
ICANN78 | AGM – Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Session
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – 3:00 to 4:00 HAM

YESIM SALAM: Hello and welcome to the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting. My name is Yesim Salam, and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by 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 or moderator of this session. Interpretation for this session will include English, French and Arabic. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session. With that, I will hand the floor over to Seun Ojedeji, AFRALO chair.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you. All right. Thank you very much. Seun for the record. Hello everyone and welcome to the AFRALO-AfrICANN session. Which is the session we normally do at every ICANN meeting. I would like to recognize the presence of Sanchez Ambia, member from At-Large. And of course, the CTU for ICANN as well. And of course, Pierre, who's well, all of us is familiar with. Thank you very much to all our members. We're joining remotely. And of course, the entire community who're here present and remotely. We have a very packed agenda and we have just one hour to achieve this. So, I'll just move to the next item which is an

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unfortunate news that we heard, when we were coming to further was actually arriving in Hamburg when I had the sad news about the events of Olevie. A lot of us we are familiar with Olevie Kouami who was a very active member with us at AFRALO.

And of course, within various other communities within ICANN and beyond. It really was a shock to me. It's one thing for somebody to be sick and of course perhaps you'll have prepared. Yes. It's being recorded. Yes, it is. So, it's one thing to be sick and perhaps you have some expectation, but this was very sudden because he was on a monthly call giving us updates about the newsletter working group which he co-chairs with a Remmy Nweke and so, it was a very shocking news for me. And of course, for the rest of the community Next slide please.

Here it is. We had a general assembly. Olevie was there, live, active, energetic participating in the events. And we had no idea that was going to be his last general assembly. Perhaps we will have, man, All right. Let's move to the next slide please. I would like to just open the floor for a few remarks. Preferably I would be appreciated as anybody from local, from Togo or Senegal, where Olevie was present. Where is French. You are free to make a few of 20 seconds remark each. Our members can also make remark if staff wants to do so, as well. The floor is open for the next two minutes to get our remarks about Olevie as staffs scroll to some of the memorable pictures or images of him. The floor is open please. All right. Raihanath, you have the floor.

RAÏHANATH GBADAMASSI: Okay. I want speak French because Olivia would want me to speak French. Good evening to all. It is very difficult for me to speak about Olevie in the past. I don't know. The news was shocking. I was arriving in Hamburg. I dropped my suitcase. I take my phone and that's the first news I read. I will never forget this meeting here because it means that Olevie was gone, Olevie was a very good friend.

I met him in 2019. He supported me all the way. He pushed me to go further, he helped me integrate the working group for the newsletter. He helped me with everything that was ICANN. And sometimes, I would forget the mostly call and Olevie would call and would let, would remind you. I do not know if, the only thing I can do today is to carry on because we have to do this in this memory. Maybe I will work more in order to show that I feel obliged to carry on, but it's very hard for me to know that he's left us so, early.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much. Seun, for the record again. Thank you. Any other person?

AZIZ HILALI: Yes. As you as you tell us to take the floor, I would like to add something. Olevie took care of everything that was all the French translating of the newsletter that we published every three months. He was always very active. It was always behind the members of AFRALO, always supporting them and always helping them and make sure there was content on the newsletter and he was talking about it three months ago when we held the general assembly.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

All right. Thank you very much. I'm sure if we had enough time. Seun, for the record. I'm sure if we have enough time we would all have something good to say about Olevie. It's just a very sad one. There is going to be I'm informed that this could be a brief session for him as well on Thursday here in Hamburg. So, please let's take note of that. Next slide please. So, I'll just ask that we in respect to Olevie, we take 30 seconds of silence. In respect to the departed. Thank you. May his soul rest in peace. Thank you very much. So, we'll move on to the next item. We're going to be taking remarks from Jonathan who is ALAC chair who is present here with us as well. Thank you, Jonathan, for joining our session. You have the floor.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thank you, Seun and thank you Olivier. So, I'm Jonathan Zuck and the chair of the ALAC, which is really just a job of cheerleader. For the At-Large community that when you. when it's all volunteers there's no bosses. Right? It's just cheerleader and trying to come up with ideas and try to think of how to proceed on different issues and I know recently when we were doing the universal acceptance day, we did some cheerleading around these events that were organized by the UA steering group and no community did more on that effort than the African community did.

