreciated. You said nearly 70% when we asked you what is the most important topic that we should focus our resources on for capacity development, you said It is ICANN and DNS knowledge. So help us to understand about how ICANN

works, how the domain name system works and how the internet works, how all these pieces fit together. This was the most important out of all the topics.

We also saw a strong demand in this region and in other regions as well for security, stability and resilience topic. So this would be everything from domain name abuse, cybersecurity issues, these kinds of things. So those were consistent around the world. The ICANN. One was very high in this region.

The other thing I wanted to draw your attention to, because it was quite noticeable in the survey, is that we asked a second set of questions. And the idea for this came from my conversations in fact, with the At-Large. And some of you I think will be with the At-Large and may have been there when we had this discussion. And you said to me, Sally, yes we do want capacity development and learning on technical topics and ICANN topics but many of us have come from academic backgrounds.

We are private individuals, we want some help to develop personal skills around things like building consensus, chairing a meeting, dealing with conflict, these sorts of questions that apply to most of us when we get established in our work at ICANN, and we feel that we are disadvantaged here because we haven't necessarily got the ability to get those track training from all our employer who might be a government or corporate

or a university. Is there anything you can do at ICANN to provide that kind of training for us in a way that we can self teach, we can teach ourselves, we can have some courses, perhaps on ICANN Learn, that will help us to build those skills.

So we've looked at doing that as a response to this survey and I'm pleased to tell you that we are we are implementing that and we are doing it actually at the moment, next month we are filming the course content. Some of you will have come across the trainer called David Culp, who does our leadership training for new community leaders, and he's worked with us to put seven new courses together on ICANN Learn, and they will be used by anyone who wants them.

So this could include new Board members, it could include new org members, but it's really aimed at community members who would find it useful, either to learn these things for the first time, or to maybe brush up and refresh some skills that they would find that useful. So I hope that's helpful, do let us know what you think. Share feedback with us, with the Africa team, with the ICANN Learn team, or tell us on the ICANN learn platform what you think.

In terms of final comments. I really wanted to -- if you're not aware, we have our NextGen group with us, I don't think they're here right now, is there anyone here who's from the NextGen

group? Yes. A few hands up. Okay, welcome. So this is our regional university based newcomer program. Many of you in this room I know will have been experienced in either being a next gen member or coaching and mentoring our students. They are from all over Africa and they're here for the whole meeting and I have encouraged them to reach out to the members of the community in their region. So you're in the right place. This is where everyone is, literally, in this room.

I wanted to make sure that you are aware of who they are, because when we end these meetings It's very important that we the GSC team facilitate the engagement, the followup of the NextGen into the regional engagement teams of which many of you in this room are here in Africa, so that they can begin to participate at a regional level, and not just wait to come to an ICANN meeting. So, please say hello and please tell them what you're interested in and what part of the community you come from, and I know you will be very welcoming, but this will help them when the meeting is over to find the right home in the parts of ICANN that are most relevant for them as we move forward.

And I know, final comment, for those of you, and I see one or two in the room, who've been at ICANN for a long time, there is a need to refresh our volunteer base. Too many volunteers on too

many things getting too burnt out and too tired. And engaging on newcomers, onBoarding them, helping them to be motivated and interested in the work that we do in the region, not just at the ICANN meeting, is probably the best way of bringing on new talent and new leaders for the future. Thank you very much, and I'm going to hand over to my esteemed Chairman Cherine Chalaby.

CHERINE CHALABY:

Merci, Sally. Thank you very much, Sally. Peace and blessings be upon you. And I'm glad about something that you said, Sally, which is that the purpose of the increased participation in ICANN, which is so encouraging and so well received and we must give you every support we can for you to achieve this, is about learning more about the DNS and building knowledge and expertise in the DNS. I know that that would complement very much the DNS forum that you hold annually in Africa. And I know you have one in July, I think it's in Botswana and this will be your seventh. I personally attended two of those, one in Cairo, the other one was in Dubai, but there were a lot of people from Africa in the Dubai one.

The thing I've learned in attending the DNS forum is the desire for every member of our African community that attends, one of these, is the desire, not just to gain knowledge, but really to do

something about the digital economy in each one of these countries. Because I think at the end of the day we have a reasonable high penetration of Internet users in many countries, but that can increase substantially as well. But that's not going to improve the economy in each one of our countries in Africa.

The thing that's going to improve our economy and deal with unemployment is to improve and increase the contribution of the digital economy in each country in the GDP and by that I mean skills that you learn and you understand from the DNS and also if we can provide training like we do in our entrepreneurial center for example in Cairo about being registry and a registrar and operator of businesses, you will be able to make a much bigger contribution to your own economy. I said this in Cairo and I said this in Dubai and I said this in some other forum where we met with our African colleagues, that for this to happen, there are five things that happen in each one of your countries, ICANN can only help with one of them. But let me tell you what those five are.

The first one you have to have a stable regulatory environment in your country that encourages entrepreneurs to set up businesses. Because the last thing an entrepreneur wants is to have legislation that are enacted, and then applied retrospectively, and that destroys business plans. So regulatory

environment, call on your government to make sure that there is stable regulatory environment.

The second thing is you need a network bandwidth. That is, you know, that is strong and provide enough capacity for you to run your businesses online in an efficient way. And it is very hard to have businesses and digital economy without a strong network supporting that.

The third thing, and this is where ICANN can help, is this; people have to be trained to be able to become either a registry or register. And we are able to provide such training, such capacity building. As I mentioned, we have one engagement entrepreneurial center in Cairo, where young people come in and they learn what are the skills required to set up, you know, a registrar business, for example.

The fourth thing you need is access to money venture. Why do you think the big applications of successful businesses around the world come mostly from United States, it is because there, and you go to a place like California, Silicon Valley in Palo Alto, where you have the University on one side in one street and on the opposite street you have the venture capital business, so entrepreneurs in these countries are able to go with their ideas and find funding for their ideas, and that is missing in many of our countries in Africa. And I know that for sure. So that needs

to be also nourished. And finally, a reliable and trusted payment system because without such a system it is difficult to transact business online. So there's a lot to do in each country, and I think you have to voice your needs also to your own countries, and at the same time voice your needs to us so we can help you with capacity building. So, that's one important part of your engagement is particularly knowledge of DNS and getting better on the DNS is to help you go back in your country and set up businesses and improve the digital economy.

The other thing why it's important for you to engage with ICANN is that we need your voice. We need the African voice to be heard on a global level, and ICANN is a fantastic platform for you to express your voice, your concern, your ideas, your opinion, vis-à-vis the DNS, for example. Okay, let's not make it a very wide scope but if DNS is the one you want to focus on your voice is important, and I encourage you to express your voice in almost every one of our meetings and I think you're doing very well and I saw a statement recently, for example, from our African colleagues, think it was the AFRALO, about the changes with thinking in the evolution of our multistakeholder model, and I was really impressed how our African colleagues have expressed their views, and they've done it better than almost any other community so far in all of ICANN, and that is leadership, and you have provided that leadership. So, very

impressive work and thank you so much for your participation. If there's anything we can do to encourage you more and support you more, tell us, but we're definitely behind your initiative, and I hope next time we have a meeting like this, this meeting room will be too small. We need a bigger room. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

We really thank Sally and Cherine, and he has a very busy agenda, but he is ready to take one to two questions from the floor. So we will take a maximum of one or two questions. Be very brief, your name, and then the question, so he can respond before leaving. Thank you. One here and then on the other side. So we have one here and one here, just two questions.

