
ICANN83 | PF – Africa Space
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MAGALE JEAN

Hello and welcome to The Africa Space. My name is Magali Jean and I'm a participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-harassment Policy. During this session, questions or comments will be read aloud if submitted within the chat.

Interpretation for this session will include English and French. 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. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English, and speak at a reasonable pace. I will now hand the floor over to Pierre Dandjinou. Thank you, Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you very much, Magali, and very good morning to everyone. And thanks for your time and for coming to our Africa session during this ICANN83. As usual, of course, what we do here is report back to you on a few activities that we conducted over the year and also listen to you because whatever we do in Africa to support the digitization agenda, it has to come from you in terms of your

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requests, in terms of what you think that we should be actually delivering on the ground. So, thank you very much for coming here.

I suspect we are not waiting for anyone else in terms of-- Magali, is Yaovi--? He is there. Okay. So, a pleasure, of course, to be here again and again, to also thank our MVTs that are going to also make a few remarks. On my right, he's Mr. Lancina Kone, whom now you know, CEO of Smart Africa. He's been to now many of our meetings? He's becoming quite popular here. Welcome and thanks so much for that. And, of course, our own Sally. We should not introduce Sally. Sally is really supportive and is always with us here. And also, I would have Catherine Adeya, Board member. Welcome to all. They'll be delivering their few remarks and to launch activities.

I think as far as we are concerned, when I mean we, I mean the Africa GSE staff in Africa, there were a few things that we were able to do most of the time because you've been there as the community. And the good thing is that we did have a project, as we call it, the CDA, the Coalition for Digital Africa, which has a few flagship projects. We are going to report back on those. They are making some differences. We are seeing the impact in Africa. And we do have this new gTLD program, for instance, which we did conduct a few outreach in the different places. We'll be reporting certainly back on that. I see Bob Ochieng around. He's been in charge of all of these things.

And to also say that that's quite timely, timely for us to be reporting back to you on a few things. And also reflecting on the next steps that we're having. You supported us in developing the Africa Strategy document, which is aligned with ICANN's one as well. And thank you again for the public comments that came in. All the comments have been summarized now. We can, of course, again discuss those in terms of your recommendation later on. So, thanks for all of this. And without any further ado, I would like to hand over to, or going to be, Lancina Kone for his few remarks to us. And thank you again.

LANCINA KONE

Thank you very much, Pierre, for these warm introductions. ICANN Vice Chair, of course, for Africa Stakeholder Engagements, Leadership of ICANN here, all ICANN constituencies, partners of international organizations, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for this opportunity, opportunity for us to be here today to share the progress achieved by Smart Africa and also to contribute to the strategic reflections of for the 2026-2030 ICANN Action Plan.

Since the signing of our partnership agreement with your organizations on the sideline of ICANN81 in Istanbul, a framework and the roadmap for internet governance have been established. Since then, Smart Africa has made a significant stride and we are pleased with the strong collaborations we enjoy, particularly with the Coalition for Digital Africa, CDA. As you are aware, beyond the

joint capacity building activities we are undertaking, we are working on the development of a master plan for internet governance. A foundational document that will define strategic pillars to strengthen Africa's digital sovereignty.

It addresses several key themes related to the management of critical internet resources, with a view to achieving more holistic and intensified coordination across our continent. This need for stronger coordination let us to initiate the creations of the Council of African Internet Governance Authority, CAIGA, a body designed to coordinate Africa's common position on major internet governance issues. A draft constitution and standard operating procedure have been already developed and are currently under review. I take this opportunity here to warmly invite you all to join us later today in room Small Theater for the working group session that will address this topic, as well as the progress made on the blueprint.

Dear friends, we are proud to be here with you and wish to further strengthen these collaborations, especially within the framework of the coalition, which is already engaged in addressing key challenges that we're having. These challenges include, among others, DNS resilience, a critical issue that underscores the importance of your continued commitment, particularly given the current fragile context on the continent concerning the management of key assets such as AFRINIC, our regional internet registry.

In this regard, Smart Africa continues to lead high-level actions in accordance with the guidance from our heads of state, as expressed during the Board of Directors meeting held in April 2023 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. As we approach the AFRINIC election schedule for June 23rd, 2025, Smart Africa is taking the necessary steps, alongside all stakeholders, to support the urgent reform needed to ensure long-term sovereignty of our continent responsibly and ethically.

We are pleased to note ICANN's statement, which was issued on the 5th of June, on the need for transparency for the upcoming election. We therefore call on the entire African community here to maintain active and coordinated engagement on this issue. AFRINIC is our common good. Its recovery and stabilization must remain a collective priority.

