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ICANN78 | AGM – Africa Space  
Monday, October 23, 2023 – 4:30 to 5:30 HAM

JUNE OKAL:

Hello and welcome to Africa Space at ICANN 78. My name is June Okal and I am the participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. If you're on site, participants will use a physical microphone to speak and should leave their Zoom microphone disconnected. For the benefit of other participants, please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace. On site participants may pick up a receiver and use their own headphones to listen to the interpretation. Virtual participants may access interpretation via the Zoom toolbar. All are welcome to use the chat. Please note that private chats are only possible among panelists in the Zoom webinar format. Any message sent by a panelist or a standard attendee to another standard attendee will also be seen by the sessions, co-hosts, hosts, and other panelists. With that, I will hand over the floor to Pierre Dandjinou, our Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement in Africa.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you, June, and welcome to everyone. Pierre Dandjinou, Vice President in charge of Global Stakeholder Engagement, which is the

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GSE team for those who know us, and taking care of Africa with my few colleagues that you certainly already know. June has just spoken. She's our latest recruit. So welcome to the community again, June. Thanks to all, we do have one hour to do what we normally do which is about actually reporting back to you on a few activities that we were able to conduct. Of course, before I actually finish, we really also wanted to recognize, I mean, some of the people from the community that we lost this year. So I would like us to just stand up for just a few minutes to, how should I say, to remember, actually. And eventually, life of people like Olévié Kouami, whom we lost this year. You also know that we lost Pierre Ouedraogo, whom most of you know. And also we lost Njeri Rionge, who was on the board of ICANN. So yes, let's take just one minute to stand up to sort of silence and then for the memory.

Okay, now we can get seated, okay? Thank you. Okay, and then we are, of course, going to report to you. But before that, we want to hear from a few colleagues that are also really supporting us in terms of the whole new initiative that we have. We are going to report on that today. And the support we are having from ICANN itself, and I would like to cite, of course, Sally Costerton, that is our senior VP, and in charge of, of course, Global Engagement Board, of course, who is now the interim CEO and president of ICANN. She could not be around, but well, we managed to have Patrick, whom you've been hearing from, will be delivering remarks from actually in place of Sally. And also, I wanted you to hear from Adiel. Adiel, you know him. But on the technical sort of engagement that we have, and he's from CTO, he also wanted to, I mean, I wanted him to quickly sort of make a few remarks to us before we delve into the subject, which is about reporting back on the

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Coalition for Digital Africa initiative. So with that, let me leave it to Adiel, and then to Patrick to kind of, the remarks.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN:

Thank you, Pierre. It's a pleasure to be here with you. So I am Adiel Akplogan, I'm vice president for technical engagement at ICANN, which is a position that's part of the office of the CTO. You work certainly more closely with some of my team member in the region. You know Yazid, who is very active in the region, providing capacity building support to the community. So the technical engagement team, and OCTO in general provide support to the GSE team in many regard. We, in addition to all the research work that the office of the CTO does, we provide capacity building, capacity development, and some more DNS oriented analysis on the ground. We have launched about a year ago, a new initiative, which is KINDNS. Some of you may have heard about that, which is slowly becoming the overall umbrella of our engagements in the different region. KINDNS is an initiative that promotes DNS secure operation best practices. It's cover all the different components of the DNS operation and provides it of best practices that operator can follow. We say it's the umbrella of our engagement because most of the requests of engagement we receive, particularly from Africa region, are related to DNS operation, but more specifically on DNSSEC and DNS validation. Both are part of KINDNS best practices, for instance. I am also pleased to announce that starting this week, actually, we have added a new person to the African team, Simon Mayoye. He joined the technical engagement team to work with Yazid. He will be based in Nairobi and focus mostly on East and South Africa in terms of

engagement. Both of them also support the Middle East GSE team, so they have a very wide area of support.

One of the things that we really would like to see more from the community is that currently, and in the past, ICANN has been very active engaging with ccTLD and DNSSEC signing in general. But you may have noticed that we also start engaging more actively with ISP as well because signing is one aspect of DNSSEC deployment, but validation is another aspect of it, which we haven't touched on for a long time. You will see more and more requests from the team to engage with ISPs, to engage with local NOGs, to engage with mobile operators because we know as well that mobile operators play a significant role in internet service in the region. So one of our goal is to be able to bridge that gap and bring mobile operators, ISPs, into our regular and routine engagement when it comes to DNS operation, but more specifically, DNSSEC validation.