JASON LUFU:

Okay. Thank you very much. My name is Jason Lufu based in Abuja, Nigeria and I'm a member the BC since 2012. Sally, thank you so much for the feedback and you provide a lot of information. Well, we have what I might call a bandwagon effect with regard to GDPR because right now there are many countries that I think are their own national DPRs, activities, regulation, you know, going forward. So the question, is ICANN following this? Because all the while we have been facilitated on

GDPR, on European GDPR. Is ICANN monitoring these developments around the world? Because over-regulation can also kill business, as you know. Thank you.

CHERINE CHALABY: As it happens, our expert on GDPR has just arrived to save me. Timely arrival, Göran. Göran has been our spokesman on GDPR, so it's quite right that he arrived, so repeat your question, so that he hears it again.

JASON LUFU: Welcome Göran.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you.

JASON LUFU: With the GDPR we have been seeing a trend whereby there are many nationals, countries, that have come in with their own regulations, and I want to know whether ICANN has following this, are you fully aware of this development, and if you are aware, are incorporating it in regards to having access in compliance with European GDPR? And we also know in business if you over-regulate, it will kill the business because the Chair

actually made very good points about what we need to do, or some things we need to do to improve businesses, so regulation will affect the growth of business.

GÖRAN MARBY: So, how long do I have?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, Göran, welcome to the community. We were about to give you the floor. What we suggest is...

GÖRAN MARBY: I would love to answer the question.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Exactly. You have five minutes.

GÖRAN MARBY: It's just that the question is insanely good.

CHERINE CHALABY: I just want to say thank you gentlemen, I really have to go I have a meeting in about three minutes. So thank you very much and

you have our support in your initiative and what you're trying to do. So thank you so much.

GÖRAN MARBY:

And a special thank you for handing that very tough question over to me. So, first of all, and it's interesting, when I come to ICANN meetings, there are always a couple of trends that emerge and I sort of get the same questions. And that really makes me think, because it means that there are questions that we should ask ourselves, not only for community. I'm going to break it down. So one of the first questions you asked was, yes, there are many GDPR legislation proposals around the world. And that is true, because there are many privacy concerns related to internet around the world which I think it's fair to have.

One of the problems we have which I've said, I think, for the last two years, but I'm going to reiterate now, we don't have a privacy policy. So, what we're doing right now is sort of reacting on laws and especially European law. We are just reacting. And I just came out of a conversation that when the expedited PDP started, we didn't have a good, that turns into a legal discussion which really should be about the policies. And governments around the world in our interactions I think would welcome a policy about privacy for my camp, because that will help them to

avoid mistakes when it comes to legislation. So a very good outcome of the expedited PDP I think this is actually stating the policies concerned from ICANN perspective. So that was the first part.

The second part that's another part which is important is that ICANN as an institution is really good to handle the things we know about, but not very good at handling the things we don't know about. So when we decided to take the GDPR on, the first being realized we didn't have a process for it. We literally invented a process to handle GDPR and I came up with a fantastic name for that process if you remember, don't ask me for project names at 8:00 in the morning. I think I'm really funny, apparently my staff thinks otherwise.

But if you remember, we started a process outside any other process and to be able to give, you might remember that there were conflicting views within the community if this was only to be a compliance issue with the contracted parties, the Board and myself took the stand that we have to invite everybody to the room to do that because we thought it belonged to a broader conversation, because it affected everybody. So we constructed a councilor model into what then became the expedited PDP, and we did a temp spec, by the way, and then the expedited PDP Phase 1, who took what the outcome of the

temp spec and ratified it, and it was 90%, and now it's back in the community.

So, during this process we realized that there were a lot of very good people who talked about the importance of GDPR but we never sort of put it back into the community. And the GDPR. we should have done engagement about this several years ago, and we should have found a mechanism for engaging with the community with that. So the first thing we did was to set up this list where we started tracking legal initiatives around the world, just to get a sense for the other ones. And we presented that three or four times. And then the obvious question is, what we're going to do about it. So in, I think, January, February, we came out with a charter saying that for this topic we are only going to limit any engagement we do on two things.

One of them is to make sure that we got engaged where we see that the ICANN community's ability to make policies are affected by legislation. And we do that because we actually think that ICANN is much better than anywhere else to do this because we believe in the multistakeholder model. The other thing is if we see a potential that the Internet won't work because of legislation and we have seen proposals on registrations that for instance prevents routing, or prevents the ability for people to

get an IP address, which would solve the privacy issue because internet wouldn't exist. And that's where we engaged.

And the next phase of that was to help engage with the community in those discussions and this week I came up with a proposal saying that I would like to use the, I hope I get this right now, the cross community working group for internet governance, as an interface to the community to have those discussions and deliberations. We also decided realizing that we need new formats for this and, therefore, is one of the reasons why we also are joining ITRD so we can open up an avenue for discussions. So, that answers sort of 25% of your question, but that is what we trying to do, because we've never done this before, so we try to, you know, in the ICANN multistakeholder model, go that way.

The only thing I don't agree with you, we're not a regulator, and I know that because I was a regulator. Remember, that's one of the problems, is that the regulator is based on law, a regulator has the right to interpret law and implement that. The compliance department of us are the checking point that we have implemented the community policies the right way. So the only thing we do there is really to say okay this is what the community said, have we implemented it the right way or everybody has agreed to it, actually now following the policy set.

So we're not a regulator. This is a voluntary system in that sense. You might not always get what you want. When it comes to the business aspect, I personally have no opinions about any business whatsoever. ICANN is a nonprofit organization. You help us and all of us provide a service to the world. Together with our partners, we provide everybody with the identifiers that makes the internet possible, that's where we end. We're not foreign policy, we are not political, that is the most important work we do. So, sorry for the long answer, but the question was very good. I hope it was a good answer to you, as well. By the way, that was my speech, also.

SALLY COSTERTON:

So, Göran, on that note, I was just going to ask, so if we could now ask you to give your opening comments that are perhaps not to do with GDPR although, I don't know, up to you, but back to you, give you back the floor. And then if we have time after that for a couple of questions, yeah, maybe two questions when Göran has made his comments and then we'll move to the next section.

GÖRAN MARBY:

So, I'm going to be more personal in my notes. Marrakech represents something very special for me and I said this before,

this is the first time, Marrakech was the first place I ever went to in an ICANN meeting., so this this becomes special for me. It was little more than three years ago, which means that I'm not the new CEO anymore, and so coming back here revisits a lot of those good memories I had. As you know, one of the reasons why outreach is important for us, and I'm happy to tell you this here, is because we recognize the fact that the next generation, next billion users, however we define them, is not going to come from Europe and North America. So where it's going to happen is in Africa, Asia and South America. That's where it happens.

