
ICANN71 | Virtual Policy Forum – Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2021 – 12:30 to 14:00 CEST

GISELLA GRUBER: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening and welcome to our traditional joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting. My name is Gisella Gruber and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

During the session, questions or comments submitted in chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form as I've noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair of the session. Interpretation for the session will include English, French and Arabic. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you wish to listen to during the session.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, ensure you have selected the language you'll speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record, and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation.

This session includes automated real-time transcription. Please note this transcript is not official or authoritative. To review the real-time transcription, click on the closed caption button in the Zoom bar. With

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

that, I'll hand the floor over to Seun Ojedeji, chair of AFRALO. Thank you for your attention.

AZIZ HILALI:

Seun has some connection issues. Welcome, everyone, to this AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting. As you know, this is a tradition we do have every time at the ICANN meeting. We started in 2010. I want to thank first of all our guests who agreed to participate today to this meeting. We're supposed to be in Den Hague, but I'd like to thank Göran Marby, the ICANN president, León Sanchez, Ihab Osman, Pierre Dandjinou, [inaudible]. We are all together and we are present in those meetings, and we discuss hot topics before ICANN meetings to talk about our issues in our region, Africa.

This year, we decided to talk about something which is very timely, the DNS system and DNS abuse. I'm going to give the floor to the ALAC chair, Maureen Hilyard in order to open this meeting. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you very much, Aziz. I'm very pleased to be here with you today, with all your other illustrious friends and guests here. I'm actually really pleased to ... And thank you for sharing what you're going to be doing later on, sharing a policy document on DNS abuse mitigation strategies. For me, this is very impressive, and I also think it's important because it's the culminating part of a capacity building package that AFRALO has been building and related to the DNS abuse webinar that you produced for your AFRALO community very recently. Unfortunately, I

missed the real-time version of the webinar, but I was able to catch up on it at a later time.

But this one's a particular interest to me, not just because it was about the topic of DNS abuse, which has always been on top for At-Large for a long time, but also that you had as one of your keynote speakers Brian Cimbolic who actually co-moderated a Contracted Parties House update on DNS abuse in the session just before this meeting, which I attended. And Brian is the vice president of the Public Interest Registry which has taken a lead amongst other registries with regards to DNS abuse and instrumental in the establishment of the DNS abuse institute initiative, which is led by its new director, Graeme Bunton who was also one of your webinar speakers.

I have the pleasure of being a current member of the PIR advisory Council, and currently at this time, on the newly-established DNS Abuse Institute advisory Council, along with some very appropriately connected people who also feel very strongly about DNS abuse.

But I'm pleased to see that AFRALO has taken advantage of this valuable initiative in the development of your own document. I'm hoping that you'll also take advantage of the resources that the institute will produce and provide for end users.

Also, I'd like to take this opportunity to seek your support for providing us with any feedback about what kind of resources would be helpful for our At-Large community so that the institute can constantly review its resource materials to make them a better fit for the community of end users that we wish to serve. Within At-Large, we're always wanting to

create new resources, but this institute is actually being established to do this and to help us do this work for our communities.

So I'll be promoting the institute and its future development within other RALOs as well, because we're all aware of the importance of DNS abuse, and as you have so rightly identified, the importance of preparing mitigation strategies that can be appropriately coordinated into your RALO outreach programs.

So I'm thrilled with what you're doing. And as usual, I always look forward to seeing the documents that AFRALO produces at these meetings. So, very proud of you. Thank you very much in advance for your continued support, and I hope you have a great rest of your meeting. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Maureen. We didn't hear the rooster this time, so it must be very early. I'm going to give the floor to our president, Göran Marby. I would like to thank him very much. He's always very supportive of our community. Mr. President and CEO, you have the floor for five minutes. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you very much. I would start with a question. How does it feel to be the center of attention during the ICANN 71 meeting? I have, in many of the sessions I've been into, talked about the next round and the importance of the next round, not as an opportunity to add English

words into a staple somewhere, actually about giving the opportunity— I actually used the word “paying back debt.”

We have about 4-5 billion Internet users out there. We have about 1500 identifiers on the Internet. Most of them are in the English language or [inaudible] of the English language. I used the example of Africa when it comes to that we have to do a better job to make sure that people who don't have English as their native language or understanding of English to engage on the Internet, the ability for us to use the next round so that people can create communities around the world, commercial or noncommercial, is something that's all in our hands now.