To ICANN, allow me to commend you for the work already accomplished and the initiative plan under your strategic plan which we have reviewed with interest, a lot of interest. In this spirit, and with the permissions, we would like to offer a few recommendations to strengthen our synergy in the years ahead. Number one, explicitly support Africa's multilateral mechanisms, such as the CAIGA or future continental agencies for cybersecurity and data governance in your upcoming strategic action. Number two, prioritize the investments in infrastructure such as ISPs, regional CDNs, and root DNS solutions to keep African traffic within Africa currently less than 25%. Number three, and final, promote equitable and resilient access by extending the digital inclusion

pillar to cover infrastructure resilience by climate challenges, cybersecurity, service continuity, and local content development for a digital circular economy.

Dear friends, to conclude, I invite you all to mark your calendar for the next Transform Africa Summit, which will take place from 22 to 24 July in 2025 in Kigali, which is our flagship summit and conference. It will be a great opportunity for us to showcase our progress in standing African alliances around a sovereignty, inclusive, and sustainable digital future. And I thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you very much CEO of Smart Africa for your words. Now we'll be listening to Catherine Adeya. Catherine, please.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you, Pierre, the CEO, Smart Africa, Sally here, and all participants here. I asked my wonderful AI what the Africa Space is at ICANN. Sometimes I'm curious how people understand it, because yesterday I met quite a few new people to ICANN. And it's said that the African Space at ICANN refers to ICANN's engagement with the African continent and its stakeholders, and it's aimed at increasing the participation in ICANN. And that's my hope. And actually, it goes very well with what the CEO of Smart Africa has said. Even having Smart Africa here and all the other activities you're going to hear about is what ICANN's engagement is all about.

As an ICANN Board member, I'm very honored to share this space with you. The agenda, as Pierre said, is always topical to issues we are discussing in the boardroom. For example, today there's a focus on the regional internet registries, the RIR Governance document. And this is a document that aims to update ICP-2 criteria for the establishment of the new regional internet registries. We are going to also receive updates on the great work that's being done by the Coalition for Digital Africa. And as we come to the close of the fiscal year, and it's been a very busy year for ICANN and even for the Board, I would encourage you to take time to review the new strategic plan as well and the five-year regional plan, because all these are going to come to the Board also at a point, the five-year regional plan.

I was thinking, what can I do? I was thinking, what would the CEO of Smart Africa say, what would Sally say? So, I thought maybe I'll take this opportunity to end with a good African proverb, or saying, and so I went back again-- I'm a researcher by profession, by the way. I decided to play around and look for, are there any proverbs or African sayings that align with the internet and internet governance? So, I found a few interesting ones. There are people who are always searching. Allow me to conclude by using some of them.

So, one of them is from the Ewe of Ghana, and they say the wicked spider weaves its web in secret, emphasizing the importance of secrecy and caution in protecting one's online assets. Another one is from the Yoruba of Nigeria. An ant does not fail in its duty, even

in the hardest of times. This promotes persistence and determination. And they say it's in securing a system against cyber threats. But I'm thinking it's actually very appropriate, even though what we're discussing on AFRINIC and everything else. An ant does not fail in its duty, even in the hardest of times. Think about it.

And I'll conclude with just one or two more, allow me, unless you have these proverbs, because I was pleasantly surprised this morning. A bird does not build its nest on a tree that does not bear fruit. This is from the Wolof of Senegal. It's advising caution when using public networks or connecting to unfamiliar sources that could expose your personal information. This aligns with cyber security. It's in the African Proverbs.

And the final one, which I think is very appropriate for us in the Africa Space, and even as we go ahead, a single stick may smoke, but it will not burn. Again, this is from Ghana. It's highlighting the power of collective effort in creating a secure network and in defending against cyberattacks. But for me, it's highlighting a power of collective effort in Africa. We are one. We have work to do. Welcome to the Africa Space and wishing you all good deliberations for today and for the rest of your time in Prague.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you, Catherine, for those words. Well, should I say those are proverbs? It's quite interesting. We might need to have more time for you to unpack all of these to us. You were talking about Anansi, that one, I understand, from Ghana. It's about a spider, and it's so

dangerous. So, thanks so much for that. Now I'll hand over to Sally, and Sally will be giving her remarks to us. Thanks so much, Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON

Thank you. Wow. Thank you, Catherine. It's making my head spin. Lovely to see you again. Wonderful to be here. Always. This is a highlight of my time at ICANN meetings. And the last time I think I saw you, I just stepped out of the CEO seat. And in fact, when I was in the CEO seat, I was with my wonderful colleague here, Nancy Nair. And in the spirit of partnership, I'll tell you a tiny story.

So, we didn't know each other before this. This was the first time we met. And it was a formal kind of meeting. You will all have seen this when two organization leaders come together to sign a formal MOU. But if I may say this, I think we just, in English, we say we clicked the minute we met. I don't know why. Sometimes it happens, sometimes it doesn't. But anyway, it did.