The team is also very active supporting Paul, Pierre, and his team on the Coalition for Digital Africa as well. We are leading two tracks, the DNSSEC Roadshow and the ccTLD program. More the DNSSEC Roadshow, we will talk about that. So if there is anything around those initiatives, those activities, or any other related to the office of the CTO, do not hesitate. You can talk to me directly or with Yazid, who you all know, who will be more than happy. Is Yazid around? Okay, he's not yet here. He will be more than happy to support you and provide you all the information that you need. Thank you.

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- PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, Adiel, and indeed, Yazid, and I will say the whole technical engagement team are really assisting, and you'll be seeing them here and there in Africa. Before we go to Patrick, let me recognize Catherine. Catherine is, well, not officially. Should I say that? I should not be saying anyway, but she will be sitting on the board, but she managed to find a few minutes to come here to meet us.
- CATHERINE ADEYA: Yeah, hi, a number of you were asking if I was coming for this meeting, and as Pierre says, my name is Catherine Adeya. I'm the incoming board, new board member, board number 14, is it called 14? But I'm actually officially going to be seated on Thursday. So governance-wise, that's why I'm not in some of the meetings, and I'm going through onboarding, so it's not that I wanted to ignore the meeting, but governance-wise, I'll be sitting on Thursday. So I'm the incoming board member. Thank you very much.
- PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, Catherine, and welcome to this community. Now, yes, Patrick's now going to also make the remarks. Please, Patrick, please, yes.
- PATRICK JONES: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Patrick Jones, vice president for global stakeholder engagement at ICANN, and I work across all of our regions, supporting our different efforts, including efforts in Pierre's region. I see some familiar faces who were at our Africa Engagement Forum in Ghana earlier this year, and it's wonderful to have you here at Hamburg for

ICANN 78 and to be here for the Africa space. So this is an important platform for the global stakeholder engagement team in Africa to be able to report back on the key projects and initiatives that we have underway, and I know they will be providing an update of the work of the Coalition for Digital Africa, as well as where we are with the Africa DNS study, the DNSSEC Roadshow, and other efforts, including the ICANN Managed Root Server deployment effort in the region.

I want to use this as an opportunity to encourage you to join us tomorrow, if you have the time, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM, and then there'll be a break for half an hour, and from 10:30 to 12:30, and I believe it is in this room, is an effort to collect input from the community on ICANN's next five-year strategic plan. So this is trying to collect as much views of where the organization and what the internet landscape may look like from our fiscal year 2026 to 2030, and it seems like a long way off, but really, that will begin for ICANN about 18 months from now. So the input from the Africa community and from this region is gonna be very important to shaping the work of ICANN's priorities going forward. So I encourage you to join us tomorrow morning, and there'll be other opportunities to shape inputs into our strategic planning process going forward. I think, Pierre, I'll stop there, and thank you for the opportunity to join you today. Thanks.

PIERRE DANDJINO:

Thank you very much, Patrick, and I would like to also say that we'll just move straight forward to updating you, and reminding you also that we only have 60 minutes. Unfortunately, the experience with our Africa space is one hour is not sufficient most of the time, especially when

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we've planned for questions and answers part of the whole thing. They always tell me that you guys talk too much in Africa, but it's about morality here. Sorry about that. So with that in favor, do I would like to let Yaovi and [Mariana] take us through the rest of the agenda. So who's that?

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you very much. So for people joining remotely, we have all the three languages for the session, so we're going to do a reaching on time. So my colleague, Mariana, will start, and then we'll have two partners, Association of African Universities and ISOC, who also will come in before Mariana continue, but for now, Mariana, over to you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Yaovi. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm happy to be here with you again, give an update about the Coalition for Digital Africa. Next slide, please. I'm a program director at ICANN, and one of my roles is helping out, it's like I'm the role of a program manager of the Coalition for Digital Africa on the ICANN side. Many of you guys have heard already about the coalition, but I'm gonna give a quick update for those who are not familiar with us. The coalition is an alliance of global and regional organizations that are committed to expanding internet access in the region, and support the development of Africa's digital economy. So what we really believe that's working together, we can achieve more than we would have been achieving individually, and when everybody talks to me about the coalition, say, "So what is it about?" Like, "Why are we doing this?" It's like really pushing us to bring the partners together and solve the issues together, and putting our resources and

say, "What we can do differently this time?" And it's only been a year, but we already seen a lot of this coming to life. Next slide, please.