And I think that did a great deal to improve our reputation in the ICANN community of the At-large community and we need to do just more of it. And so, we're going to try to duplicate the efforts of the UA steering group and do our own seminars in a box and try to create that same

kind of offering so, that we can do this outreach and engagement in a more systematic way. And so, I very much look forward to working with all of you in the years ahead to really take our engagement level up another level. With respect to your statement here today, I think there's a lot of complicated issues around AFRINIC obviously, but the handling of IP 4 addresses has always been complex and there's been hoarding by certain companies and there's been a lot of problem associated with it.

And so, I certainly agree with the statement that it we need to be focused on IPV 6 and make sure that we have the right resource allocations and education and collaboration necessary to ensure that sufficient IPv6 resources are made available to the African continent. So, I fully support the recommendations that are being made in the paper. You know one of the more complicated aspects of ICANN is trying to stay within its own remit. And I think that's always a challenge. And as we talk about Public private partnerships for example for infrastructure, I think that gets complicated for ICANN to participate in. But what I do think is an opportunity is the grant program that's recently been announced and continues to progress.

This is the money that's left over from the auctions that were held in 2012 in the last round and it's a considerable amount of money and so, I think what I would encourage all of us to do is to for this infrastructure development and promotion in Africa because there's less of an issue about staying within the guardrails as long as it to do with the internet. I think the grant program is a much more liberal environment than ICANN itself.

So, that's my only hesitation or proposed change a way of thinking about this, is to think about that grant program rather than ICANN itself involved in those public private partnerships. But I agree completely with the problem and I look forward to working with all you to try and help to solve it. So, welcome to Hamburg. I hope that you're having a great meeting here and please let me know if there's anything I can do to help advance the causes that you are trying to advance here in the ICANN community. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

All right. Thank you very much. Seun, again. Thank you, Jonathan, for those words. And of course, AFRALO and of course the African community would be happy to continue our work with ALAC as well. I would then go to the guest speakers. I think we have it in the order of John Crain, León and Pierre. I think we should just for the sake of time go in that order. So, John would be the temporary chair. Once he's done he answered to Leon and of course sir to appear. John welcome. You have the floor.

John Crain:

Thank you. I'm going to try and do this in three minutes. You actually invited Sally to be here. Sally Costa turns. So, I wanted to actually give a message from her so, she wrote a little speech and I'm just going to do something that those of you know me know that I don't normally do and I'm going to read somebody else's words because she thought it was important. So, she wanted to thank you for the invitation to the 33rd AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting.

She'd like to congratulate you on your activities. This year 2023 has been extremely productive with 3 AFRALO AfrICANN statements and the successful AFRALO General Assembly held in Accra, Ghana, in July. Next, she would like to address the statement being discussed in this meeting. Which deals with a topic of current relevance for the African region the internet resources management and governance in Africa. She appreciates the thoughtful analysis and practical recommendations of the statement. You have addressed critical aspects of the internet resource management and governance in your region, such as the status as IP number, governance in Africa highlighting issues such as the scarcity of available IPv4 addresses which in turn is attracting fraudulent and illicit activities.

The statement includes recommendations for regional collaboration policy harmonization, IPv6 adoption and transition, strengthening of AFRINIC oversight and monitoring as well as a public private partnership for infrastructure developments. ICANN Org, has addressed the things pointed out in the statement in its regional plan for the region for FY 2021 to 2025. This plan recognizes that there is a need to create awareness about ICANN and the DNS.

And to better empower African governments as key players in the geopolitics of the internet. As a global technical organization, ICANN is involved in the digital challenges facing the African continent. Since its launch in December 22, the Coalition for Digital Africa is already rolling out activities and across the continent in partnership with governments and local stakeholders.