And we don't know each other. We have very different backgrounds, but we just connected to the extent that one of my proudest possessions, and you know what I'm going to say, don't you? Was that he took his UN badge—and I see they've given you another one, which is good, given you a job just as well—and he took it off the lapel of his jacket and he gave it to me. And he said, "Here Sally." Because it's an anniversary badge, isn't it? That's right. And it was last year when we were doing this meeting. And so, I have it and it's on my dressing table at home. I want you to know that. It's a prized possession because, to sort of connect to

what Catherine was saying as well, I think this, would you say the stick smoldering, this really resonates with me. I mean, they all do, but this one really does.

And this was an example. And to be labor the point, we had always been working separately, Smart Africa and ICANN, and not entirely separately. Through Pierre, we've been to events and we had relationships, which was where the MOU came from originally. But it was a different, much more long-range relationship. And very quickly, we formed a completely different kind of partnership. And a lot of that is due to your leadership and your humanity, if I may say so.

I saw when I was coming over here, a photo board. Our comms team does wonderful every day, little snapshots on social media of what's going on. And I saw a photograph of you with Kurtis yesterday, shaking Kurtis's hand. I saw the badge in the foreground. I thought, this guy's being paid. Every time he takes a photograph, the badge is. No, I'm teasing. But I want to stress that because on a human note, one of the reasons why collaborative working is so powerful at ICANN, and it's absolutely the reason that I'm still at ICANN, and I'm so excited to be back in the job, my engagement role, is the power of that collaboration.

And over the years that I've been at ICANN, which is now I'm losing track. It's about 13 years. It goes fast. I've seen huge change in that, in this community. And I would say, from where I sit, my observation, that what I've seen is an enormous growth in

confidence in our ICANN African community. That a sense of presence, a sense of weight and importance, and belief that we can make a difference. And I'm not saying we never felt that, but I think that the addition of the Coalition for Digital Africa has been a big part of that. Because it's created a much larger, in terms of scope, but also in terms of profile platform. And having Smart Africa as a founding partner of that has been a bit of a game changer. Also, the ITU, you've suddenly got these very large organizations.

And when I go out and do meetings all over the world, and I've just come back from a trip to the Solomon Islands, 36 hours from the Solomon Islands to London. It's a thing, but it was fascinating. And I was talking to telecom regulators in the Solomons, and I was talking about partnership and shared mission and understanding. And I use the Africa, ICANN's Africa experience as an example of what can be done between different, the ITU, Smart Africa, ICANN.

Five years ago, honestly, I don't think people would have gone, oh, yes, this is a logical group of people who will form together an organization, a group entirely focused on capacity development, skill building, training the next generation to build in that sense of partnership, that multi-stakeholder worldview that is so critical to preserving the internet stability and security, which sadly, brings me to the AFRINIC situation briefly, because it cannot be, we cannot ignore it, as you rightly said.

And we as an organization, as many of you know, but I will take this opportunity to make it very clear that in the Board and the

leadership team, there is enormous amounts of time and energy being expended on this topic with a very singular purpose, which is to protect the internet's users stability. That is the overall goal here is that we do everything we can to support, to help, to do our part through what are very uncertain times and a very new territory. This is not something that the internet community has had to face before, but we saw this during the IANA transition. We came together. We didn't know how to do that. It had never happened before. But because those sticks smoldered together and we made a fire, we achieved incredible things. Perhaps nobody would have thought that--

When I first came to ICANN, the idea that the transition would happen and that we would hand over this critical infrastructure to the global community. Honestly, it was like a pipe dream. Nobody was talking about it. It wasn't a thing that people thought would happen. But we collectively made that happen. And here in Africa, you collectively have moved forward, I think, enormously in terms of your impact, I think is the word I would use. And we've done that through partnership with each other and partnership with other organizations.

And I wanted to finish by saying we are here for you. And in my engagement role, I'm still in the executive team. Now, obviously, I have a new boss. But I've come back with renewed enthusiasm and vigor for this from this period when I was doing the other job. And I find in my team, energy and dynamism, we're very committed. We're expanding our commitments in Africa. We've just moved into

a very nice, very secure, much better located. For those of you in Nairobi, if you want to come and visit us, I now feel very comfortable in saying, come and visit us. It wasn't so great before, but now it's really good. Catherine tells me it's a great place to have an office. And I know, I agree with her. So please have a great meeting and thank you so much for giving us the time to be with you today.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you very much, Sally, for those words. And again, thank you for announcing this new office, now Engagement Office in Nairobi. I was there last week. It's a nice place to be. Thanks very much for that. And you are all welcome there.