The coalition has three areas of focus. One is robust DNS infrastructure. So it's really looking into securing the stability of the DNS, and strengthening the infrastructure, and enhancing security stability. The second pillar is meaningful connectivity, where we are fostering multilingualism and encouraging local content and development in Africa. And the third pillar is capacity development. That we're looking into equipping the workforce with skills and knowledge necessary to participate in the multi-stakeholder model in internet governance. Next slide, please.

So currently, we have several partners there with us. Since last time, we have joined the coalition we have two new partners, which is like Smart Africa and LUSNIC, the Portuguese speaking associations of ccTLDs. But I would also like to acknowledge all the partners that we have so far, the Association of African Universities, AFNIC, AFNOG, AfricaCERT, FTLD, ATU, ITU, ISOC, NSRC.

So this is really not about ICANN, and even though it started as ICANN, as an initial initiative, we are creating a steering committee within the coalition. So the decisions that we make in the coalition moving forward really belongs to this group and other, you know, it's like to the coalition itself. So, can we move to the next slide, please? Thank you.

I also wanted to, before like going to the specifics of the projects, acknowledge what we have accomplished so far. We have around six different projects, and we're growing. And we already go, it's like having activities in 22 countries. Last time we talked about this in the African



Engagement Forum we were like with a gating country. So every time we are growing and we really wish, like we really hope to have activities in all different countries very, it's like in the near future. Please, next slide.

And with that, I would like to move to provide an overview of our current projects and I'd like to invite AAU, [inaudible] to present on one of our projects about universal acceptance in universities in the region.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: [inaudible] can we take from there, please?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, please, I'll be presenting. Thank you. My name is [inaudible]. I'm with the Association of African Universities and I'm doing this presentation on behalf of Ms. [inaudible], Director of ICT Services, Communication and Knowledge Management at AAU. This presentation is on the universal acceptance and email address internationalization, readiness and academic institution projects.

I'd like to give a brief overview of AAU. AAU is a university association with member institutions all around Africa. AAU provides a forum for cooperation and exchange of information on higher educational research policies. AAU's vision is to be the leading advocate for higher education in Africa. The capacity to provide support for its member institution in meeting national, continental and global needs. AAU has 421 member universities all around Africa. It's continental offices across Africa.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Sorry to stop you. Can you go a bit slower for interpretation? Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, sorry. So AAU's vision is to be the leading advocate for higher education in Africa. The capacity to provide support for its member institutions in meeting national, continental and global needs. AAU has 421 member universities with continental offices across the world. It is headquartered in Accra, Ghana.

The universal acceptance and email address international readiness in academic institution project aims to increase the number of higher education institutions in Africa that are UA mainly to at least 200 by June 2025. Universal acceptance, when we ask what UA is, universal acceptance ensures that all domain names including new top level domain names and international domain names are treated equally and can be accessed by all devices. UA is particularly relevant in Africa as the most linguistically diverse continent. Ghana, for example, has over 80 languages and across Africa, there are about 2000 languages. However, as of 2022, Africa had the lowest UA readiness rates compared to other regions. It is estimated that less than 2% of higher education institutions in Africa are UA compliant.

The UA project has four objectives. The first one is to evaluate the UA readiness of AAU members, create a baseline and support remediation efforts. The second objective is to create awareness of and develop capacity for UA within academic institution. The third objective is to offer information to higher education institutions to incorporate UA and

international domain names into the academic curriculum. The fourth objective is to encourage higher education and research institutions to participate in the work of the universal acceptance steering group. In evaluating the UA readiness, there was a baseline test. Big thanks to Mr. Yaovi, Mr. [inaudible] and Professor Sarmad who assisted us with the baseline test. AAU has four and 21 member universities. Out of this number, 54 are compliant with 367 pending. Out of this number, there are a few who are partially compliant. Some have email compliance and website compliance. 88 universities have email compliance with 227 having website compliance. The goal of the UA project is to ensure that all member universities, or 200, have full compliance, are fully UA ready.