The Coalition is focused on 3 major areas: a robust DNS infrastructure in Africa, Meaningful connectivity and capacity development. ICANN's activity and project tracks within the Coalition involves its core mandate to ensure the security stability and resiliency of the internet. The management of the unique identifiers and capacity development. We are taking note of the recommendations. I am sure they will be welcomed by the relevant stakeholders including ICANN Org and the ICANN board. Thank you very much for continued engagement in ICANN.

So, that's a message from Sally. She apologies for not being able to be here. I'm glad to be here myself. I just got back from Africa the other week love being down there and I'm glad to be here with friends and I wish that Olevie was here with us. Thank you. Oh, and I'm supposed to hand off on the chair. To León I believe. León, it's all you.

LEÓN FELIPE:

Thank you very much, John. Thank you very much, Seun, Aziz and all my AFRALO colleagues. It's always good to be here with you. You know this is one of my favorite sessions in every ICANN meeting and I think I've never failed to be in one of them. So, I feel home. And it's also good to tell you that I am joined by my soon to be seated board colleague, Catherine Adeya, who is over here. And well, I thought it was a good idea to introduce her to you. She's from Africa.

She's based in Nairobi, in Kenya. And again, I thought it would be appreciated that she joined us even if she's not officially seated, but we're trying to induce her into this AFRALO world. I note that Alan is not on-site, but I'm sure that he would have been also here with us if he had

been on-site. And of course, a message from Tripti, our co-chair. She wishes you a successful and fruitful discussion. And of course, regards from not only the board chair, but from other board colleagues who have told me that they would have loved to be here should this meeting didn't conflict the overlap with the SSAC on board joint meetings.

So, also regards from the rest of my board colleagues. And well of course my condolences and recognition for the passing of Olevie. It's tragic in many ways and let his soul rest in peace. And well, I think you've heard from John, part of the activities that ICANN has undergone to help in the AFRINIC affair. And I think that your statement goes exactly to the point as to try to establish these uniform policies or a standard policy across the many regions to harmonize these policies in regard to internet resources management. I think that your contributions as usual, are spot on and are highly relevant to the discussions that are held within ICANN.

And I would definitely encourage you to join the different actions in support of AFRINIC. No one like Africa has suffered from this situation and we definitely look forward for it to end soon favorably for the African people, for the African continent and that this situation will be again successfully resolved in the short term. And with that Seun, I would like to turn it to Pierre to continued discussions and to take advantage of the time that we have which is very limited. Thank you, Seun and thank you everyone for having me here again.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you, León. And in fact, as much as Leon has just said I also feel at home when I'm here. So, that's fine. As a family matter? No, I think

John and has actually said most of what is deserve here, I mean being with you and especially noticing that you have been constant in what you've been doing in terms of your outreach and in terms of your contribution actually to ICANN, where it's there's no tier of lack of he was stating this. I mean you are very commendable for what you've been doing. I would just like to take you back to one of the things I was saying and I was saying well, how do we look allies? What we are doing? Your work here is quite fine. And since we are in Africa and by the way, I'm a VP of a civil engagement in charge of Africa with a team some of them are in the room.

John is here. Yav is also around. Yav actually as I told you last time, is part of you. So, then how do we make sure that this we are doing here, trickled down to the regions, to the countries? I think for me is this something we I know it's difficult, but the good thing is that you have your outreach strategy for instance and we really follow this. So, what I wanted to say here is that we are also very blessed because John spoke on behalf of Sally, but I also think you have not forgotten that Sally is also our director for global stakeholder engagement.

So, we mentioned the CDA, but we also have this Africa strategy which you really help us draft 2 or 3 years ago. And that didn't have any a few events that we are also in project that we are trying to push now within Africa. So, my prayer for you is always the same. How do we make sure that you are part of this, that we could contribute, and we need to find ways in which of course we help you kind of localize whatever we are doing here. Of course, they are they are different. So, many projects that we already started under the CDA. We presented them yesterday in our Africa space session and we always say the website is there.