Let me also take the opportunity to actually recognize Alan Barrett. Alan Barrett is an ICANN Board member. He was supposed to be with us here, but he has to stay home for a special issue that he was having there. But I just wanted to recognize him because he really wanted to be part of this meeting. But I think I'm told he's online.

So, thanks very much. Now we've ended with our remarks, and then we'll just go to the second part of this. Hand over to Magali. Oh, it's still my turn. Thank you. Thank you very much, Magali. No, it's always a pleasure, too. The second part of this is going to be the quick presentation, quick reporting back to you. And also, as you know, once I finish, Hervé is around. Okay, thanks so much. Hervé is around. He should also be briefing us on the development that's happening there in terms of the whole registry system and

then things that you really need to know about. And then we'll open the floor for your questions, your interventions and things like that.

So quickly, the highlights for FY25 are quite simple for us. We are guided by the objective in the Africa Regional Plan. As you remember, we developed, [inaudible 00:25:28] has developed that plan that was from 2021 to 2025. We are at the end of this series of plans. A few activities happened there. In terms of engagement in Africa, I also need to recognize that we did have the opportunity to work with our technical engagement team, OCTO.

So, you will see our colleagues moving from place to place developing those different workshops and training people, especially in terms of the DNSSEC, for instance, that we are having a few African countries that have already signed the zone file. Of course, we are still expecting more to come in and also to establish our culture of validating whatever you sign there. So, it's quite important the validation.

We also think that communication also was part of what we did, meaning, of course, we are really supported and backed by our communication function within ICANN. And whatever we did was out there in the different mailing lists, but also in the social networks. As you also know, capacity development is central to what we've been doing. And some of those I will provide a few figures quickly. So, in terms of engagement activities, for instance, strengthening the security of a domain name system, we can cite

27 different activities that happen in different places in the country that we're going to cite them.

And the other part, the other objective, is about the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance, which is also key for us. And 55 different activities occurred to actually make sure that we improve that effectiveness of this multistakeholder model. We were also supposed to evolve the identifier system in coordination and collaboration with other entities. The 37 activities happen in this regard.

Next slide, please, Magali. Now, of course, the issue here is whether we go through all of this, but so many details are there. The stats are available if you ask. Let me cite quickly a few of them. Well, we did have this ICANN technical engagement in Africa with different universities. Cabo Verde, for instance, is one of those places where we found out that they were quite available for this technical education. Because we were to expose them to the whole area of the DNS, and the security of the DNS, for instance. We do have the Ghana DNS Forum. We are supporting different national DNS forums.

And we are also part of the peering system, working with ISOC in different aspects. Trying now to launch another project is going to be about measurement, how to measure DNA usage in Africa. So many different things. DNSSEC hands-on in Chad, capacity development in Eswatini. So, we've been to close to 40, 41 countries to actually spread the word. Not only spreading the

word, but making sure that people are practically about to understand the whole technology that it takes to secure the DNS, for instance. Of course, we still have more to do in that regard. And I would like to also thank especially those countries and also the partners that we have and without which we couldn't have succeeded in launching those workshops.

I think the DNSSEC roadshow has become popular, but has also shown a few lessons to be learned. Meaning, once you have people that are trained, we would like the leadership to be able to retain them. Because some of the trainees, at times you find that they have moved away in different functions, and that is a big issue for us for continuation of the work that has been started.

Now mitigating security threats to DNS is quite important for us. So, we have a big partnership with the like of Africa CERT, for instance. We participate in many industry gathering. The one of who sit in a community in Morocco, for instance, will be there. Many technical hackathons that we organize in different places in Africa.

Next slide, please, quickly. Effectiveness of the multistakeholder model governance. We strengthen the ICANN's bottom-up approach in decision making by supporting different activities. We are all over the IGF, the likes in Africa to help improve openness, inclusivity, and accountability, and also transparency. These are the things we make sure that we defend. And the Schools of

Internet Governance Forum, for instance. And we have many bilateral meetings.

Next slide, please. Yeah, about the unique identifier system, we spoke about that one. We continue to deliver and enhance the IANA function with operations because there are still issues in Africa. Countries that are having difficulties in managing the ccTLD may have issues in terms of redelegations or whatever. So, we're here to really support, and we do this in partnership or so, with the support of the IANA, for instance. The whole area of Registration Data and Request Services that we call RDRS, quite important to not only expose the community on that but also make sure that they are part of the whole thing.

Finally, of course, we are there at the Africa Internet Summit, for instance. We kind of support because that's one of the most important gatherings in Africa to talk about the internet issues and how best to make sure that the continent profits back. Salon OSIANE is for Central Africa region, which is something that we helped launch close to 80 years ago. And we still continue to be supporting them because that's quite important for the region to develop the different strategy.