In creating awareness of UA and developing capacity and offering information to incorporate UA in academic curricula, the following activities were pursued. In March, we joined the UA Day celebration. It was held on 28th March at AU in Accra, Ghana. It was a hybrid event which had 48 participants from seven higher education institutions. The virtual participants were 153 from 129 universities across Africa. Students there were able to create awareness of the UA across Africa.

In April, 14th April, a day after the official launch of the project in Ghana, there was a first technical workshop held at the AAU Secretariat. This workshop was for university ICT directors and system administrators. We had 43 participants, 11 universities participating, and two governmental agencies, being the National Communication Authority and the [inaudible].

In July, we had a second technical workshop, which was a pre-conference workshop. This workshop was to cater for the universities

in the southern zone. It was held for university ICT directors and had 26 participants from, with 26 universities participating. To offer information to incorporate UA in our academic curricula, there was an introduction of UA during the conference of directors, vice chancellors, and presidents of African universities, which shortly starts with COREVIP. COREVIP is a flagship event, which brings on board all reps of member institutions to participate in decision-making.

We have some upcoming activities scheduled for the year, the remaining year and then the upcoming year. Workshops have been held in Accra and in Windhoek, Namibia for the southern zone. The observations plan for the Afro-Arab countries zones. The French speaking zones and then reducing workshops for our member universities. We also have workshops planned for head of departments and deans. This is in line with ensuring that UA is incorporated into the curricula. We are partners with ICANN, of course, and then under the Coalition for Digital Africa banner. This is a short overview of the UA project so far and I'm ready for questions and answers. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you very much, Abdul, for the presentation. This is one of four people following us, one of the project and you reported that the objective is to have the academia UA ready and also curricula. So we have another partner who briefly in four, five minutes, he want to share with us what currently they are doing with this as project in this Coalition for Digital Africa. So Jean Baptiste Millogo from ISOC, if you are ready, please over to you.

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JEAN BAPTISTE MILLOGO: Thanks, Yaovi. Good morning, bonsoir, tout le monde. I'm Jean Baptiste, I'm working from Internet Society as Director of Internet Technology and Development, most focused on African region. And I'm also in charge of the operational part of the deployment of IXP in partnership with ICANN through Coalition of Digital Africa. Next, please.

So basically, as most of you may know, we are trying to bring data more closely to the user. So we just mean that working on development of IXP in several country in Africa, the most targets is to facilitate, to bring data closer to the user, to make internet more accessible and also more easier. So what we are doing here through what we call sustainable infrastructure at Internet Society, we have a call of application open to all African region, all global region. And through this call for application, all African country are able to apply. And for this year, we have received several application and we target through this Coalition for Africa and this partnership with ICANN is to provide five IXP by 2025. And for this year, our focus is to deliver two IXP into selected country after review and selection in Benin and Malawi. And for those country, we have a kind of activity I will develop further. Next, please.

So for Benin, as you may know, there was some initiative, IXP initiative long time ago in Benin, but for some reason, this community was not growing. So through our partnership with ICANN, we will provide a several kind of thing to Benin community. One of them will be to improve the technical infrastructure itself by providing equipment support. And apart of that, we know that the community is one of the key thing to have a strong IXP community. So for Benin, we have a planning workshop with all Benin stockholder and community to work together to have a good understand on what is the IXP, what is the value

add for the community, what are the key thing we can do to improve the government, the governance of the community, and also how to work together with all the community to have a sustainable plan of this IXP we are supporting during this revamp. So same also for Malawi, but in another perspective, for Malawi, you may know we do have an existing IXP in Baltyre in Malawi, but we know that this internet community in Malawi is growing. So we are supporting them to develop from scratch a new IXP through this partnership in Lilongwe. So this will permit to improve, I would say, internet ecosystem itself in Malawi, but also providing better internet to this community. Next, please.

So apart of those two key thing we are working on for this year, at Internet Society, we are also providing, I would call, an area where African community can come and discuss on an idea or innovation about IXP through African sharing and interconnection forum. And for next year, working with AfrAX, which is the African Internet Association, we'll try to have another AfPIF event in Kinshasa, but it's also an opportunity for ISOC to have a kind of handover of AfPIF organization to AfrAX, so to African community.