I would really like you to contribute and I know that you will do it, but it's up to us to find the best way of doing this and really look forward to further engagement with you guys. Of course, just one word about the AFRINIC issue that you brought up actually your last time. I think your resolution after the ICANN77 was about [inaudible 00:23:36] yes. You were calling for ICANN to really contribute to solving the issue, but I hope that by now you understand that ICANN is really monitoring this issue. Okay? And so, it's whatever is there of course I think ICANN is trying to help with and we are think that's okay. This is going to be solved as soon as possible. With that I would like again to thank you for having us here and turn over to the to you. So, thanks very much.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Yes. Seun for the record. Thank you very much to our speakers. And of course, as Pierre has mentioned, we as AFRALO we try as much as possible to run local event and the universal acceptance projects was actually a good testimony to that, which gave us the opportunity to have our various LSCs run sessions in their local environment. And of course, we are happy with how that went. I see there's going to be also a talk about what the 2024 UA is going to look like by the incoming AFRALO chair. By the way this will be my last official session.

So, the incoming followed chair would talk more about that later in this session. Thank you very much for those remarks. I think if anybody has any questions or comment for our speakers, this is the time because I figured that John may have all those things, and maybe Leon, and the rest of the board. And by the way welcome again, Catherine. Thank you for joining us and the of course, we look forward to having you in our

sessions going forward once you are seated as member of the board of ICANN. The floor is up for a few remarks or question. Okay. I see Dave. Okay. Let's take the online one, then we'll go Dave.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Okay. Thank you so, much. We have one question from Abdi Rashid from Somali. His question is about AFRINIC presence in ICANN78 is not that visible. What engagement is missing and how ICANN Africa is supporting this important institution. So, this is his question.

JOHN CRAIN: John Crain for the record. I can take this. So, the situation on the ground in Mauritius is quite complex. If you read our statement from late September, you'll know that I've been on the ground in Mauritius. I've been having meetings with the official receiver. I've been having meetings with people on the ground just prior to the ICANN meeting, the status of AFRINIC was that still under the official receiver.

Don't panic by the term. The role of the receiver is actually to keep AFRINIC running not to do the normal receivership thing, but there was a stay on travel. Now I know that AFRINIC staff are joining remotely. I hope that's some of them are listening in on this. And I just want to say that their work and dedication is much appreciated. There's been some more changes on the ground. There will probably be more changes on the ground as we go forward. So, unfortunately, they weren't able to travel, but they are able to participate. I will probably be going back there very soon. I suspect probably not before the ICANN meeting ends but you never know.

So, we're very involved, we have taken a neutral position because this is a legal issue on the island of Mauritius, but I was put forward as a neutral expert to the official receiver and I have good contact with him. So, if things change and he's back in play at some point in the future, we'll have those relationships and we will continue to be involved and we will try to do what we can help within the legal frameworks of Mauritius. But we're there for them and I want them to know that.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much. Dave?

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Yeah. This is Dave Kissoondoyal, for the record. Okay. Thank you very much John. In fact, my question was related to AFRINIC. It happened to be that I come from Mauritius and I'm an ALAC member. So, I just wanted you give a feedback and update to the committee members. Thank you very much.

JOHN CRAIN: All right. So, when I am there next time, I'll look you up.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thank you very much. I see another hand is up. Please introduce yourself as well. You have the floor.

CHIEDI DUGU:

Thank you very much Mister chair. I'm doctor Chiedi Dugu from Nigeria. And I'd like to thank Lucent for inviting me from the GAC meeting to come and joined this meeting. This meeting is very important to me because I was told that we are going to hear a meaningful progress with respect to AFRINIC. Is almost sounding like an echo in the room so to speak, but this is really where the African problem lies. I was in Japan a couple of weeks ago and AFRINIC was costly absent.

And I was told that if I made my way to Hamburg, I would see AFRINIC and then I came to Hamburg to find out that AFRINIC is still absent. And all the efforts to explain away these problems so to speak, had been very vague to the best of my knowledge. We are very conversant with legal frameworks and implications of having to discuss matters that could be prejudiced in law courts, but here we are dealing with a technical problem. Nigeria has over 226 million subscribers and then out of this almost 78% of them are using the broadband connectivity. And this is impacting greatly on our national broadband plan as a country.