Now I don't specifically remember the internet penetration in Africa is, 25 % now? Roughly, and you have advanced that a lot over the two or three years that it has been around, that is amazing. But that means that we have a lot of work to do to be able to make sure to do our part of it to actually contribute to the positive development of the Internet here. But also it's important that you engage because we have a lot of things, we are not coming with a preset formula, how in your individual countries on this beautiful continent has to handle with it. This is a cooperation between I do and you do, we don't know everything, we know something, but we here to help and work with you, also together with our partners and one of the reasons why we decided to go into ITRD as well, is because they recognize the same thing and just for your amusement, and I

shouldn't say this, the world record of any lawsuit we ever had is still the founding of .africa. Yes, thank you very much.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, Göran, so we'll take just two questions, and then we can go back to the schedule. So, introduce yourself and your question, please.

FIONA ASONGA: Thank you very much, Yaovi. My name is Fiona Asonga from Kenya, for the record.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you for introducing yourself, Fiona.

FIONA ASONGA: Thank you, Göran. Mine is a quick one. I believe that the multistakeholder model within the ICANN strategy has a reason out of input from the community and especially regions like Africa wanting to be involved and to participate more in ICANN's different activities and processes. Now I'm a bit concerned about the approach that has been taken in terms of working on the strategy moving forward. The issues we had from the presentation yesterday that was made in the GAC room were

very many, and there is of risk of us dropping the fundamental and foundational issues that makes the engagement very important to us.

And these are really issues of inclusion and representation, issues of the demographics of recruitment within the organization, culture, trust, and of course just diversity in governments across the Board, whether it's in the community or the different ACs and SOs within the organization at the Board level. That's where we are able to see and that is what globally people want ICANN to look at and see whether or not we are a multistakeholder body.

So I'd like to put forward a request for the issues that were listed, about nine or so issues are too many. Which ones are the most important, can we get a way of prioritizing them so that our most important that have to do with the areas that I'm mentioning, are given the attention they deserve, because that is what the next five years will determine, whether we are really multistakeholder or not. There are some issues in there that can be addressed with other strategic objectives. But they're just not so important for that particular objective at this point in time, they will be important for it after we've done the foundational address the foundational issues.

And related to that, there is also the concerns about the office you opened in Nairobi. Is there a chance of that office growing? Would love to see it grow because it was opened really for the region. Yes, I'm happy seeing Bob across the street from me and waving to him from the window when I can, when we can see each other, but is evident would be good to really have a substantial team coming in to support Yovi, Pierre, and Bob, to help with the programs that you are mentioning. If capacity building is really important for us, and we are asking for it and you're saying, yes, it is important, I think we need to meet somewhere and a lot more needs to be done for us to see that we are being taken seriously.

In addition to that, finally, is we're going to need support from ICANN meeting team for the Canada meeting. Canada is difficult for our region. We are required to apply for a visa 90 days in advance, 90 days means that we are not able to then get our offices to approve our travel for those who need permission from the office to travel, and to get the letters and everything in time to make the trip. I, for instance, missed the last Canada meeting because the timing didn't work. I need to have a 90-day period for me, even as a senior, so please us with that.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you for that short question. I will leave some of the answers to Sally because she's actually the head of the regional offices. So again, I'll try to be short, so you know that my organization, we now currently have people in 34 countries. We speak 55 languages fluently. We have when it comes to men and women, and we report this back to us in the SEO report, I think we are a little bit more women than men in total in average also with the leading positions we're 50/50. So, we measure that and we give that out and that has been since I came on Board, it's something we talk about.

So, there was a discussion yesterday. Let's take the background of the discussion you had. When we were in, I think it was Barcelona, me in the Board went around to all the different parts of the community and all things that was mentioned to us, we use words like effectiveness and measurements. It's more beside the fact that we have fatigue, we have set up processes that doesn't always make sense. I had a conversation with At-Large. At-Large is just now finishing off their review. According to the bylaws, before they fully implemented the first one, they have to start another review. Things like that sort of complicates our lives.

And so the Board took all of that, because in almost every session people said we have those things that we need to talk

about. And as I mentioned before, it's hard to start something, so the Board went back and said, let us think about this. So now the communities told the Board, and it came up very much for the five year strategic plan discussion. So the Board decided, let's set up a venue for the community who owns this to have that discussion. And just make sure that this is not a Board driven or an org driven thing, we hired, yes, it was my proposal to bring in an external facilitator for the discussion so everybody can participate.

So what I think is happening right now is that we got so many good comments. And the interesting thing is, regardless of what part of the community, everybody sort of said the same thing. We are over bureaucratic sometimes. It should be easier to reach consensus, we built in certain things. It doesn't have accountability, it doesn't have anything to do with that I should not be transparent and stuff. It's just that sometimes, it's like an onion, you add layer after layer and then when you start cutting it, you cry all the time. And so you should see that as a trial from the Board to listen to the community, but also making sure that the discussion comes back to the community, because that's where it belongs.

When it comes to regional offices and investments we are 400 people in ICANN org and we are constantly looking after what

we do. Right now, I can say that my team is quite stressed. We are running policy work support, we do reviews, implementation of five year strategic plan. You know that to be able to have a meeting like this, we are like 150, 120 people from my support staff just to make this meeting happen. Because when you walk in somewhere the microphones are here, there's coffee machines and we have 400 people. So when we look into things right we look at the resources make sure that we can continue to support other effects.

Right now I don't remember. I think we have 800 sessions that we're supporting here at this meeting, which is small. We have much more sessions during a longer ICANN, a couple of hundred more. So, the resource discussion is something that we are trying to address as well. And a five year strategic plan, which comes from the community, will also share some of those things. I'm always open, I have great team working in Africa. And one of the things we did a couple of years ago, is to actually put in place more regional plants and to put in that we actually can deliver what we do. I'm the first one to acknowledge that we not always have done the right thing. But we are trying to learn from experience within the limits we have, actually the limits fundamentally from the community.

So I think I was shorter than you in the answer, but it was a good question, Fiona. And for you to know, Fiona was one of the persons that when I came, I think it was in Helsinki, which was my second meeting, a friend of ours took me to Fiona and said you need to talk to her, and Fiona spent 15, 20 minutes addressing all the issues that we talked about earlier and just looked me straight in the eye and said as a new CEO you should go and fix them. So hats off to you.

SALLY COSTERTON:

One more question for Göran and then I can probably take questions at the end so we don't disrupt the rest of the flow of the session.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

I have a question about the PDP and the unified model that will be developed by PDP in the next phase. The Board have engaged in two studies, one technical study about the unified model, and I think the other one is have a legal approach. I don't know if this study will help or will support the PDP team in the next phase or it will construct it. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you for an excellent question. So, I'll try to keep it short. So, the only way to create a unified access model is to take away the legal responsibilities from the contracted parties when it comes to who asked the questions and accredited them. And I have to say that because otherwise my lawyer gets [inaudible], that's the only way. We have engaged with the European Commission and other ones to try to figure that out. And so remember in the Phase 2, they actually are going to ask the question, if we want the UAM or not. We are just trying to find if it's possible to have one. And that work is ongoing. The TSG the technical study group was the technical basis.