The last thing, we have also some capacity building. And as I was talking in the beginning, we have a funding program open to every country in Africa. You just need to go to ISOC Foundation website, apply, and we'll go through the selection process. And if you win the funding, so we'll come to you for support for deployment part. Next, please.

So, as you may know, in the beginning, we talked that we are trying to bring data closer to the users. So we are trying to bring more traffic locally, and we need also to be able to bring relevant thing in relevant

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area to have a kind of measurement of what are the current situation. So for this initiative, we do need your support for measurements, and you can join us to support us to know better your environment, your country, your community, and maybe bring more value on your community. So that's all as update from ISOC that regarding this initiative. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you very much, Jean Baptiste. We would like you to stay online because we may have some questions from the participant. But before we open for questions, our colleague, Mariana, is going to make a brief summary of the ODA initiative or project. So she will try to do that in 10 minutes for us so that we have time to interact. So Mariana, over to you.

MARIANA MARINHO:

Thank you. So we have another five projects that I'd like to go through very briefly. One of them is to increase the resiliency of the internet in Africa, where we're installing ICANN managed root servers infrastructure. We have already installed one IMRS cluster in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2022. And just now in October, early this month, we have another installation deployed in Cairo, Egypt. We will be presenting the impact of this latest installation in our next opportunity with the community. And these are very exciting developments. But we're not stopping there. We are working to continue, it's like looking how we can continue to improve the IMRS infrastructure in the region and looking how we can support adoption and replacement of IMRS single instances across 10 different countries in Africa. More to come on this in the next couple months, please. Next slide, please.

Another project that we have, and many of you have been involved in providing data is the Africa Market DNS Study. The study's been conducted by PowerSoft Africa. And we are targeting a public comment period of the draft final report for December, January this year. So stay tuned, we'll be having a webinar to present the draft report. And that will be an opportunity for you to provide your input. And also we'll have the regular public comment proceedings for input. And the final report will be available in March, next year.

For the DNSSEC roadshows, as Adiel mentioned, we're looking to increase the DNS security extensions adoption and deployment in 15 countries by June 2025. We already had, this is a partnership with ATU and ICANN. We have delivered already two workshops in Botswana and Burkina Faso. We're working with the ccTLDs in the country for the signing of DNSSEC. And we also had applications open for other ccTLDs that want to participate in this program. We will be announcing the selected ccTLDs right now in November. So stay tuned, more information about that. And as you can see, we have two, 13 more to go by June 2025, a lot of work ahead of us. Next one, please.

Another project that we have in partnership with AFTLD, ITU, AFNIC, N SRC is capacity development of ccTLD registries where we are working to enhance the capacity of 10 ccTLDs in the region. This project was first announced in June 2022. We have selected the 10 ccTLDs that you can see on the slide. We have conducted a needs assessment with them. And this needs assessment was led by our project partner, AFTLD. And AFTLD is leading the implementation along with the partners of the capacity development activities. And we have a lot of activities coming up between December and June 2024. Next one, please.



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And lastly, we have another project to expand top-level domain performance monitoring in the region where we deployed two new monitoring probes nodes for ICANN service level agreement monitoring systems in Africa and enhance the SLAM probe network. So one of the probes was in Lagos, another one in Nigeria, another one in Cairo, Egypt, and now we have a total of three probes in the region. Thank you and I'll let it pass to Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINO:

Thank you very much, Mariana, and thanks for our partners in Ghana and also Burkina Faso that were able to quickly brief us on what we are doing. So as you see, it's about the coalition. It's not just about ICANN. We are actually trying to push a kind of movement which is about promoting what we are calling the inclusive internet and also what we are calling having a meaningful connectivity. Meaningful connectivity in Africa is all about strengthening the infrastructure that we do have there. But of course, as ICANN and the remit is much more about the DNS, DNS security, those things. But we do let other partners take care of what they are able to be doing and what's joining forces and eventual resources could certainly yield to more important results. Of course, capacity development is key here and we are working with ccTLD registries and we are also thinking to be launching something for the registrars, you know, registrar in Africa. So more to come, that's what I wanted to say. But then maybe let's give ourselves 15 minutes for any questions you may have and we are here to provide clarifications and answers, and yeah, that's going to be what I call the most important part of this meeting which is listening to you and making sure that your views and suggestions or whatever, you know, are taken into account.