The next, and then I would like to stop by that, yeah, the Coalition for Digital Africa, we mentioned on it. Basically, the coalition is an alliance of global and original organization united in the commitment to expand accessibility to the internet in Africa, support the development of Africa's digital economy. Working

together as a coalition, we think that we'll be able to achieve greater results. I hope you notice the baobab trees that are there. It is what we chose, the symbol of the CDA that's going to help really grow as the baobab tree. And there's so many things to get for it.

Here are our flagship programs, our initiatives. And at this point, because we don't have much time, I should be going through this. I would rather like to hear from you. And, of course, provide any details that we might need. But these are our flagship initiatives. It's about the root server infrastructure that we established in Africa, which is quite important in terms of traffic, data traffic. The ccTLD capacity development is quite key for us.

In terms of inclusiveness, for instance, Universal Acceptance in higher education institutions, this is a good example to cite. As we are talking, three African universities have already developed with us what you call curricula on universal acceptance, which is quite important, which is something that they hardly knew about a year ago. But today they are really championing the way to be championing this in the curricula at the universities, of course.

The Internet Exchange Points that we are developing with ISOC. Service Level Agreement Monitoring in Africa. We do have a few pods in Africa that's measuring the traffic we are doing. And, of course, the key Africa Domain Name Industry Study that we committed also a few months ago. You requested that one. We updated what we did three or four years ago. Today, you do have

a few figures, facts about the domain name industry in Africa, and also what else we should be doing.

Let me pause here in terms of the reporting back. But like I say, we could always provide details to you, and the documentation exists. With that, I would like to stop. Before we maybe have the questions and answers, maybe listen to Hervé who is supposed-- Yeah, Hervé, you can come up here. So, thanks for your attention. And let's hear from Hervé what he has to say. Hervé.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you, everyone, and good day. I am Hervé Clément, the chair of the NRO-NC, and from the ICANN point of view, it's called the ASO AC. And it's always a pleasure to meet the African community, and I cannot imagine an ICANN meeting without meeting the African community. And just to say hello to the Francophone people. Hello, I am Hervé. I am the chair of the ASO Advisory Committee from the ICANN standpoint. I cannot imagine being at an ICANN meeting without spending a little bit of time with the African community. It is always a great pleasure.

Coming back to the document. Pierre, you talk about this ICP-2 update, which is a very famous note. And the current draft we are talking about is called the Regional Internet Registry Government Document. It's just the final name. And as we are accustomed to say, if you have a better idea to have a new name and a good name for the document, it would be a pleasure to listen from you.

You can go to the next slide. About the addressing Supporting Organization Address Council, what it is. It's a lot of letters and a lot of acronyms. It's one of the supporting organizations of the ICANN, dedicated to the numbering and, I would say, address resources management. We are 15 numbers, normally three per region, two designated by the community and one elected by the executive board of the organization. Because of the issues that AFRINIC is currently facing, we have nobody from the AFRINIC currently. That's a pity for us, but as there are currently elections within the continent, within the AFRINIC, we hope to have soon a representative within the Council, which will be a very, very excellent thing, of course.

Our role is to advise the ICANN Board to oversee the process of Global Policy Development Process. Global policy is a policy common to all the regions on dealing with the IANA, the global resource distribution. We appoint two directors of the ICANN Board, and we appoint somebody to the ICANN NomCom as well.

You can go to the next slide. It's always good to have pictures and photos for people who compose the Council, so you have the picture of people there. Only André is not there on site, but if you have the opportunity to meet these people on site here, don't hesitate to go, and if you have any questions, everybody will be very happy to answer you as well.

You can go to the next slide. It's ICP-2 review you are all talking about. ICP is for Internet Coordination Policy. It's a document, it's

an ICANN document. They are currently free. ICP and ICP-2 is a document we are talking about. It was adopted in 2001, so it's a pretty quarter century. What is this document? This document lists and provides the criteria for recognizing new Regional Internet Registry. AFRINIC is the Regional Internet Registry. RIPE NCC is another one.

There are five currently example of criteria which are useful to recognize a region. The region has to be sufficiently large to propose services to specific regions. AFRINIC is a sufficiently large region to propose services. It needs to have the support of the local numbering community, so from the bottom. And these regions, with the staff, have to be technically capable to offer services. That's an example of a criterion that makes sense to recognize the new regions. And there is a link to the current document.

You can go to the next slide, a piece of history. The RIPE NCC for Europe, Russia, Middle East, and past the North Africa was established in 1992. Then the APNIC for Australia, India, China, this region. Then the ARIN in 1997 for North America, And then it was the ICANN, finally, in 1998. And one of the roles of the ICANN, an important role, it was to adopt this ICP-2 in 2001, and via this ICP-2, the LACNIC for Central and South America, was established in 2002, and finally, the AFRINIC in 2005.