With the next round of top-level domains, we'll be able to do something that we haven't done before. Someone said—and I liked that—we have made the Internet technically interoperable. With the next round, what we actually can do is to create an Internet that is operable also for people. People around the world should be able to use the Internet using their own keyboards, their own language, their own narrative, and that is what we can do with the next round. I just want to mention that. You will see much more engagement, as I talked about last time, when it comes to your region, because that is where we need to go from here.

Also, on the same matter, I posted in the chat—first of all, thank you, and I can only say that I miss Maureen's rooster and add on to what she said. I think that what you're talking about when it comes to DNS abuse is important. This is really where the intersection is of taking care of the Internet users. We often think about what we do in terms of how

[inaudible] ICANN, but if you take away all the fun things we do in ICANN, we're actually there to provide a service to the world, for the Internet users.

So I'm talking about abuse as a part of that. It is important, of course, that we stay within our remit. We still are undefined in many things when it comes to what is DNS abuse. But you all know that, because I've actually read your report.

I want to mention one thing which [inaudible] you might not remember that, but when the COVID pandemic came around, we created something we call the DNS ticker—yes, we do love funny names—where we actually go in and search for special search terms to see if people registered domain names which contain for instance the word COVID. We're opening that up now because we realize that not everybody around the world is using the word COVID in English. They actually use other narratives for it. And we want to be able to track that as well. Our intent is to work closely with the GAC and other ones to provide us with those searchable terms. That could be something that we can help to prevent. I think it's a small step for mankind but actually a giant leap for ICANN in the sense that we now built tracking that is not only related to English words. I really like that.

Also, we have during this meeting made a proposal to the contracted parties that we can get access to more data and use more data putting up in the DAAR system so we can, in a better way, also track what they do on the registrar side.

So what you're talking about in your report is not only timely, it's a good input, and I'm looking forward to continue the conversation. So, thank you. And just sit back now, because you are going to be the center of attention for a very long time, because that's what the next round is all about. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Göran, for this message about the new gTLD and the DNS abuse. It is really important for us to be aware of what's going on at ICANN. Now I'm going to give the floor to Eddy who is president of the RIR in Africa. Thank you for being present and speak to us during this meeting. Now, Eddy, take the floor, please.

EDDY KAYIHURA:

Thank you, Aziz. It's the first time that we meet, and hopefully we'll have an opportunity to meet again. Distinguished colleagues and delegates, it gives me great pleasure to be among you at ICANN 71. It is great to see the tradition of having the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting still very much alive since 2010, as you said.

The African community at ICANN and AFRINIC share common values as we both work in the interest of the Internet users in Africa through our multi-stakeholder model.

We have a longstanding partnership and signed a memorandum of cooperation and understanding with AFRALO to facilitate the development of joint capabilities and promote events and activities of

mutual interest, including meetings, workshop and research projects in the African region.

Today, we are gathered to discuss DNS abuse mitigation strategies. DNS abuse is a matter of concern for us, and I'm pleased to share some of the activities we have initiated to address this issue at AFRINIC. AFRINIC offers a DNSSEC signer that allows the community to validate authoritative DNS data from AFRINIC's reverse DNS zones and numbers to build the chain of trust for the reverse DNS zone.

We have implemented a [lane] delegation policy to address the authoritative DNS nameservers that do not adequately respond to queries of domains. We also encourage our members to use DNS best practices via all the engagement that we do with our members and we are always ready to assist our community whenever they have any DNS-related issue.

AFRINIC is also a founding member of the newly created AFAAWG, Africa Anti Abuse Working Group which aims to promote anti abuse best practices in Africa. And we will continue to partner with African ICANN community and collectively pursue a vision of achieving a secure and accessible Internet for sustainable digital growth in Africa.

Allow me to thank the organizers for inviting me today. I see this as an opportunity to extend my special thanks to Mr. Seun Ojedeji who's also a Board member, and Mr. Aziz Hilali who I'm pleased to meet today, respectively, chair and vice chair of the AFRALO, for their contribution to the African Internet community. I look forward to the rest of the program and the important discussion that we follow. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Eddy. I hope that we will have a chance to meet face-to-face. Congratulations again for your position as a chair of AFRINIC. We will work together for sure. Thank you very much. Now I'm giving the floor to a friend, León Sanchez who is vice president of the Board at ICANN and who is selected by ALAC. He's our friend and he came from ALAC, he's still ALAC, he's still present with us. León Sanchez, go ahead.