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So thanks so much and then, great. So how do we manage this? Oh, okay.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Oh, okay, thank you. We can take maybe five questions. The first round we take five questions. Maybe people at the back, we still have space there. So I just take your question, we just take the questions and then the first round, so please go ahead. Your name and then the question briefly. One minute maximum.

HOUDA CHIH: Hello everyone, thank you so much for this great presentation. Is there some initiatives to improve connectivity in low income countries, especially who suffers from electricity problems? Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you. [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Slide 28, I think there might be an error on the partners. Is it AFNIC or AFRINIC? AFNIC, it is, okay, thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, [inaudible]. We have two hands there. We get the question and here we'll respond to them.

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**TIDJANI MAHAMAT ADOUM:** My question is linked to something that we talked earlier. I saw AFNIC and not AFRINIC on the slide. So I was wondering in this coalition, doesn't AFRINIC have a role to play? And I know just like you, we all have a problem with this institution. But sometimes I ask myself a question, why is it up to date? We can't ask the community, internet community members in Africa, can we solve the problem? Why can't we solve the problem? And the fact that AFRINIC is not on this, is not part of this coalition, I think it's a problem because internet is for the addresses before domain name, first we need an address before we get a domain name. So the fact that AFRINIC is under sanction means that it doesn't participate to the activities for the coalition in Africa. I believe it's not a good approach and we have to review our position on that. And if not, we need to find out why.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I want to know about ALS in our country. Where do we have, who do we have to contact if we want to set up a new ALS? What are the dates? I know we, I saw 10 countries on the slide. How do we do it to be integrated inside one country?

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** My name is [inaudible] Chad. I'm Director of Domain Name and IP Address. I work for the Communication and Technology in Chad. We in Chad have deployed the ASISP with PCH and we are trying to develop IXP, but we have a hard time to find the management model for this IXP because the [FAI] are a bit negative because it's governmental. It is an entity that is under the umbrella of the ministry. This agency deployed the IXP, so the FAI are a little bit not helpful for us. We would like to put

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together a business model as we are trying to make sure that all users of the internet can join the IXP in order to be a benefit for the population in Chad. We are thanking the coalition in Africa for the work that has been done, and we would like to know who we can contact in order to advance in setting our IXP, but also for our DNSSEC, but I will talk to you as when it comes to DNSSEC.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: We have two questions from our online participants, so my colleague June will read the two questions for us before we hand over to Pierre.

JUNE OKAL: Benjamin Akinmoyeje and Wisdom Donkor, the two hands that were raised in the room.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Benjamin, over to you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. I wanted to ask that, first of all, the project for the coalition, are they strictly technical? And if they are, I just want to know if they are just technical interventions. The other question is, how can members of the community in their various location support the different coalition initiatives, and if there's probably any calendar that can let us know? Case in point, in a place like Namibia, there was no need for resources for someone like me. I could just walk up to the place because I was present when the event happened, and I could mobilize people in the

university that I was in. So maybe that was something we could consider.

So my next question would be, so far after this intervention, because I know we're advocating for, I in our community, advocating for more academic participation, have we started seeing any fruits or any results from the last engagement in this? Have we started seeing, and what can we start learning quickly from the interventions we have made so far? Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you. We have the last question for this round, the last question, and then we have responses.

JUNE OKAL:

Okay, so online, it's similar to what Benjamin just asked from Dr. Jabhera Matogoro in Tanzania. When should individual local community expect to collaborate with a coalition apart from those in the membership?

CHUMA AKANA:

My question is, what is the coalition for digital Africa doing about the new gTLD round of applications? Like how are we trying to ensure that there's very active participation from people in Africa?

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YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you. So we hand over to Pierre, and then he has the questions, and Mariana and the other partners are here to respond. So we hand over to Pierre. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you, Yaovi, and thank you for your question and observations. Of course, definitely on the issue about AFRINIC, obviously there are many streams there where AFRINIC should be a member. In fact, before you are a member, you should be there as sort of prerequisite. For instance, you have to sign up what we call the guiding principles. You need to abide by those principles before you are a member. If you have to sign, eventually, any agreement with you, all of this really counter. But if you want to do that, well, your institution, of course, need to have its governance model in such a way that we should be dealing with whoever is responsible or is in charge. And that's the case we are facing with AFRINIC right now. Who is going to sign any agreement for us? If you still have to deal with the governance issue and appoint directors and also appoint a CEO. So you understand why you are not seeing AFRINIC here for those reasons. But of course, definitely AFRINIC has its place in this coalition.