And so, part of the Nigerian delegation inquiry here is to know to what extent this whole debacle in faraway Mauritius, is impacting a great country like Nigeria. We depend on IPO resources to advance the country to the next stage, but each time we click on the internet we keep hearing AFRINIC, Mauritius, AFRINIC, Mauritius in a very discontent order. Now, to summarize my observation I think that we would like to be advised on how a country as big as Nigeria could advise a case to become independent of AFRINIC. We've been told that countries like India for instance, have been able to create an independent portfolio from their own original body. So, please, we would like to advise on

how we can extricate ourselves from this whole a stronghold of Mauritius. Thank you very much.

JOHN CRAIN:

Okay. So, there was this is John Crain again for record. There was there was a lot in there. There different issues. I would suggest I do whoever told you that AFRINIC would be here in Hamburg, which maybe not fully informed. And this is a problem around these kinds of discussions. There are a lot of people saying things and a lot of opinions being given where they don't have full information. Even we do not have full information that, that is a sort of outcome of the way the Mauritian courts work. That it's not easy to get every single piece of court paper etcetera.

So, be a little bit wary of the rumors you're hearing, the things you're hearing. We've not seen solid cases. We've heard rumors, but we've not seen solid cases. And this is the but you need to be careful between what you're hearing and what is a proven fact. Sorry. I'm an engineer. That's how I work. Of people not being able to get IPV 4 addresses from AFRINIC.

Now I'm not saying it's not happening, I'm saying we've not seen proof of it. So, if there is evidence that they are not able to function, that would be really interesting. The issue of what you're calling I think what they call national internet registries is a policy within the APNIC region. So, they're not independent from the APNIC.

They are actually part of the policy process of the Asian Pacific Nic. And this is an opinion, not a fact. This is my opinion. So, I want to be very

clear about that. What seems to be happening in AFRINIC, is more of a crisis of governance than a technical crisis. Their systems are running RPKI working. Things seem to be working, but they do have a crisis of governance and there's no real doubt about that. So, it's very complex and you're going to hear a lot of things that may or may not be true. We are trying to communicate as much as we can, but we're also trying to make sure that we remain very factual and indeed that we do not prejudice the courts.

So, I wish I could give you an easy answer but I don't know one. I am happy to give you a side brief because it can take about four hours on the various things I know. Do watch this. Now, if you have AFRINIC members in country which you do, the hope is that at some point the governance problems will start to get solved. We were on a path to that. I think we're still on the path to it. It may have a little bit of a delay but when those happen there's going to be things like elections etcetera and AFRINIC is going to need the support of its members. It's going to need you to be there to find good board members and to vote etcetera. So, as I said, we're very much there, we're very aware of. Pierre, I don't know if you want to say anything because you're our engagement guy on the ground.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

No. But I think you said it. The thing is, so it needs the whole day to be discussing it because there are so many aspects to know within it. Legal aspects but the governance issue is quite important. So, as he just said what matters now is to be in a position to have the directors and to have a CEO. So, that's the issue. But technically speaking AFRINIC is fine.

AFRINIC is working well. And we actually have to commend the staff working under those conditions. We're still doing. They are ready. I mean whatever I mean if you request for any IP address whatever you have it. It is functioning.

Now the governance issue depending on the legal part of the whole thing which we don't have any control on that. But we are here to support. So, I will say, let's discuss it anyway. What you are saying is that, okay government should also have a say and you are saying the way you are putting it, is about Mauritius and this big Nigeria. Small Mauritius. And so, it's so, difficult for you to accept this. But it's about those things that we are on the technical side of these things. Now, if you can help, support find solution is going to be a collective sort of solution. That's my feeling. Someone traveling over Africa is a kind of collective solution to this thing, but they are working on that. Please. So, that's what I can share so, far.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you. All right Seun, for the record. Thank you very much. Thank you also for the intervention and for the feedback. I think we've spent a lot of time on these subjects, we'll now move on to the next item on the agenda which is introduction of the topic. Even though the topic, the statement is already been discussed I would ask Aziz to briefly introduce the topic and then we'll hand it to Abdeldjalil. Will read the statement, we'll move on. Aziz you have the floor.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you. I'm going to speak French of course. The ethnic issue will be resolved when the election will take place. And when the court invoiced Mauritius island, will help with the problem. We will have elections. We'll have a chair for AFRINIC and AFRINIC will be powerful again. When it comes to the statement for today which shows a theme after consulting the community before this meeting today.