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, Aziz, and thank you very much, everyone, for having me here again. As Aziz has said, I have come from the At-Large community and I continue to be part of the At-Large community, and I try to be as present as possible in all your meetings, not only within ICANN meetings but also on your monthly regular meetings and other meetings that I try to attempt.

As usual, it is great to see how the AFRALO-AfrICANN community strives to continue improving the level of discussion and the level of debate that you hold within the African region. It is always good to see and very encouraging to see how you continue to build quality statements and quality suggestions for the Board and towards the organization. And of course, this time is not the exception. You have built a draft statement on DNS abuse mitigation strategies, which I found not only useful but valuable as well.

And if I may give a piece of advice to sharpen this statement, I would suggest that you could hint us into how the platform that you are suggesting that is created could look like. So I understand of course the intent of the platform that you're suggesting that is created, but also giving some hints on, again, how this platform could look like, etc. I think would add a nice touch to the statement, and I think it would be of course valuable for us to evaluate and consider once it reaches the Board.

So again, it's always a pleasure to see how the discussion evolves, and I just want to share with you that of course, DNS abuse is on top of pretty much everyone's mind within the ICANN community. And the Board is not the exception. As you might know, previous to every ICANN meeting, the Board holds a workshop in which we discuss of course many topics that are of interest to the Board and the organization. And this time was, of course, not an exception and we held a session in which we continued to discuss and shape what will become the Board operational priorities for fiscal year 2022.

One of the topics that was discussed in order to be included and shaped as a Board operational priority was exactly DNS abuse. So I think it is good to see that we are all on the same page in treating DNS abuse as something that is on top of everyone's mind and as a priority for many groups. And again, the Board being also part of the community—because I consider the Board to be part of the community as well—is not the exception in treating DNS abuse as an important and as a highly relevant topic. So we will continue to discuss these operational priorities and to shape them, and hopefully by our annual general

meeting, we will be sharing those Board operational priorities with you. and I am pretty sure that one of those operational priorities will be related to DNS abuse.

So it is, again, great to see that this advice, this statement comes in a timely fashion to feed into our process of shaping this operational priority. So with that, Aziz, I would like to thank you again for having me. It's always good to be back home, as I always say, and happy to continue here with you and contribute in any way possible. Thank you, Aziz.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much for all these nice words, León. I'm now going to give the floor to the Africans who are members of the Board and who are here now for about a year and a half. And I'm going to give the floor to Mandla. Thank you for being with us.

MANDLA MSIMANG:

Thank you so much, Aziz, and to AFRALO and AfrICANN for this joint session, and for inviting me to speak briefly today on DNS abuse mitigation strategies.

This is a tradition, and as you said, I've been here for a year and a half. It feels like longer. But this is a tradition and an engagement that I look forward to at every one of the ICANN policy forums that I've been to since I joined.

So, as Aziz said, this is a very timely discussion, and I think we should just also remind ourselves that globally, it's only about slightly over half of households that are connected to the Internet and that this access is skewed with Europe's Internet penetration being one and a half times the global average, and Africa lagging furthest behind. Our penetration is six times lower than the global average.

And there's lots of reasons for this. Price, the cost of connecting, quality of service and language amongst others which contribute to this. But notwithstanding that, I think as the Internet becomes more interoperable, as there's been increased access to broadband globally—and a lot of that increase is in Africa, partly because of our lower base—and as phenomena like COVID come on where our virtual reality get more, we're online more, and so that has become really urgent, for us to ensure that the policy regulations and just the overall Internet governance framework—which includes ICANN—is in place to address DNS abuse and ensure the security and stability and the safety of all of us as users.

So as you're all probably aware, ICANN's strategic plan for the coming five years puts an emphasis on more active promotion of DNS ecosystem security and relevant best practices, and this is goals 1.1 and 1.3 in particular. And they include elements that highlight the need to improve the security of the DNS and the adoption of global open standards and best practices.

And as León said earlier, in our workshop before this meeting, this was elevated as one of the key issues that needs to be addressed and

discussed with the community involving everybody. And that's one of the things that I liked about the draft statement, is the need for collaboration which is highlighted. This is a problem that no one part of the community can solve by itself.