You have to excuse me now, the internal project name which is now well known, the Strawberry Group, I can also say I have a Blueberry Group and a Peach Group and the reason is I have problems with all the acronyms. So the internal project, which is the Strawberry Group is working on putting the legal body on the skeleton that the technical solution is. So, to really answer the question, the outcome of that potential or not, we go back to the [inaudible] the PDP as an input to the policy work, because the Board or the Org will not make that policy and finally it is the community that is going to say if we're going to have a UAM or not, regardless if it's legal or not. Does that answer your question? Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you very much, Göran. We know you have a very busy schedule and the community really appreciates your time, because you had another meeting and after that you jump here and then you were able to stay up to now. So we would like to thank you very much for your support. If you have some minutes you can stay with us. We would like to go to the rest of the agenda. So what we want to present briefly is the report of how the community was engaged.

We initially planned to do it in 15 minutes, we will do it in five minutes and then we'll hear from you, your input; we will hear from the SOs and ACs first, 2 minutes each, and then we will give the opportunity to the room to everyone to have one second to talk. So we'll try this time we have been able to have 90 minutes this time. So we can thank ICANN management for that one, last time it was 60 minutes so we have to make it brief. And we hand over to Bob to present what we have as findings from the team and then we'll hear from you. So, oh yes, Göran, go ahead.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Can I also thank you for inviting me.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Yes, thank you, because you are very busy but you try to be here with us.

GÖRAN MARBY: So, thank you very much for inviting me and letting me have the floor for a couple of minutes. Go back to your more important talk now. Thank you.

BOB OCHIENG: Okay, so I think my work has been 90% done by my seniors. I think I'm very lucky today. I think largely what has been discussed to this moment is precisely what we were planning to report on. So I'll take five minutes to just go through this very fast so that I turn it back to you guys. So you could see, the Africa Strategy, which I'm sure we've been talking about for the last few years, the reason I say 90% of this presentation has been done already is because the strategy has got a two pronged approach in terms of what we have been trying to do in Africa. The first part was about awareness and I think Sally talked about that at length, and that awareness was in two parts, in itself.

I think you remember Sally saying initially we were knocking on doors to introduce ICANN. So we did that for a bit of time, but it was also to have those people after knocking on their doors to

come into ICANN, so introducing them to ICANN and then having them come into ICANN. That was the awareness part of it. And that alone had got at least projects and activities that we executed around awareness.

The second part of it is what was addressed by Cherine actually. It was about the industry, the domain name industry. Remember that ICANN is an industry, the domain name is a business. So, apart from just participating within ICANN policy making processes, the ICANN ecosystem as a whole, how do you then also participate effectively in the business part of it? How do you become part of the domain name industry? That is being answered, or was supposed to be answered by the capacity building part of this strategy.

So we had two approaches or two main objectives, both of them have been addressed extensively by the senior management. So I believe my work now is just to kind of show us to what extent we have tried as a community to be part of these two processes. And this is really to show how you have been participating, how you responded to the awareness campaigns to come into the ecosystem and how you've responded to the industry part of it to be part of the domain name business itself. So maybe this will inspire debate on what is it that you need to do more, what is it that we could do better from the organization, or what is it

that maybe the Board could intervene on, I think this is the discussion we want to have after this presentation.

In terms of our various meetings and activities and projects, this presentation has been loaded on this event page. So if you went to the Strategy page for this session, you'll find the presentation precisely. This gives kind of a snapshot of some of the things that we have tried to intervene on as organization in terms of events that ICANN has sponsored around the Africa region in terms of events where ICANN itself has participated in one way or another, or through facilitating you community members. To be part of.

In terms of capacity building development workshops which are various focus on different topics from DNS abuse, Intellectual Property workshops, you have like 35 of them. This in the last five years. By the way, so these are cumulative numbers to date. This also includes very specific activities that we've done with academia. So be it from lectures or what we call youth com, which is really meant to introduce a new audience and new participants within ICANN. I think you remember discussion has been going on about community burnout. And yet, we also need to bring in new people, so that we have a larger pool of community base. So how do you bring these people on board?. And we also know that Africa happens to be this place where

over 70% is actually, so there is an intentional approach and investment in having the youth be part of our programs.

Now, this slide speaks to precisely the African participation within the ICANN processes. And this is where we need a bit of focus on for this meeting, really to appreciate and maybe to have you comment on whether this is good enough. For example, if you look at the first part, this is green from where I sit, could be yellow. If you look at the NCUC working groups we could only count up to 128 from across Africa, that is people participating in those working groups. On the right side is how many ccTLDs for example are members of the ccNSO you know that we have 54 countries and to date we have 39 as members, and we need to know what is the issue with the others.

In terms of participation in cross community working groups, this is where we had a real challenge. And this is going by constituency and by AC/SO groups. We could only count actually up to 10 people participating actively and consistently across these various working groups in the various constituencies. Well, these are estimates but it gives a rough idea on how Africa has been actually interacting with the different processes. In the GNSO we could count up to 30 participants from Africa and the last number is I think the number of ALSes across Africa, as of last year. So this is what we

can see from the community and we feel that maybe this could be better and precisely why we want to listen from you, the SO/AC leaders from your respective constituencies, what is it that could be done better, or if this is actually good enough.

In terms of the industry itself, I'll skip some of this, so addressing the industry part of the engagement. In 2016 we commissioned a study, the feedback that led to this was the fact that if you are speaking to a business audience and they ask you for information about that industry, how does the industry look like, why would we be interested in joining it? There was no data, there was no information. So this study was precisely to address exactly how does the industry look like across Africa. The outcomes were not very encouraging. Looking at Africa as an economy as a whole, we could only identify up to 5 million domain names associated with Africa, and that is, including ccTLDs, cumulative registrations and gTLDs.

If you were to break down that number, you realize that out of countries, 52 countries have 2 million domains cumulative or registered and I think that is a warning signal somewhere. And this was confirmed last year. So, Afnic released a report, I think two months ago that was also a study of the global domain name industry, the market itself. And if you look at the segmentation from the different TLDs, so over here we have

ccTLDs, then you have .COM, then you have Legacy TLDs and then the last one is the ngTLDs, and you break down that by registrations per region.