And we will be talking about the management of the resources of the Internet and the governors in Africa. Sorry. And this is most important for our region, because we are talking about it right now. And this subject is in and is the base of discussions on the work level on a global level. During the opening ceremony yesterday, the chair of the board talked about it. Mr. John Crain who, Crane who just left talked about it and everybody knows about these issues. Oh, John is still here.

JOHN CRAIN:

I am not going anywhere.

AZIZ HILALI:

I am so sorry. I wanted to remind everyone that it is important to note why AFRINIC or Africa is in this situation. So, before 2005 and some of you were here, therefore, at this time the IP end users on the continent had to go, were to turn to other region in order to get IP addresses, but unfortunately, the allocation politics of these regions never took into account the needs of Africa.

So, we had a delay and therefore the availability of the IPV 4 were very limited in Africa, we have a very small amount look allocated to Africa.

So, there is one IP address for 10 African citizen and it's 10 in the United States, in North America. So, AFRINIC was created to manage the distribution of the resources in Africa and the political party adapted in the region were a second place for that.

So, we at AFRALO, we integrated this process and this is a process that is essential because we face a lot of issues in the region. Specifically, and this is linked to the evolution increasingly quick of the Internet on the continent. So, in fact, I would like to thank the committee for their contribution. So, they added report to the initial declarations in this declaration that will be read to you by Abdeldjalil. We said that it is most important that the African community of ICANN support the governance and the action taken for the IP address.

So, we need a regional collaboration and we need the probation of the IPv6 reinforcement of the supervision for AFRINIC. And of course, the search for partners on the private and public level to develop the infrastructure the internet in Africa. I will give the floor to Abdeldjalil so he can read that declaration, that statement. Sorry. Abdeldjalil, take the floor.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you, Aziz. We will put the statement in English on the screen and I will read it because I'm going to read it in French. Let's have it on the screen. We are a member of the African community participating in ICANN78 and attending the joint AFRALO AfrICANN meeting on Tuesday, October 24th 2023 in Hamburg in Germany. We've discussed the internet resource management and governance in Africa as a means of accessing the Internet as an important topic for AFRALO.

We acknowledge that ICANN has been at the forefront to ensure the distribution of the internet numbers via its IANA functions as outlined in the ICANN strategy plan for fiscal year 2021-2025.

In this statement, we present an overview of the topic and consequently our suggested recommendation for the African internet community to advocate for their countries to make internet resources and availability and accessibility a strategic policy to accelerate digital transformation while improving the quality of internet services to citizens, which depend on IP addresses.

State of IP number governance in Africa. As of 2022, Africa's digital landscape has seen some notable advancements, yet it still lags behind other continents in terms of internet connectivity. Current data from ITU, suggests that international telecommunications union. The internet penetration in Africa has risen from approximately 35% in 2021 to 40% in 2023. However, in comparison to regions like Europe with penetration rates upwards of an 89%, it's evident that Africa still has a long way to go. Every aspect of the digital experience from data downloads to hosting local websites.

It all relies on the range of internet resources. And that's where IP addresses play a crucial role. Unfortunately, the availability of IPv4 internet resources per capita in Africa is the lowest worldwide. According to AFRINIC, the regional Internet registry for Africa, on average, 34 African Internet users share a single public IPv4 address. Additionally, it is worth noting that AFRINIC has only received 3.28% of the total IPv4 address space managed by the Regional Internet Registries, the (RIRs).

As of 2023, there are only 1.29 million IPv4 addresses left in the AFRINIC pool, despite the fact that over 50% of the population in the AFRINIC region still lacks connectivity. Furthermore, the scarcity of available IPv4 addresses is becoming a magnet for fraudulent and illicit activities. This situation emphasizes the need for proper IP management and governance, as raises concerns that a substantial portion of Africa's population could face even greater marginalization in terms of access to the internet.