So in preparing for today, I was just also looking at trying to get—and we have a need for numbers to understand the scale of things sometimes, so I was just trying to understand, what is the scale of abuse? And I noticed that according to the last DAAR report from April, there's just under a million unique domain names that have been identified as possible security threats. And so while that might sound like a large number, if you look at it in the context of a total of about 205 million resolving domain names and gTLDs across the world, those that pose a security threat make up about .5% of all the resolving gTLD domains.

So despite the fact that it might seem like a small percentage, the impact of DNS abuse is large, and it impacts economies, it impacts individuals, and it's a very real impact. So that's why the discussion that we're going to have today and that we've already started is so important. So we welcome these discussions such as that hosted today, and we see it as an opportunity to share experiences, expertise and knowledge, and as part of our ongoing response to it, I think we should engage in discussions like this and collaborate on how to come up with a platform that's discussed in AFRALO response.

So I really look forward to the discussions today, and thank you again for inviting me.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Mandla. I hope we'll meet again soon. I would like now to give the floor to another friend, Ihab Osman from Sudan. He's a Board director as well for the last year or so. Mr. Ihab, you have the floor.

IHAB OSMAN: Thank you, Aziz, and thank you to AFRALO-AfrICANN. It's good to see you again, Aziz, even though virtually, and I really look forward to having a cup of coffee or a stiffer drink later in the day somewhere physical.

Thank you again for the invitation. This has been something that I've absolutely been looking forward to every time we've been having an ICANN meeting, but I definitely look forward to a physical meeting rather than to do it all virtually.

I have read the statement that you will be discussing today and you'll be putting forward to the community and to the Board for consideration. I think the points you've raised in the DNS abuse mitigation strategies paper and statement are very critical and good to look at. There is always, of course, more details to look at, but in general I think it's a solid statement and it addresses the issue.

As Mandla spoke quite a bit about the Internet penetration and situation in Africa, this is a subject very close to my heart from my telecom days in Africa.

I think the importance of really combating and reducing—I don't think I can dare say eliminate, of course—DNS abuse becomes even more critical for Africa as we are starting from a low base of a number of internet users. And as these numbers start to go up quickly, we might get new users who have not been online long enough and have become more sophisticated online users, so they might become victims of DNS abuse scams and issues with higher percentages and numbers from users that have been online a lot longer and might have seen some of these issues for some time.

So I think specifically for the Africa region, as Internet penetration increases, and at the same time the increase of online financial transactions on the continent, when I look at my own country, Sudan with the introduction of online payments and apps, there is already major fraud and abuse issues, and so abuse mitigation and control becomes super critical for our region because also, as I said earlier, not all of the new users coming online have the same level of—obviously, a lot of them come from rural communities, they might be with less connectivity and overall exposure to the world. That makes them a bigger target.

I congratulate AFRALO community for taking the lead and for highlighting and pushing the issue of DNS abuse and for playing this critical role for the Africa region, and look forward to your engagement in this. This is a big topic and area that we all need to work closely together, not just even the ICANN community but other Internet communities to work on this issue. Thank you again for the invitation and for your time, and I look forward to the discussion and advancing

this issue in a serious manner. Thank you, Aziz, and thank you for the whole team.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Ihab. This is very kind of you. Thank you for your kind words for our RALO. I'm going to now give the floor to our friend and colleague, Pierre Dandjinou, a pioneer of ICANN, our vice president for Africa, one of the founders of ALAC. Pierre, you have the floor.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much. I'm so happy to be with you this ICANN 71. I just wanted to say that it's kind of great [inaudible] with your statements. As Göran has just said, he introduced a few points that are quite important, that are really relevant to what Africa might be expecting. You guys are talking about DNS abuse. It's quite important. It's about security, and we are still already discussing this and also acting on it in terms of capacity building in Africa.

I'm not going to get into the entire partnership that we've already established on the security issue and the security of the DNS. Suffice to say that we also noticed that government [inaudible] way of those issues, regulators as well, and we are actually targeting all of those to deliver our capacity building agenda.

Of course, Göran also mentioned the specific project that we might be having for Africa and all of this to strengthen Africa's networks and so that Internet really becomes kind of locally interesting for Africa. So all

of these are quite good things, and [inaudible] some sort of, I will say, pressure on us.