You can go to the next slide. As I said, this ICP-2 was accepted 25 years ago, nearly a quarter of a century. You can imagine that. Since then, a lot of things happened in terms of the Internet, in

terms of relations between the region of the ICANN, and a lot of things. So, of course, it was necessary to update this document. And this document needs also to be more explicit because it's used currently only for the recognition of new regional internet registry, but not to be useful for the ongoing way of regional internet registry. And if there is, in extreme case, a big issue that can be solved even after a lot of discussion, there could be potentially the possibility of derecognizing regional internet registry.

You can go to the next slide. Because of these issues, 25 years ago and this lack of complement, the NRO EC-- What is NRO EC? Is a group of the directors of the regions. It's another part of the ASO. The NRO EC in October 2023 asked us, the ASO AC, to work on two tasks. The first one, which is called the ICP-2 Implementation Procedures, which is linked finally to take into account this document to all the cycle of the life of for regional internet registry, and to update also this document, and is something we are working on since one year and a half and more, something. There is a link to the NRO EC.

Next slide. In October 2024, we published first-- Core principle is a list of principle that has to be taken into account in the new document. There was a public consultation within the regions and within the ICANN, the consultation was closed December 6, 2024, and we work on the first outputs to provide a first draft. And this draft is called ICP-2 Principal Consultation Report. And on April 14, we published this draft.

Next slide. And this draft is a proposed principle to ICP-2. Core Principle and Consultation. So, coming back to the principal document we first drafted, there was a consultation, as I said in the brief history I recalled in the last slide. In this consultation, between October and December 2024, we received 14 responses from the ICANN and nearly 300 responses from the regions, which is a very good thing because it shows that community is very involved and interested in the discussion for this document. We analyzed the answers. There was a summary report, which was public.

Next slide. There is a QR code because we try to be modern, so we use QR code as well. And so, you can use it to see what is this first draft. Next slide. And using all the comments we received during the first consultation, we were able to draft this named Regional Internet Registry Governance Document which was under consultation very recently. Next slide. Another QR code? Because we are still modern. And you can read this new document.

Next slide. This document represent an update to ICP-2, and it's more complete and more structured because it introduced detailed governance structures, operational requirements, procedure for the full life cycle, I explained, for the management of Regional Internet Registry, and the goal of this document.

There are four main goals, and I will go into them after. To clarify the scope and lifecycle management first. To formalize the governance structures, which is important as well to consolidate

the internet structure as it is. To strengthen operational requirements, because the day-to-day life of a registry is to be operational. And to clarify roles, responsibilities, and procedures of the different structures.

Next slide. First goal, To Clarify the Scope and Lifecycle Management. As I say, the first document, adopted in 2001, only focused for the establishment of Regional Internet Registry. This new document is more clear about that. So, it talks about recognition, but it talks also about operation, which is the ongoing obligation and requirements for the Regional Internet Registry to maintain recognition. And it talks also about derecognition and trying to establish procedures to do that one more time, in extreme circumstances.

You can go to the next slide. The Formalization of Governance Structures. Regional Internet Registry has to follow principles such as neutrality, impartiality, bottom policy. The role of the community for the management of IP resources is very important. And it's a multistakeholder model with the importance of the community of people who use these resources but on policy development.

But we cannot incorporate all things. The original ICP-2 lacked detailed governance structures. So, that's the reason why it is incorporated in a new document. This new document, it will use more detailed governance requirements, including the member control governance. So, we say that the majority of the Regional

Internet Registry government body must be elected by its members. So, a member will pay to the organization to have IP resources.

Corporate governance. The Regional Internet Registry has to adhere to good corporate governance procedures, of course. And anti-capture measures. We have to pay attention because the Regional Internet Registry have to implement controls to prevent any single entity or group from having an influence over the Regional Internet Registry. It's something we try to pay attention to.

Next slide. This new document tries to strengthen the operational requirements. Also, it deals with audit obligations. Regional Internet Registry must undergo regular audits. It's something that every organization normally does. So, for us, it's normal that the regional registry does as well. Transparency is very important. The Regional Internet Registry is required to have comprehensive public documentation on government activity and finances. And continuity planning in case of any issues, redundancy to ensure service continuity, and including the ability for other regions to assume service if necessary is precise.

Next slide. This document also that was under consultation clarifies the role and responsibility of the different organizations clearly, the responsibility for the regions. In case of decision of recognition or derecognition, it's up first to the Regional Internet Registry to initially approve any proposal to recognize or

derecognize Regional Internet Registry. And then the role of the ICANN is to have the final authorization to approve or reject this proposal following the consultation within the regions. And this document, specific procedures and approval for proposal in term of voting or, anonymous, not anonymous, but every region has to decide the specific things.