Given these challenges, it's crucial for African Internet users to rally around digital inclusion through the management and government of IP numbers as a priority. Advocacy is vital. Countries across the continent need to acknowledge this strategic in importance of increasing access to internet resources, and they must integrate these goals into their national policies. Doing so can accelerate digital transformation and to enable a more prosperous and connected future for all of Africa citizens.

Recommended actions. Regional collaboration and policy harmonization. Action. Considering the challenges of IP number governance are continental and require a unified approach. We should encourage ICANN and its stakeholders to collaborate with AFRINIC on Internet resource policies and strategies that prevent and mitigate fraudulent activities like illicit IPv4 trading of IP addresses allocated by IANA to AFRINIC.

Promote IPv6 adoption and transition. Action. Considering the diminishing availability of IPv4 addresses, we should shift to IPv6 which is broader and we should encourage ICANN to invest in the AFRINIC

education and training programs to promote the transition to IPv6 on the continent.

Strengthen Afrinic's oversight and monitoring. Action. Considering the limited IPv4 resources, we need to put in place robust oversight to prevent misuse and to encourage African internet users to be more involved in the development of internet number distribution policies and collaborate with AFRINIC to enhance its oversight capabilities. This could involve a multi stakeholder platform that helps monitor and reporting discrepancies to ensure that all IP allocations align with the region's best interest.

Public-private partnerships for infrastructure development. Action. Considering that effective management and the expansion of Internet resources required substantial investments, ICANN should assist AFRINIC to leverage partnerships between governments and private entities to finance and facilitate the deployment of internet infrastructure ensuring wider reach improved connectivity speeds and enhanced service reliability across the continent. Thank you for your attention.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you very much. Seun, for the record. I thank you Abdeldjalil. So, there you have it. As our culture, I will try to read out the statement for the transcript record. And that's usually take some of our time. We've had a lot of discussions about statement already. So, what would happen is if there is any suggestion further suggestion for modification on the statement for the sake of our time, please send it on the list. And we'll capture those changes. And of course, the next will be to send it

to the various stakeholders especially the ICANN board. At this juncture and seeing that the time is already fast spent. I would recognize Abdulkarim to make his comments, 30 seconds and I can also spare one more minute for any other comments before I then hand it to Hadia, who is the incumbent chair to make remarks. Abdulkarim, you have the floor.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you very much. I think I'll be really very fast. My name is Abdulkarim, for the record. I wanted to comment on two issues. The first one is that we really need to be careful in terms of some of the statements we make because in terms of the signals that we're sending out, some of it might not be really correct. In terms of the first one if we look at the line in the statement probably I would quite be talking about that later talking about the issue of IPv4 and IPv6.

We're encouraging a transition to IPv6 and we're still worried about IPv4 and saying we want IPv4 in our pool. Having IPv4 in our pool is not necessarily solving our problem. What we want is transition to IPV 6 and make IPV for as redundant as possible. That is one of the things. So, I would want us to look at that line again. Also I would also want the, because when we have the regulators especially coming from Nigeria talking about technical difficulties it will be good for us to know if there is any technical difficulties with the problem AFRINIC is having, because to the to my own best knowledge like it was mentioned we don't have technical difficulties where we have governance issues which will be good for us to know if there are technical issues it is good for us to note that.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much. All right. Thank you. I think that has been addressed already by John with regards to the issues with AFRINIC. And of course, the aspect of the statement that talks about V4 and the business transition, the reality is that V4 is still with us whether we like it or not. We are encouraging transition to V6 and there's going to be a lot of handshake with V4 and V6 for the next couple of years. I would then one. I can take one more at anybody. Is there any question on the chat?

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Yes. We have one occasion and we have two handwritten person representative Rwanda and Huda from Tunisia. So, our education Paul who he says that, does this a statement over with and replace the AFRALO statement of August 2023 while his assessment is principal sound is contradicting an early positional AFRALO? So, this is the case of Paul online.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes. Okay. Thank you. Seun, for the record. The statement of AFRALO in 2023, that's mostly a statement regards specifically for AFRINIC. And I don't think there's any contradiction in these statements. If you look at it. If you see any contradiction please write it on the mailing list. I will be able to make the adjustments when necessary, but at the moment we don't see any contradiction. For the sake of time I would take Rwanda and I would take the problem is that Anna Olivier. So,

please Rwanda and Olivier 30 seconds each place and then we will then move on. The time is fast paced, please. Thank you. You have the floor.