So we at GSE in Africa of course are here to support. We'll be happy also to still continue to rely on you guys and I would like to say thanks for inviting us, and of course, we are always here to assist, and also, wishing all of us a great ICANN 71. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Pierre, for your participation. Before we continue, I would like to take a slight pause to think about someone who left us. This is a sad situation. All Africans know about it. Makane Faye lost his life. Makane Faye was killed with his brother in an accident. This is a sad news we received. Makane was one of the Internet pioneers. I'm going to give the floor to our dean, [inaudible] to say a few words about departed Makane Faye. You have the floor.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Hello. Thank you very much. I'm very happy to be with the community today, but I'm also very sad. It was a friend that we lost, a colleague, and a member of our community with a strong personality, Makane Faye.

The IT community in Africa, all our colleagues with ICANN, with AFRINIC, from Africa in general. Makane was a real pioneer. He always worked for African dignity, for the use of IT, for development. He was a pan-Africanist. He contributed to the launch of electronic messaging in Africa. He worked a lot on information society in Africa during all those

meetings, and he launched the AIGF, the African IGF, Internet Governance Forum. He was the secretary of the AIGF. He worked so much for the WSIS meetings.

And what was very noted was that with ICANN, we didn't see him that much, because he was very discreet, very humble, very efficient, but he was doing everything. He was preparing, working with African governments. He had a strong network, and he worked a lot in the GAC. He encouraged strong government participation in GAC. And he always supported those African initiatives. So we lost a very strong member coming from Senegal. He was Senegalese. That's really a big loss for us. He worked with the UN ECA, United Nations committee, and it's really a big loss for all of us, for the IT community in Africa.

I am very moved every time I talk about Makane, because I was close to him. He saw me, and I saw him at home before he passed. He left us with member of his family—and this is extremely sad. Thank you so much. [He lost his son at the same time, the most—they all lost their lives.] Thank you very much for your attention.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Fatimata. We're going to observe a minute of silence.

Thank you all. We are sad. Now we will speak about something else before we read out the statement. There is something that the AFRALO leadership has organized this year, and we thought to—with Tijani, Seun, Bram and Abdulkarim, we have thought to organize something. We have put together a webinar on one of the themes that we talked

about, and those who were in charge of this webinar were Bram and Tijani. So I want to give them the floor so they can give us a small summary on how this webinar worked out. The floor is yours, Tijani or Bram.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Oh, no, I shouldn't be speaking. The young one should be speaking. They are the ones who acted. So I would rather have Bram take the floor.

AZIZ HILALI: Bram, if you're here, can you take the floor?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Bram, can you speak, please?

GISELLA GRUBER: Tijani [inaudible]

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. Thank you very much. I will speak instead of him. The AFRALO, as Aziz explained, decided to have virtual activities because of the pandemic since we cannot meet face-to-face, so we decided to be active but virtually. And these activities are two kinds of activities. The first one is capacity building for the AFRALO community, and especially to empower them so that they participate in the drafting of the statements of this kind of meeting, AFRALO-AfrICANN joint meeting.

Because we noticed that they are always the same who participate in the drafting team, so this was a way to empower the community so that more people, more young people participate in the drafting of these statements, since these statements give and show the consensus position of Africa, of African end users, about these hot topics in ICANN. So this is the first objective.

The second objective is to make other kinds of activities. We didn't define them. We left them open so that we can address any kind of topic, any kind of issue that AFRALO find it is good to give more information, more knowledge about them for the community. So we do two types of webinars: webinars that serve for these kinds of statements, drafting, and other webinars that are more for capacity building about perhaps not hot topics at ICANN but things that are very interesting for the community and AFRALO and for the community in Africa. So that's it, Aziz. I don't want to be very long. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much. I am going to give the floor to Tijani again. Tijani, can you ...?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Aziz, why do you give me the floor?

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, I thought that you were supposed to speak now. That's what it said on the agenda. Oh my goodness, yes, you're done, you were the one speaking. Thank you, Tijani. I did not see who was speaking.

We have 38 minutes left to present the statement on the DNS abuse, and I am going to open the discussion. I'm going to give the floor to Hadia if she is here.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

I will quickly introduce the statement and then give the floor to Abdeldjalil to read it. The African ICANN community statement discusses the importance of having a unified strategy for DNS abuse mitigation. So there are many efforts within the community in this regard, such as the framework for registry operators to respond to security threats, the work of the Public Safety Working Group, ICANN domain abuse activity reporting project.