In terms of percentage, this is Africa and you will see a close 1% contribution across the TLDs, which is a cumulative of 1%. In other words, today you have around 350 million domain names registered. So, we are saying that only 1% of that can be attributed to registrations from Africa. That is the industry participation so far. So the question we have is, what else that we need to do from your perspectives, including from you registrars and registries in the room to try to change this statistic. So, that will be all from my end. And I think I'll turn it to Yaovi so that we can actually really hear from you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Bob. The format of this session is that you see what we have is just from the report we have and also some other sources. But the most important as we plan on the schedule, so to hear from the room also, is why we have the representatives from as SOs and ACs in this room. What we are going to do, we will try to give maximum three minutes to our colleagues for the input because it is input Also. And then after that we will try to give chance to the maximum of people to make the intervention for clarification or question. And so with that, Dr Cherif Diallo is

Vice Chair of the GAC, so what we want to hear from Dr Cherif Diallo is how GAC is contributing, the community from Africa is contributing to GAC to engagement. So Dr. Cherif Diallo, in 3 to 4 minutes, you can try to summarize. Thank you.

CHERIF DIALLO:

Hello everyone, thank you very much, Yaovi for giving me the floor and the opportunity to talk to you about the GAC. So regarding the GAC, we don't have much time. But the African participation is satisfying. The GAC was created in 1999 and we have 178 countries and about 26 observers. We have 44 African members, 7 African organizations, the African Union for Telecommunication, and we have as an observer, the African Union, as well, ACOWES from West Africa. Central Africa is represented, and other economic council is represented as an observer.

Regarding the countries that are absent at the GAC level very quickly, some countries that are not present, just a few of them. There's a good participation, 44 African countries are represented at the GAC level, we don't have Guinea Bissau, Djibouti, Ethiopia. Regarding our role after 17 years, GAC did several communiqués, more than 20 communiqués to the Board and 160 letters were sent to the ICANN Board which was quite important for the development of policies, the role of the GAC is

a consultative entity. ICANN is expecting to receive advice from the GAC regarding public policies.

The advice of the GAC are very important. Through consensus, we work and reach consensus during our meetings, it's quite simple. We meet during the ICANN meetings, three times a year. And GAC is organized around working groups on several topics, specific topics that help the GAC move forward and work more efficiently during the sessions. we are working on the communiqué right now to be sent to the ICANN Board and we do not have much time, but we can very quickly talk about the advantage of being a GAC member for a country or an observing organization. If you're not present, you're quite welcome to join it.

The DNS system is a key internet infrastructure element even fundamental for the world and for the economy, for our governments, for our organization at the GAC level. We can benefit a lot and we can gain the opportunity to give our advice to ICANN to express our opinion, to develop public policies, to contribute as well to the elaboration of public policies to make sure that we are consistent with our laws and with the common interest, and we can work with many other observers and have some technical support coming from ICANN. Our members are very well informed about technical innovations. We got into

DNS, that's what I wanted to say about our role of the African community at the GAC.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

What I can take from your intervention is that we still have some countries in Africa not participating in the GAC yet, so i think I will not comment or continue speaking, will have the floor for input from all participants. So I want to move to one representative of the AFRALO, Mohamed El Bashir, who is going to give us input on what he presented and how AFRALO is contributing to engagement activities in Africa. Mohamed El Bashir?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Yaovi, my name is Mohamed El Bashir, I'm the Chair of AFRALO, I'm from Sudan and sadly there is internet shut down in Sudan now while we are here discussing internet governance issues at ICANN. That's a reality. I will give you an update about what we do. AFRALO is the African regional organization for internet users' voice within the African continent. We have members, our organizational members, we call them ALS's, At-Large structures, which is basically our Internet Society chapters and legal rights organizations, academic associations, any organization that have a mandate

and objective to work on development related to the internet. And we have currently about 58 accredited ALSes in 32 African countries. Last year we did open individual memberships for anyone who is within the African internet community but not associated with any organization to join us, so that's currently open and I encourage you really to apply to AFRALO and join the mailing list and start contributing to the policy development within ICANN. I understand definitely that the numbers are not important, most important is the effective participation in ICANN policy development and that's the key, I guess. So I will just highlight two initiatives that we're undertaking to try to activate that.

One is the hot policy topics. So last year we formed a working group that identified about nine policy issues that interests the African internet users and their members, and we listed those in a booklet, but not just list the issues also identify why those issues are relevant to us and why those issues are important. Those issues range from technical issues like the implementation of DNSSEC in African ccTLDs to issues related to active participation within ICANN and diversity and we also try to list action items about what we can do to achieve those issues. So if you can take a copy of this booklet, it's in Arabic and English and in French, it's on the corner here. You can also understand what actions we are going to do in terms of those

issues, capacity development, webinars, outreach, and all that. So that's one activity that we did try to be active.

The other regular meeting we held every time, I think I have seen many of you in that meeting, which is the AFRALO African meeting. And basically the African community within ICANN and we get together and we have a policy issue we would like to discuss and debate and we prepare a draft before the meeting. And actually there's a drafting team that developed that and we come to that meeting and we discuss the issue. And in this meeting yesterday the issue was the effectiveness of the multistakeholder model, and we will post that statement, and it really a thorough assessment of the issues that is facing our community in terms of active participation within the multistakeholder model. Things like trust, equal participation, issues of connectivity, diversity, so those issues were really discussed and listed in that statement.

So I think although we have good numbers coming from your statistics, but I think it's about how we can ensure that we have active participation as well. And my last comment on the statistics, it will be useful as well if we work together to have African sources, I mean FTLD is there, but we can also use a couple of data sources so we can get more accurate and more

accurate numbers so we reflect the situation in the continent.
Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Mohamed, you touch a point that maybe at the end it's very important. So how do we work together to have accurate information. So, I think it is also one of the objectives of the session. Mr. Souleymane Oumtanaga, is in the room, to talk about what ccNSO is doing, so is a country code name supporting organization, but we realize also, we still have some countries not really involved in the activities of ccNSO. So, Mr. Jimson Olufuye will give us his input on the participation, the activities contribution from the business community in Africa. So help us to make it in three, four minutes. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE:

Thank you very much. This is Jimson Olufuye speaking. I would like to note from first and foremost from Bob's presentation, you know, between statistics and GNSO, just small clarification, [inaudible] there is not another constituency captured. But anyway, my presentation has really taken some followup or some interesting comment from what I said before, particularly Sally and Fiona concerning the capacity and concerning more engagement, need to be more involved. So there's need for

more engagement, quite right, across Africa. The need for more capacity. But as we have it, Pierre, Yaovi, and Bob have done pretty well with regard to the resources within at our disposal, we get a lot of support from them. And over time, we have improved participation in the BC, generally that is business.

We started in 2012l, zero percentage in business to now 17% of membership from Africa, which is next to North America, North America is 54% and next is Africa aspiration about 17%. And specifically we got to this meeting, we had eight businesses coming from African countries, different countries from Cote d'Ivoire, Libya, of course, Nigeria had about five people come in businesses community, and of course, Kenya and 1% from Cameroon IPC. We continue to engage vigorously and the whole idea is that we need to continue the momentum, but we need to improve on it. The Chair mentions issues about outgrow the economy, create more wealth and what have you, so we've had all those things that need to be done. But we always say this in business that in Africa, and I believe in other places. If the government does not move, nothing moves. And so the good thing now is that government are becoming more aware and so there is for example broadband plan in Nigeria and some other countries, from technical sense, that has been achieved after a five year period, the company is now projecting 70% access in bandwidth in the next five years. So this is good.