NANAYAA PREMPEH: Thank you so, much. Most of my questions were addressed previously with the explanation. I just want to welcome again for ICANN80.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Oh cool. We look forward to-- Seun for the record.

NANAYAA PREMPEH: Yes.

SEUN OJEDEJI: We look for-- Definitely yeah. Thank you very much.

NANAYAA PREMPEH: Remember to inform your high-level ministers to also attend to it. Of course, we will send official invitations but once again, I welcome you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much. We look forward to ICANN80 and of course look forward to everyone who wonder Olivier you are the floor.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Seun. You'll be a couple of line. I'm not from AFRALO or AfriCANN but I'm from EURALO and I do have just an eye for ambiguities in the English version of the statement. I understand you're trying to say the equivalent of protocol and you're calling it more expensive IPv6. It can be confused for expensive and of course we don't want that. So, you could put scalable instead that would be a better thing. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Fantastic. Thank you for that grammatical correction which we will take note of. Madam, you want too? 30 seconds please? Thank you.

NANAYAA PREMPEH: Thank you very much. Just wanted to announce myself. My name is Reverend Doctor Nanayaa Prempeh, from Ghana. I know Ghana has not been represented in several in the past few years and I want to thank Pierre for his assistance in facilitating my coming in here today. I'd like to just make a comment about the last presentation done by my brother up there. Yesterday I shared a view on the on education, where I believe that we have to involve children in ICANN's agenda.

The future of ICANN is the children that we have today. And those who started 20 years ago, they are handing over gradually and we are also going to hand over gradually to who? So, we have to start encouraging children and let policies just like you mentioned in this presentation, involve governments to include internet in the school system now,

especially in Africa lots of our remote areas don't have internet. We are here, we are privileged to Wi-Fi children in Lagos don't have internet. Children in my Accra don't have internet. So, please Mr. Chairman, it's a plea, that you send it to the board, that they should have ICANN kids or ICANN children. Yesterday I mentioned ICANN foundation. They can use that foundation to help children to get access to internet in Jesus name, Amen.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you very much. Seun, for the record. I would then, I'm sorry sir, one minute may not be possible. 20 seconds please. Thank you.

CHIEDI DUGU:

Okay. Doctor Chiedi for the records please. I'd like to draw our attention to the fact that any technology in transition requires capacity building. I'm a trained engineer. So, it is almost contestable when you say that there are no technical issues, but at the same time Afrinic cannot move around to train or impact human capital developments.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you very much. I think that's a good feedback. That we can take note of. On this note I would then hand over to incoming chair Hadia. This like I said, this is my last official session as AFRALO chair. It's been wonderful. It's been a wonderful experience for over the past four years. Thank you for tolerating me. And of course, I look forward to continuing work with AFRALO and of course working with a new chair as well. Hadia, you have the floor.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so, much. Seun and I definitely follow your footsteps. I have only one slide, if we could have it up there. So, I actually wanted to use my well 8 minutes now one minute or 0 minutes. In order to talk about universal acceptance day and propose an AFRALO African regional event. And so, this proposal is meant for At-Large structures who do not really see themselves doing individual universal acceptance related workup. So, the proposal would include At-Large structures, academics, governments DNS industry professionals, email providers, web hosting platforms and any other stakeholders who can actually contribute to the message and intent of the universal acceptance day.

Typically, this event would include universal acceptance training and hackathon outreach and awareness strategies for a wider adoption open dialogue between relevant and different stakeholders. And I'm glad that the last questions were actually speaking about education and raising awareness. And this is an invitation for everyone to embark on education awareness skill development. With that I stop and hand it back to you Seun. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you very much. Seun for the record. And thank you for all our guest speakers and everyone that contributed to this session. Apologies. The time was not sufficient enough, but it's what it is. Thank you very much and have a lovely day. Bye for now.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]