You also, there was a question about how do we get one of those MRS, not necessarily cluster, because cluster are much more sort of a combination of so many servers there. But each country, of course, and a few of them in Africa already have what you are calling the single MRS. So that one is quite open. We are launching a new project, yes, on this MRS, single in Africa, at least for 10 countries. We are working on that. And certainly you hear about it. And if you are interested, please go for

it. Chad has a question, just on ISP, madam. Definitely, and in fact, when it comes to Africa, the whole issue boils down to capacity development. That's why it is key here in terms of our work stream. The project we have now is about ccTLDs, but definitely we know that we should broaden the scope and have more on that. And the ISPs also are part of it, and the registrar, all of them. And definitely one of the, okay, I'm already jumping to the lesson learned, because we launched this coalition, what's less than a year. But that gave us an opportunity to really discuss with so many partners, at least 12 that you saw there. And boils down to the processes. Although this is an ICANN sort of launch project, and we are in it for three years, we do have a budget for that for two years at least. But the point here is to be able to mobilize your partnership, because this is not a fund that you just come in and then get money and then go for your projects. If any institution also is ready to share resources, all of this is welcome. So that's one thing I would like to stress forward. It's not just about ICANN putting whatever resources there. It's also about having the coalition do the job.

So definitely in terms of business model, for instance, which is quite important. We noticed that, maybe I shouldn't be the one saying this, but when it comes to ccTLDs, for instance, most of those that we are having, the way the management is much more sort of conservative way of doing things. But then when we went through the assessment, most of them came up and said, well, we don't do any promotion of those things. We don't know how to do promotion of those things. But then we do have partners now who are ready to help us conduct sort of promotion and marketing, you know, aspects of covering, marketing aspect of all of this. So definitely we take note on your request and we'll

be doing something. One or two more and then I will just let our partners respond or whoever is in the room to respond to that.

Yes, the question about whether this is only for technical sort of interventions, not necessarily. And that question, also we heard it many time. When are you going to have civil society be part of this thing? University, we already started. There is a project there. So when you mean civil society, I will say now. We are really open to whoever can really help move the process. But the way it comes is quite straightforward. We need to be clear about, say, not a discussion paper, but what exactly do we want to do with you? So all of these six or seven projects you saw here, they didn't just come because someone, no, you have to write down. And we have to agree to a kind of project framework. So we are quite, we know exactly why we are doing this. The vision is there, the objectives are there. And also, what are the activities we want to conduct? Who, what are the role and responsibilities of all of these? Of course, and outcomes. Yeah, and then outcome. To be frank with you, I don't know whether there's any ICANN management here, but we need to deliver. It's not just about talking. It's about delivering things that are going to move to a kind of, you know, what we are calling connectivity, which is meaningful connectivity in Africa. So we talk about the languages, we talk about the UA, the ISPs. We are going to go through all of this, but depending on what the partners have. So yes, civil society has its role, but we need to work together on that, okay? So we are not excluding anyone. With that, I think I covered.



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YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Yeah, thank you, Pierre. We have the two partners, ISOC and AAU, who have something to say about the questions, but we just take two, three questions before we give to them, because we have maximum four minutes to close the session. So 30 seconds for each question, 30 seconds. So we have one question, at the back. One there, and then we have a remote participant. So we take all these questions. We have ISOC and AAU contribute, and then Pierre will be closing the session. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Thank you, good afternoon. My name is [inaudible] from Ghana. I like Pierre's final words, because it kind of brings to bear my worry. Right now, I'm worried about the youth, okay? I don't know the CSR for ICANN. I don't know if they have any corporate social responsibilities. Yes, so I propose that there is an establishment called ICANN Foundation, which will be responsible for the CSR and work hand in hand with educational departments or ministries in the various governments, because the governments are running their own show, and the children are growing up in their own corners, staying on the internet and doing whatever they want. But if ICANN takes a leadership role and works with the government, internet in schools will be a priority. So many schools don't have internet access, and we are expecting the children in Africa to compete with the Western world, with Asia. Without internet, we are joking. And if ICANN wants to see the growth of internet in Africa, then we must put our hands where our mouths are going. Just like Pierre said, it's not just talking. It has to be action. I am an action woman. I like action. So when we are talking, let's add action to it. Thank you very much.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you very much. He mentioned deliver, and you mentioned action. That is very good. Just one question for Seun. 30 seconds, Seun, and then we hand over to AAU and ISOC before Pierre closes the session. Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes, thank you. I think [inaudible] was asking about the ALSes. For the sake of time, we can talk about that later after this session. But I also want to use this opportunity to invite everyone to a session tomorrow. The AFRALO-AfrICANN session will hold tomorrow at the ALAC room. I think it's at 3:00. So please, let's enable to attend. And of course, [inaudible] questions will also be answered as well. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you very much, Seun. So we give now the microphone to [inaudible] from AAU, because the question was about the academia. One of the questions. [inaudible] please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think I heard the question properly, but I would like to say the project that we're implementing is an excellent example of how we are really acting to be able to resolve some of the problems concerning internet access. I think the academia form a very large part of our community. And by engaging them, building their capacities and making sure that the systems are compliant, we believe that spreading internet would really emanate from the work that we are doing to