So, ICANN needs to also do more to engage in this success story because Nigeria projected 30% bandwidth achievement by 2018, and Nigeria achieved that and has another target of 70%. This will create more momentum, like my brother from Sudan talking about internet shut down, which is anti-business, completely anti-business, it should not have happened. So the next world concerning DNS is coming from Africa really and from what was said, 1% of the world internet domain business is just in Africa. So there is a lot to be done and as penetration increases, so we have more people coming up and more engagement in ICANN itself.

So when we got to this meeting we have shown a lot of interest, we are very much interested in the progress of the PDP and I'm happy to let us know that some of our members that came in for the first time, they signed on to be part of new working groups, they committed to be engaged. For example, BC we meet twice in a month, that is fortnightly, and that is on the call. So we are getting good participation, members are coming in, too. It's slow but it is steady and we should continue the momentum. I recall in 2012 when the former Chair was thinking maybe in the next two years, it doesn't happen that way, but we should sustain the momentum. The chat about funding, yes, there is funding in Africa, but I'll go back to what I said earlier, capacity, knowhow, and how to use these resources. Okay.

For example, regional government came out with some funding for internet businesses, IT businesses. And then you find out that people don't use it. Before we say no money, now there is money. So we need to increase the capacity of the business engagement office in Egypt, we need to also bring it down, if you already are maximizing that then you need to create others, and if not yet, you need to create more awareness collaborate more with MIRA, I think MIRA delegation is here, they are ready to cooperate so that we can expand this knowhow. Capacity breeds continuous engagement and creates wealth.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you very much Jimson, and we can see that. Even I mentioned that all the countries in Africa, they are not part of active in ccNSO, we have three members who are from Africa, and we have Abdullah Omari in the room who in three minutes also bring their input on the ccNSO this supporting organization members in this organization are contributing to engagement in Africa. So we are going to go just to two to three minutes because of time to Abdullah to make his input. So, Abdullah, you can just take that microphone and thank you again Jimson for input.

ABDULLAH OMARI:

Thank you. My name is Abdullah Omari, one of the three councilors for African ccNSO. I'm going to answer the question why we have a low domains number at 1% contributing from Africa. Okay, it's not as sad as it looks because for the last three or four years, five years, and our brother from Sudan can know, most of the ccTLDs capacity have increased, the technical capacity of most of the ccTLDs, because a good number of them were being run outside the continent, but through the collaboration of FTLD and the techies in the continent, we have been able to bring quite a number back to the continent. The last one I think four months ago, about six months, was brought to the continent.

Most of the registries, especially ccTLDs are being taken as services, you know, when you look at it from a business perspective, a good number of countries are just looking at the ccTLDs to represent the third level of a country, maybe.gov .whatever, .energy, and so on. And the business aspect has not moved in. So what we have been doing, the ccNSO in collaboration with the FTLD, like the last meeting in Kampala, that meeting was dedicated to marketing. We brought our colleagues from Europe and America who assisted the African ccTLDs on how to increase their capacity on marketing. So I hope in the next few years we will be able to see an increase of that 1% going to a substantial increase.

And again, we should not look at the domain industry as a standalone. Most of the SMEs in Africa have a challenge in funding and you can see the various countries which have stepped in to put the sort of affirmative action on funding to SMEs, like the country I have come from. There's an interest cap on the level of interest, just to make sure that SMEs have been protected. Now the other challenge is they are doing business across the continent between ccTLDs and that has been a challenge, trade between ccTLDs, and as I said, domains are not a standalone business. I'm sure most of you who came to Morocco, you had to fly out of Africa to fly back to Africa. That's how difficult it is. We are in one continent, you fly out of Africa to fly back to Africa and going back will fly back to Europe or back to Asia. So then fly back to the same continent. That's how difficult it is doing business between ourselves. So I think it is only three minutes, I can see Yaovi is looking at me, I hope I've been able to answer the 1%. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you so much, Abdullah, and as you mentioned during the last African summit in Kampala some activities have been taken and we are expecting the DNS market and especially at the country level the ccTLDs, these things are moving and it's good to hear that. Because of time, we'll just take, we have now two

groups, we want to hear from NCUC and then also hear from NPOC, but we'll just give you two minutes so that we have the opportunity to hear from the room. So if Benjamin is in the room, Benjamin, you can tell us about how the NCUC is contributing to engagements. So, Benjamin up to you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yeah, thank you, good afternoon everyone. My name is Benjamin Akinmoyeje, and I'm from NCUC. So NCUC is home for civil societies and end users. For us, we are part of the GNSOs, Generic Name Supporting Organizations. So for us, our participation in ICANN in the continent has been to make sure we are available at various IG events. We particularly train our members in policy writing development process so that we can participate actively in the policy development process of ICANN and you can see that clearly from our numbers. We like to claim there are 28 users, you see that we are at various points making active contributions to the policy development process that supports the DNS system in naming system.

So for us, issues like diversity on consumer rights, human rights and all of that is very paramount to us, freedom of expression. So what would like to see ICANN do is a way of aligning, and there is nothing to core mandate, but supporting organizations that push this agenda now that we know that internet is a

fundamental human rights. So you want to work with development organizations who are pushing this agenda. And that's very paramount to us, affordable access and all of that. Also to get academia into this conversation because if they understand and they can add to the conversations around the policies around DNS, it can reflect our realities and can bring more people on board.

So for us, we do a lot of outreach, we make sure the members who are attending the IG events, Global IGF, all of those events, we meet each other and we deliberate some of these issues. So we move issues from one point to the other. So our point right now is we don't like to find out about ICANN events after the event, as well the GSC events, the regional events, we like to know ahead of time where they're going to be and how we can engage. Also we would like ICANN to give more resource to the center beyond just being an available presence, but we need them to really pull resources so that they can help champion more capacity building and then also outreach events.

Finally, I want to let you know that within NCUC there is a bit of conversation also going on because we responded by comments to the document when there was a call for comments. Also, we're also still discussing internally, because we met with the VP at the last meeting to discuss how we can move forward, and

when it gets to the eye level, I think we would respond appropriately. For us is to encourage all of you to join NCUC because that's the only way you can really participate productively. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Benjamin. I think we just give two minutes to Caleb for NPOC, input from NPOC, and we also are glad that Sally is still with us to help us to address some of your input. So we'll make it brief, Caleb, in two minutes, if you can help us. Thank you very much.

CALEB OLUYINI:

I'll keep it short. Thank you very much. My name is Caleb and I'm the Communications Chair for NPOC. NPOC actually is the Not-For-Profit Operational Concerns within the ICANN GNSO structure and within the SGSCg as well. And basically the bulk of our conversations or focus is usually surrounding issues around DNS abuse, transparency, privacy, intellectual property abuse, human rights, and DNSSEC, the audience also which we currently are also focusing on. Just to mention but a few, although we didn't see our statistics come up on the slide, I'd like to tell you that within NPOC we currently have 21 NGO organizations, and by the way, NPOC actually is an organization

where we tend to find not for profits, such as NGOs, IGOs, where they come to have a conversation on issues that revolves around the DNS and things that affect them also on a general scale on the general preference.