So in the statement, we elaborate on the importance of collaboration among all relevant stakeholders to be able to address the issue of DNS abuse. So we mentioned that ICANN as the primary entity responsible for the security and stability of the DNS plays a key role in ensuring that technical issues that allow the misuse of the DNS are identified and resolved.

Looking again at the current effort, Göran just mentioned DNS ticker and how ICANN Org reached out to the GAC to provide COVID-related words in languages other than English. We can also see the registries and registrars working with the Public Safety Working Group.

So collaboration among the ICANN community is already happening, but in a way that seems unorganized. Our suggestion is to actually unify these efforts and allow everyone to be part of it. So just before this session, there was a session providing an update from the Contracted Parties House DNS abuse working group community, and the session posed questions like what information do you use and how do you use it to assess DNS abuse levels? What are your concerns regarding DNS abuse? Are you seeing practices from registrars or registries you find helpful?

So these questions definitely demonstrate the importance of collaboration and that mutual exchange of information is necessary. So this statement is simply a suggestion to unify the efforts within the ICANN community and to complement the effort with the outside organization and maybe also collaborate with organizations that are tackling the same issue. I'll stop here. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Hadia. It is time now for us to read the statement which will be submitted to the participation. We have a very strong participation today, 85 people in the chat. Very happy about that. We are extremely happy about this participation. I don't know if Abdeldjalil has a good connection or if he's here in order for him to read this statement. Abdeldjalil, are you here? Is your connection okay? Can you read the statement?

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Good morning. [inaudible] Wednesday, 16th of June 2021, DNS abuse mitigation strategies. We, the African ICANN Community members participating in the ICANN 71 Virtual Policy Forum in the Hague and attending the Joint AFRALO/AfrICANN meeting on Wednesday, 16 June 2021, discussed the issue of Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse and the importance of having a unified strategy for DNS abuse mitigation that includes all stakeholders.

DNS Abuse is a broad term that essentially refers to the use of the DNS in conducting fraudulent and/or malicious acts over the Internet. To be able to respond to DNS abuse incidents as well as eliminate them as much as possible, collaboration among all relevant stakeholders is necessary. ICANN as the primary entity responsible for the security and stability of the DNS plays a key role in ensuring that technical issues that allow the misuse of the DNS are identified and resolved; reaching out to relevant stakeholders to address relevant deployment issues, such as distributed denial-of-service (DDOS) attacks that use the DNS and raise awareness and promote good practices.

A successful DNS Abuse mitigation strategy needs to consider the following elements: Methods and quality of abuse reporting, ability to identify where the threats lie, whether within a specific domain or from a technical point of view, such as threats due to deployment issues, providing incentives that promote the adoption of good practices, standardizing definitions and methods of mitigation, educational material and raising awareness, collaboration among all stakeholders. Collaboration is a main and essential element for efficient and effective DNS abuse mitigation.

Current efforts that address the DNS abuse mitigation strategy elements include the following: ICANN Domain Abusive Activity Reporting (DAAR) project, which is a good start for studying and reporting domain name registration and security threats across top-level domain (TLD) registries. The system allows TLD registries to see where the threats are concentrated within the TLD and how this threat changes over time. Thus, the system gathers and provides information that could be helpful to mitigate DNS Abuse.

However, wider registry participation is necessary to identify threats within more TLDs. We also propose inclusion of people and institutions interested and involved in monitoring DNS abuse as observers in groups such as TLD-OPS that is within the Country Code Name Supporting Organization (ccNSO).

The responsibility for working on resolving DNS design and deployment issues that have enabled DNS abusive acts does not primarily fall on ICANN, but on DNS operators and network operators as well as manufacturers. However, ICANN should improve on their outreach to the stakeholders, to make them aware of the unresolved issues and promote the solutions.

We must be working on maintaining an up to date registrants' database previously known as WHOIS. However, as this is still a work in progress it is still uncertain that cybersecurity practitioners would be able to obtain registrant's data related to abusive domains involved in botnets, malware or other forms of fraud in a timely manner. Similarly timely

responses in relation to phishing and trademark infringement are still doubtful.