Next slide. There was a consultation about the document I was talking about, which took place from April the 14th to May the 27th. Next slide. And this consultation closed very recently, May the 27th. I won't go back to the document I was talking about. And if finally, that there will be a next step, the document is approved by the ICANN, the update of the document, of course, will supersede the ICP-2 adopted in 2001.

Next slide. Clarifications about the document, about the consultation. It's a question for you, for the community, so if you have read the document or participated in the consultation, finally, the question for us will be very interesting. For us, does any part of the draft text require further clarification? Because we want something, but perhaps it's not clear enough, and for somebody who has another culture, it's not clear, it could happen. Is there any topic in the document that I have discussed about that your group did not reach consensus on when submitting your comment. And the question also is, how can we improve the next round of comments? Because nobody's perfect, so we are very happy to see

how we can improve the process to answer the best the attempts of the community.

Next slide. Community engagement plan during this meeting. Last Sunday, there was a very intense discussion between the ASO and the ICANN Board, with a lot of questions for the ICANN as we set responsibility for the ICANN. Last Monday, there was a meeting with the At-Large and the RSSAC. Yesterday it was a meeting with the APAC, so the APNIC region, with the ISPCP, which is a constituency within the GNSO dedicated to the ICPs. And there was yesterday afternoon an ASO public information session. There is currently our meeting with you, Africa Space. And there will be, at the next session of this morning, a meeting with GAC as well. So, we try to be present and to talk with the maximum of the organization of the ICANN.

Next slide. Here we are. During the ICANN meeting between 9 and 12 June, we tried to work actively on the output received during the last consultation. We hope to provide another document, an updated document, at the end of the summer. It will be challenging because it will be the summer, but we will be active during that. And after one more time, discussion with a different region during the meeting, with a different organization, there will be another consultation. So, we hope to have a final review and revision of the updated document. And we will begin, we have the plan to begin the NRO, Number Resource Organization, and ICANN approval, and the adoption process as well.

Next slide. That's the proposed timeline. It's the timeline I was talking about. I read that. And so, the idea is to work more closely with the ICANN stakeholder communities during the preparation during the fall. And the public comment for the new update will close shortly after the ICANN84 in Oman.

Next slide. So, the next step, so I have nothing more to say about that. And, of course, we'll continue the outreach with all the stakeholders. Next. So, that's the end of my presentation. So, thank you for your attention. And if there are any questions, we'll be happy to answer, too. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you very much, Clément. You took more of my time.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Sorry for that.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

That was quite an important subject. Hope there might be questions for clarification as you said. Okay, now we do have 15 minutes for our question and answer you know session. If you have any questions again, any clarification, the floor is yours. Is Yaovi around?

YAOVI ATOHOUN

Yaovi speaking, Pierre, but I have seen some people's hand raised in the chat. So maybe you can take people in the room also. I can see Abdulkarim's hand up in the, I don't know if it's the room. So, Pierre, you can-- I don't know if you can have Abdulkarim, and then you take people from the room. Thank you, Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Okay. So, is Abdul Karim around or is it online?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE

Yeah, I'm online. I hope you can hear me.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Yes, we can hear you. Please go ahead.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE

Okay. Thank you very much for the wonderful proposals on the presentation, all the presentations that were given earlier. My question is on the last presentation, which was talking about derecognizing a RIR. It says no less than 25% of members would derecognize a RIR. I'm thinking 25% is minority. If you have 25%, which is a small group of people compared to a number saying you want derecognize an RIR, I'm thinking that might probably bring chaos. Because, yes, definitely in every institution, people will be happy and people will not be happy. And if one quarter can actually go ahead and derecognize an RRR, then I'm thinking that

might bring some chaos. So, I just wanted to call your attention to that and see if that can be looked at again. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you very much. Maybe you could just take all the questions and then the responses will come later on, please. In the room?

YAOVI ATOHOUN

Yeah, no more questions from the room now, Pierre. We can take questions from chat. Tomslin, I have seen him.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Please go ahead.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR

Thanks. Tomslin for the record. Thanks for the update on the Coalition for Digital Africa. And I saw the good progress that's been made. So, my question is, what happens when all these initiatives are completed to the coalition?

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you for the question. Do you have anyone who wanted to--
? Yes, please introduce yourself and then--

MARIUS ANDRIAMPARANY

Thank you. Marius Andriamparany from Nikenji, Madagascar. I will speak in French. A very simple question for Hervé about ICP-2. Did

you take into account the issues faced by AFRINIC? Could ICP-2 help us get out of this terrible situation that AFRINIC is faced with?