That being said, we have 21 African members and it's actually the highest number of regional representation that we have within NPOC and it's actually a good sign that we recently also have the AIS and recently also here we recruited quite a number of African organizations which we did some outreach also to and they've been part of what we are doing. That being said, some of the things that we have as strategic plans within NPOC is to see that our membership growth, which is actually very low at the moment, compared to some of the other organizations within the GNSO, is to see that we have a very strong membership growth and participation and see how we can increase communication and engagement within these NGOs, because we do know that they have operational concerns as well as some other issues.

Now that being said, I'd like to mention that in Africa we actually have very high number of NGOs being registered almost daily and every day, and this is actually also a big business for ICANN registrars within the African region and perhaps it's also something good to say that it is coming out of Africa. So we'd

like to see that some of the operational concerns are being taken care of. Just to quickly round up, I'd like to say that more recently, NPOC, we did participate in a policy conversation when we give policy, we made a public statement on the.org renewal and we are currently also part of the NCSG contributors on the multistakeholder model. And I'm also glad to tell you within this house, we are proud to say that we had more Africans actually participating and they were penholders within the.org renewal and I do see that we are having great things coming out from NPOC, aside the fact that we are supporting the African strategy. Thank you very much.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Caleb. We noticed that we don't have too much time and what is important to note is that today, ICANN always try to help also for participation. And since we started we have some people who are not in this room who are trying to follow. So, with your permission, we'll hear from them, so that if there is some input, the management and ICANN can help to give them answer. So with your permission, if Bob can help us to hear from two or three of these people before we open the floor to the room. Thank you.

BOB:

Thank you very much. We have a lot of questions from remote participants, because of time, maybe I will just sample two and maybe direct them accordingly to the rest of the room. But with a commitment that we will respond to all of them in writing. So they will give us their emails, as well.

The first question is to Dr. Diallo. You talked about concern for shutdowns as well. The question from Searge Parfit, Congo, is there something that governments can do to stop shutdowns, and what is GAC doing about this? The second question related to that came from Melissa Cosi, West Africa. She is asking for documents that are not present in GAC meetings or in ICANN meetings, do they send written contributions as part of the GAC communiqués? Is there such an arrangement? So, those are two questions for you.

And the question that maybe I think would be better addressed by Alan, is what is ICANN doing stop the use of NAT, deliberately asking Alan to maybe make a comment on this, which Network Address Translation IPv4, IPv6 issues. And the question to which I would have maybe Sally the statistics as indicated we have 35 so far capacity building workshops which is viewed as very few. Yet this is very critical to having ICANN, you know, even be introduced into any country and ecosystem. Is there any attempt to empower this so that we can do more of this? So, we

will let maybe Sally answer the question, and because of her schedule, and then make some more input, then we go back to the room. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, Yaovi. I want to congratulate this meeting, for really I think an extraordinary high quality exchange of views and information. I think it shows how far this group has come. This seems to me to have been a very strategic meeting, and I thank you all for that. I think it sets a very good standard of engagement moving forward for us. Specifically, I've asked my colleague to come up here and just join me to answer the question, he has responsibility for the Training Center partnership in Cairo, which has come up several times in this meeting and I thought it would be useful for you to just have a couple of words from him as to what that the long-term plans for that are and whether we can expand it. A couple of points and Fiona kindly said that somebody will tell her what we've said, so I guess maybe I'll just tell her myself, but she's asked me to answer her questions, even though she had to leave.

The question of capacity development, she raised, everybody raised this, well, not everybody, but it's come up again and again. I said earlier, we went out to the community to try and get more precision about where we focus resources. This term

capacity development is very general. If we constantly say we need more capacity development that isn't something we can implement, we need to understand what kind of training do we need to give, to who, and where, and for what outcome? And then, who should do the training? So the capacity development survey helps us to get a good handle on that and we know there is a big requirement in this region to increase the amount of training we are doing and we actually have data in the survey at which groups specifically, we can cut it by stakeholder group within a region around ICANN and the DNS ecosystem.

And that is something we can do by dramatically increasing the amount of online training we're providing through ICANN Learn. That is not suggesting we can't also do it face to face, but by and large familiarizing yourself with ICANN and the DNS ecosystem can be done most effectively and on a bigger scale on the ICANN Learn platform, then by many, many face-to-face trainings. We can do this in multiple languages. We ask people to come onto the platform to join, to register. This means we can get metrics on who is using which courses and that shows us where to put more effort. And we ask community members to help us to create those courses. So I would strongly encourage you to join me in prioritizing that kind of capacity development that kind of training. Where we can do it online, we will do it online. It is relatively cost effective to do and the reach is huge.

Now the second area is face-to-face training and sometimes we need to do things in particular parts of the region or particular types of stakeholder group. One example is the GAC. So the org and the community have partnered in different parts of the world to support the GAC Chair in helping her to bring new GAC members on board. Now we cover very similar topics and we asked the GAC, those attending those meetings to go on the ICANN Learn platform and take the course before they come so they don't walk in completely unknowing of what we do.

We recognize for the GAC, particularly, there are some very specific requirements that we need to teach people how to anyway be on the GAC. It's very unlike any of the other stakeholder groups and there's quite a high threshold of competency to do it. And we will continue to partner, we will continue to do that as much as we can, but the course will be up on ICANN Learn for refreshers so that GAC members can use it and new GAC members can use it.

We now use ICANN Learn for pre onboarding for all our fellows and NextGen. So this is another point about training. We need to make the training stick. So when we're investing in bringing people to meetings like these newcomer programs, we want them to come ready and prepared with a good base understanding. So the face-to-face time is used for things that

only face-to-face training can deliver. I already talked earlier about the personal capacity development courses that we're launching, the personal skill building courses, so please try them out, please feedback, that's a pilot, we've never done it before. I'm very optimistic, and if that works, we can scale that very fast. So I really encourage you, go back into your communities to send people to ICANN Learn, to use it as much as you can, tell us what else you need, what other programs you'd like us to put up there. So that's a big one.

There are some things, Some of the more technical aspects of training that can be done with some good training online. DNS abuse is a very good example. But there are some technical aspects, for example, installing DNSSEC, where we know we need a person on the ground to go to an organization to help them to do this and we are looking at increasing the headcount in this region for technical engagement. Göran made the point about budget priorities. You all participate in that, you know where the money is being spent, and as that five year strategic and operating plan rolls out, you will have more and more transparency about that and we will look to you to tell us, hey Sally, we see you're doing a lot of this., but none of that. So let's have a dialogue about what's good to stop happening, so that we can shift priorities. So that's an ongoing conversation.