Our recommendation is the following: Looking at the aforementioned DNS abuse mitigation strategy elements and some of the current efforts in this regard it is evident that collaboration between stakeholders is essential. Therefore, we suggest that ICANN creates a platform through which all stakeholders can work together to implement the above DNS abuse mitigation strategy elements, raise awareness and share information and data. The platform would allow stakeholders to agree on broad mitigation methods definitions, actions, tools, and try to balance security and privacy issues.

Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Abdeldjalil. That was very clear. Now is the time to ask the participants—first of all, we'd like to thank them for their presence, but we'd like to give them the floor. We're going to discuss this statement and see if we need to modify anything as we usually work. I'm going to give the floor to anyone. If someone has a connection issue, you can use the chat and write in the chat. Thank you very much. I'm giving you the floor.

I see that our friend, Sébastien Bachollet raised his hand. I'm going to give the floor to Sébastien. Hello, Sébastien.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Hello, Aziz, hello, everyone. I don't want to interfere into the drafting of that document, but I would like to congratulate you for your debates and your exchanges and your work on that document. So I believe this is a very interesting document, and I would like to have our EURALO friends to support your declaration, not to cosign it but to be a second level signatory of this declaration and support this declaration from EURALO, because I think it's important we have this work at ICANN and work on DNS abuse.

We have a model that we need to use, and ICANN should do that and fight DNS abuse. Congratulations to AFRALO. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Sébastien. I think it's the first if we are able to have a declaration that is cosigned between two RALOs, Africa and Europe. That would be a demonstration and is a demonstration of what ALAC is all about. Thank you very much for this proposal. Who would like to take the floor? Anybody?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you very much, Aziz, for giving me the floor. I want to first of all thank those that drafted this wonderful statement and everybody that worked on this statement. I want to say that it's a very important topic, it's a topic that needs to be addressed and it needs a holistic mechanism to actually address this topic.

I just want to add that it's also very important for ICANN itself as an organization to take DNS abuse a lot more serious. And I think it's an

issue that needs to be solved, especially given the fact that we've seen a tremendous increase in DNS abuse since COVID-19 lockdown started.

So I want to thank AFRALO or thank the leadership from Seun, Aziz, Bachar, everybody for working on this statement, and I just want to say, yes, this is a wonderful statement. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Abdulkarim, for your support. Following what Abdulkarim has said, I would like to thank all the partners and we had several members that drafted this declaration. I would like to thank the leadership of our chair. Seun unfortunately has connection issues right now. That is why Seun asked me to chair the meeting. It is with much pleasure. We're nearly at the end of the session. I think Seun is back. I would like to thank all the participants, and I hope that we're going to be finished with this sad COVID period and that we'll be able to meet again very soon. Seun, if you can take the floor now, please.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you, Aziz. Hello everyone. Thank you for attending this session. My sincere apologies. As we see, Internet failed me [inaudible], so I had to drive to a different part of the city to be able to at least join and say bye. Thank you very much to all our speakers and thanks a lot to Fatimata for giving the tribute to Makane Faye, and thanks a lot to—I listened to a significant part of the session, heard the statements, the speeches of the CEO, ALAC chair, Board members from our region, our

friend León for all his work on the Board and for At-Large. Thanks a lot.
Thank you for everyone

We had a very good turnout here, and I'm very glad to see the number. Thanks to our GSE team for our region, thanks to the CEO of AFRINIC— good to see you, good to hear your voice during your statement. Thanks to my vice chair, Aziz, for chairing this session. Thanks to my colleague on the AFRALO leadership as well, Sarah, Fatimata, Abdulkarim, Dave. Thanks a lot. All those who drafted the statement, thanks, and we have taken the feedback from León as well. I think we need to look into it. And of course, see if we can update the statement.

Finally, thanks a lot to staff for organizing this session, thanks to all the technical team. When everything works fine, we almost forget the technical team that makes it work. Thanks a lot, and from myself and to everyone on behalf of myself and the leadership, [inaudible] bye for now. and of course, looking forward to the next session of this ICANN 71. Bye.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thanks to the interpreters who did a very good job. Thanks to Gisella, Michelle, all the staff members. We'll see you again soon.

MICHELLE DESMYTER:

Thank you, Aziz, thank you, Seun, thank you, everyone. The meeting has been adjourned. Please take care.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]