PIERRE DANDJINO

Any hands? Online, anyone? Okay. So, let me quickly respond to your question about the CDA, then I'll let Clément take the two other questions. I think your question was about what happened when we are at the end of this cycle. In fact, CDA, as far as ICANN is concerned, is about three years of support on this. We are heading to the last year, which is 2026, and our flagship projects are there, but we are also contemplating new ones. So, what happens, I think, depends on the partners. Right now, we do have 14 partners that are joining forces and eventually, the resources to do this. So, it all depends on the decision that will be made. But suffice to say that as far as ICANN is concerned, the support is still around, so there won't be any issue.

Now, your question also is about the whole sustainability of the system in the long run. Again, it's a decision to be taken by partners, who will decide on what could be the way forward after two years of operations. That's what I will say. Important question about the RIR Governance Document. Clément, if you can take a few minutes to respond, please,

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Yeah, of course. Thank you for the questions. There was a first question about the 25 persons noted in the document. The 25

persons, and is minority which is discussed, is not for the final decisions. It is not to trigger a process. So, it's not for the final thing. And more generally, to talk about the figures, it's something we are discussing now internally because we take into account all the feedback. And, of course, we will be very happy to discuss all the remarks about specific results or number we are talking about. That's the first thing.

The second one, it was about if the document we are working on will improve the situation within Africa and within the AFRINIC. Of course, the AFRINIC situation is part of the discussion we could have regarding the document. And the aim of the document, it was part of the question, the NRO EC requested us to work on is to strengthen generally the system. And when trying to strengthen the system, of course, we take into account all the situation we can observe. And I will say, by definition, the situation the AFRINIC is currently facing is part of the inputs we have to draft this document.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thanks very much, Hervé. Do you have anyone to--? Because we still have maybe four to five minutes left. Let me use the opportunity again to actually thank you the community for your contribution to this Africa Strategic Document that you have developed. The process is on, the public comment has already started, and I mean, it's finished and then we are doing the proper

work to be able to have a final draft and then to move on with this document.

Probably a few information for you. We will also be talking about these strategies during the upcoming Africa Internet Summit. It going to be in September in Accra. We don't have the precise date. And then the Africa DNS Forum, which we do organize, and the Africa Engagement Forum is going to be early December again in Accra, and you are all invited.

One subject that we didn't really touch upon here is the new gTLD program that we're launching in 2026. Heavy work is going on in terms of reaching out to potential interested parties. And if I will, maybe, Bob will take two or three minutes quickly to let us know what's the situation today and what are his expectations also as he's part of the team that is leading these new programs. So please, Bob, if you could, just let us know, provide details on this. Thank you.

BOB OCHIENG

Thank you, Pierre. So, in less than two minutes, I'll be pretty brief. So, as you know, we are going full out on our outreach and awareness around the Next Round. You obviously know by now that one important part of the Next Round Program is something we are calling Applicant Support, which is targeted for the underserved regions of the global majority, as it may be. Africa, Middle East region, Latin America region are some of the areas that we are very active around, trying to create this awareness. Some of

those events that Pierre was displaying there, most of them were heavy on Next Round.

So, I guess, in summary, so three things. We already have around nine applications from the African continent on Applicant Support. We believe that there's a chance to grow that between now and the deadline, which is 19 November. We are extending an invite to all of you to support us on this engagement. We have created material in terms of engagement toolkit that you can access to use, but we are also really, very ready to come on the ground and organize local engagement sessions. If you can help us organize those, we'd be happy to partner with you to do those. So, we really want this to be a partnership, and we are encouraging you to really help us ensure that all those that are really relevant for this information do get the information.

We have a proper update scheduled for Thursday this week at 3:30, where we'll be giving a detailed debrief on outreach and the different ways that you can join and support us with this. So please reach out to us and support our engagement process for the Next Round. It would be great to see a few more applications coming from Africa when the round is opened in April next year. Thank you, Pierre.

PIERRE DANGJINOU

Thank you, Bob. Any questions to Bob? No? Okay. Well, I would like to thank you very much for your time and especially for coming here to have more information about how we are progressing in

terms of the Africa strategy, and also key issue that has been discussed here, of course, presented to you, this RIR Governance Document that I would like you to contribute. It's quite important to know about it. The New Round also is a big portion of what we really would like you to get interested in. All details are available in the documentation also. We can provide them to you because we do have the slide decks. So please feel free to come forward for that. With that, hand over to Magali.

MAGALI JEAN

No, I just want to say that there's a joint AFRALO-AfrICANN session today at 3:30 p.m. in the South Hole 3C, the At-Large room.

PIERRE DANDJINO

Thank you, Magali and thanks for all. Then I'll see you in other sessions. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]