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resolve some of the hurdles that make people not have access and that make people not communicate in their own languages and actually participate on an equal footing. Thank you very much, Yaovi, and thank you for the opportunity to collaborate. [inaudible] do you have anything to say?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, please, except to thank [inaudible] for making this possible.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Yeah, thank you very much. So we want to ensure our colleague in the interpretation and technical team that we apologize for the extra time. Maximum in two minutes, three minutes will be done. So I want to give the microphone to ISOC to contribute and then we'll hand over to the vice president, Pierre Dandjinou. So Jean Baptiste, over to you.

JEAN BAPTISTE MILLOGO: Thanks, Yaovi. I think there is one question from our friend in chat, so I will reply them in French. Yes, thank you for pointing out the governance model. Because if I understand correctly, the technical equipment is covered. Now it's important to know that the success here depends on the governance model that you choose. I saw in the chat, what's important here, it's to bring the different actors together, public and private, and then to have them decide on the legal course to take. Some will choose an association or another legal status, but you have to bring all actors together, all players together in one place, and then you define one model that you choose. And all stakeholders can speak as one. And no one has more weight than anybody else. So the

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organization cannot be led by a government organization, because that can give rise to some tension. So you need an open model, maybe an association, as we said, for all your members. And then if you need support, we've already helped some of the entities in your country. So you can definitely contact me. We can work together, and we'll find the right model for you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How to develop internet in Cairo, where we have power issues. So maybe I would say that my suggestion here is maybe to check how to develop some alternative solution of power. Somewhere we can use solar system. We can also try to choose some equipment where we are not consuming high power, because some of the time we need to take into consideration hardware capacity. But we can also, when there is a connectivity available, we can also try to develop IXP there, because most of the service will be delivery in country. It can provide maybe a better when the capacity is there. So I think we need to think about alternative in terms of energy source, but also try to bring in country some alternative solution as IXP. If this is something interests you, just ping me after the call. We can also support you in developing better. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you very much. So we have a lot of active contribution from the chat also, but I want to hand over to Pierre Dandjinou before we close the session. Pierre, over to you for the closing.

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PIERRE DANDJINO:

Do you hand it over to me to close, or we just having another sort of minutes? No, I don't think we do have much of this. We normally have issue with the time that we have to spend here. We only have one hour now, and then we do have interpretation there, so we should not be abusing from them. I would just say thank you very much for your question. We heard so many things and words here. You mentioned actions, which is great, yeah. We are talking about deliverables. It's important for us. Whoever comes with this project is not going to be just talking. It's not about talking. It's about seeing, I mean, how are we going to transform this continent? But ICANN is in it for just its remit, which is about the DNS. But if it's about joining forces with others who have kind of other remit, meaning, for instance, the schools that you were saying, why not? We are open to that. But of course, we will be still staying within our remit. With that, thanks so much. For additional information, you do have our website, it's kind of new. You have the link. You can go there. Much information there. Also, whom you have to contact to get more information, and engage, because it's also about engaging with us. So thanks very much. As I said, there are also other possibility for us, other sessions, the AFRALO-AfrICANN tomorrow. Good. We also have other forum. Big question we are having, some of them can also go to the, if you wish, the public forum. So thank again for that. And have a nice sort of ICANN presentation.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**