The final comment was about Montreal. I'm not going to answer that in this room, I'm going to take that specifically up, all I would say is that the meetings team that works with me are extremely focused on questions of visas. All around the world we have different kinds of visa issues for different nationalities in different parts of the world. It's always challenging, Canada is not specifically worse than anywhere else, just to be clear to the Canadians. We actually have this evening, I know because I'm introducing him, the Montreal host is going to make a presentation.

So if it is a big issue, I mean don't go lobby him about visa applications, that's not what I mean, but he has a stand in the entry as you come in through registration, the first stall stand on the left is the Montreal host stand. So if you are concerned on this issue, or you think your community are concerned, please do go straight to, I mean don't not tell us, I'm very happy to have my team work with you so we understand challenges early as we can and we have, for example, here in Morocco, our hosts here have been extraordinarily flexible about helping us to create good visa conditions. They've done all sorts of things they don't normally do to provide visas on arrival, this sort of thing, where we've had particular circumstances and I'm absolutely confident our Montreal host will be just as flexible and helpful. But I do recognize it's a point of anxiety and I do want to just kind of raise

awareness about those points at this meeting. Baher, could you just say a couple of words about the Egypt Center and whether you think this is something we might expand?

BAHER:

Sure. Thank you, Sally. I'm Baher Esmat for the record. So, the DNS Center in Cairo was established almost four years ago with the objective of supporting capacity development activities not only in the Middle East, but in Africa, as well. And they have been doing a lot of DNS training activities, mainly in Egypt so far, but they have also gone to places in the Middle East, most recently in Iraq, for example. The focus so far has been on the technical DNS sphere, more than the business or the policy part of it. But longer term they will have more focus on business aspects of the DNS as well.

Also, as far as Africa is concerned, I know that they have been communicating closely with NURAF in Nigeria and the AFTLD to actually explore opportunities for engagement with AFTLD, for example, they are considering signing NYU with them and more practically the road seeking opportunities to do more training activities in Africa if there is a demand for that. By the way, the team from the center are here actually present in Marrakech so I'm happy to make any introductions and I'm also happy to take any questions. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, Baher. We are going to, before you respond, we will make some input, Dr Diallo and Alan, we are normally supposed to stop at 4:45, but with your permission, we will have input from the Vice President For Technical Engagement at ICANN, then we will hear from Dr Diallo and Alan. Thank you, Adiel?

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Thank you, Yaovi, I feel like I should say a few words on the capacity building aspect and the technical engagement aspect. I'm Vice President for Technical Engagement and first of all, I want to thank the Africa team. I think this is the most content-wise very active meeting, I think the journey has been long, but I think the African participation and contribution to ICANN is now visible.

On the technical engagement side and capacity building, just want to let you know that we are also extending into more original strategy from the technical engagement perspective, which means that we will soon have original years on technical activities one based in Africa, to take care of not only capacity building in terms of DNS training, but also supporting the African team into engaging on some of the technical stuff when it comes to government engagement, NGO or end user.

What we are mostly interested in is DNS operation; we want to build more stronger relationship with DNS operators, those who operate recursive server. Why? Because they play an important role into the whole campaign around DNSSEC, not only by signing but also having the validation up and running and we will need the support of all of the other stakeholders from ICANN to do that because for building relationship with the DNS operator, we need to have them to know who they are and probably will come back to you to help us identify who are those running DNS recursive server in your country or region and how we can engage them more effectively.

We are evolving our message from DNSSEC specifically to more overall DNS ecosystem security, which is something that we request a lot more engagement, but also capacity building growth from policymakers perspective and technical perspective and that is one of the role of the technical engagement years and original years that we are looking at. To finish, I will also say that from the technical engagement perspective, we are very actively engage with the USDTI initiative. Some of you have been through the USDTI training and ICANN has formally joined the USDTI. I'm on the Board of the USDTI and we deliver a full day training actually in the US on DNS technical side, but more generally, how to engage with ICANN. What I want to say is that I've noticed that there is no

bridge between those who participate in ICANN event and those who attend event like USDTI or even ITF.

What will be good is that now that this community is growing from African perspective, we go back home and build more bridges with other people who are involved in other aspects of this technical governance area so that we can build more stronger local ecosystem. So you will hear from the technical engagement at the regional level soon and we will be more than happy to work with you on those.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Adiel. Again, we'll try to finish in five minutes. So I'll give one minute to Dr Diallo to respond to the question and then one minute to Alan. Thank you.

CHERIF DIALLO:

Thank you very much Mr Chair. I am going to very quickly talk about ICANN Learn. It's a very important platform for all of us for the GAC members. Very often we need to use ICANN Learn. We need to build our own capacity and we use those training sessions on ICANN Learn before giving fellowships, for instance. So ICANN Learn is absolutely essential if you want to receive fellowships and so on and so forth. And the GAC members go to ICANN Learn to know more and learn more. Regarding remote

participation, the answer is yes, Just before coming to the session at the GAC level, we did it. Is it counted, this remote participation for the quorum, or not? We need to reach quorum. Is it possible to work remote? Yes we can, if we cannot make it to the session.

So, regarding the internet, we need some very specific questions and we'll be able to answer you. So please send us some more questions. Amana is from Egypt, she's an African. I'm the Vice President, I am from Africa. We can talk about you coming to Montreal and all the issues about Montreal, but we have sovereign states and the internet is not going to change the sovereignty of the states, just like we have airplane traffic over our countries, this is the same thing. We have sovereign states and there's only so much we can do. The internet cannot supersede the sovereignty of our states.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you again to the interpreters. So in 50 seconds, Alan to respond and then we can close the session. Alan, please.

ALAN BARRETT: Thank you Yaovi, this is Alan Barrett, I'm outgoing CEO of AFRINIC. So first, before I respond to the question, let me say that AFRINIC is very pleased to have ICANN's participation at

events like the Africa Internet Summit in Kampala last week. And we're also pleased to have some sort of a collaboration with AFRALO. I heard a question about NAT, how can we reduce or remove the use of NAT? I think is quite difficult, and I think perhaps the time for that is past. With the current shortage of IPv4 addresses, there might not be enough really to remove the use of NAT. So what I can encourage you instead is to deploy IP version 6 where there is plenty of address space and there is no need to use NAT, there's enough space for everybody. Thanks.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, and before closing, at the beginning we conveyed apologies from Pierre our Vice President for Engagement in Africa, who for some unavoidable reason could not join us. So the final remarks from him, I want to share with you. He wants to say that we are still ready to support and we need to more collaborate and we have limited budget for now, but we will continue supporting the original initiative. And remotely, we are able to again contribute to things you are doing at the national level. So we'll try to contribute as much as possible using the remote tools and Zoom is one we are using now.

And finally, he asked me to thank you all for your time for your active participation. So we have the email address of the team on this slide. So please, if you have some questions, we are not

able to respond. We want to thank also people, colleagues, who are participating remotely, we will try to get back to you. Please, any question we are we are not able to answer here, send it to the email addresses on the slide. Again, with your permission a round of applause to the interpreters and to the technical team before we leave. Many thanks, and see you online.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]