ICANN83 | PF – Joint AFRALO: AfrICANN Session
Wednesday, June 11, 2025 – 15:30 to 17:00 CEST

GISELLA GRUBER: Hello and welcome to the joint AFRALO-African meeting. My name is Gisella Gruber and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Arabic. 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 in a language other than English, and speak at a reasonable place. Before handing the floor over, I would just like to check that everyone has a headset, as this meeting will be conducted in English, French, and possibly Arabic as well. With no further ado, I will hand the floor over to Hadia Elminiawi, AFRALO Chair. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Gisella. This is Hadia for the record. And first, I would like to warmly welcome ICANN President and CEO, Kurtis Lindqvist. Thank you for joining us once again at the AFRALO-

African meeting. We always appreciate your presence and valuable contribution to our sessions. I would also like to acknowledge the presence and welcome Dr. Catherine Adeya, ICANN Board Director, Leon Sanchez, ICANN Board Director, and Alan Barrett, ICANN Board Director as well, but he will be joining us virtually. I would like also to welcome Pierre Dandjinou, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement Africa, and Baher Esmat Managing Director, Africa and the Middle East. The name of our topic today is Africa's DNS Abuse Mitigation Initiative, Empowering Stakeholders. And with that, I turn the floor to Kurtis. The floor is yours.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here again, as I met you also in Seattle at my last session with you, which was my first one. And I'm very happy to be here at the 38th AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting since 2010 when it started. And many thanks to all of you for attending in person and those of you who are joining us remotely. And I'd like to congratulate you on this steady participation in every ICANN public meeting and assembly that the African ICANN community has to address the topic of great relevance for your region. And I'm very pleased to see that AFRALO has addressed the critical issue of DNS abuse in the past. So far, you have written four statements about DNS abuse in the past years, and I had the pleasure of reading the ICANN 83 statement, which states and includes a set of recommendations for all stakeholders, which is the strengthening capacity and awareness, develop clear abuse, reporting mechanisms, encourage regional collaboration, promoting DNS

ecosystem security best practices, empower civil society and end users, encourage data and research, and advocate for policy development and legislation support.

And I'd like to highlight the recommendation of empower civil society and end users. AFRALO is really the appropriate space where At-Large structures and the individual members can implement activities that you cite, such as the dialogue among the ALSes, individuals, academia, and participation in local internet governance forums that really help empower end users by increasing education and awareness raising about these topics. And also, AFRALO provides you with the appropriate structure for you to implement recommendations, and ICANN org staff is ready to support these initiatives. And as you know, the DNS abuse is also a very hot topic across the agenda this week, and so I'm very pleased to see this involved, and this builds on the commitment that we have made across the board. DNS abuse encompasses a wide range of problems, making it a very varied and multifaceted issue that requires a really mixed and distinct perspectives. And through this coordinated approach that includes research tools, contraction enforcement, collaboration with the broader ICANN community, ICANN really supports the community's effort to address DNS abuse. And the need for community involvement is very clear, and addressing DNS abuse effectively requires this active participation of the entire community and not just individual organizations. And so, therefore, the statement is very welcome and very appreciated, and ICANN org remains very committed to

advancing this work within its remits and supporting the ongoing community discussions on DNS abuse, as I just mentioned. And I'd like to thank the AFRALO-AfrICANN for the really thoughtful analysis on this really important topic, and I look forward to the ongoing collaboration.

I just want to add one last thing, is of course, you mentioned tools. We have these very two valuable tools that ICANN provides, which is the Domain Metrica and the Infermal report, that are very helpful in this topic, and I really encourage you to also look at these and further work on this. Thank you again for having me.

HADIA ELMINIAWI Thank you so much, Kurtis. And now I would like to turn the floor to Leon.

LEON SANCHEZ Thank you, Hadia. Just to thank you all, as usual, for having me here. As I repeatedly state, this is one of my favorite sessions, and I think I've never missed one since I've been around in ICANN. And it's always good to be with you. I always praise the documents that you draft and that you further forward to the board and you deliver to the board, because I think you touch upon, you know, cutting-edge issues that are most relevant to the internet ecosystem, and especially under the lens of the African community and the African continent. So I thank you for continuing to doing this work. Your insights definitely feed into the broader vision that the board needs

to have when thinking about how to contribute to solving these problems. And the document that you have built this time is, as usual, a top-notch document. But I don't want to take too much time, and I would rather, of course, listen to what you folks are going to discuss within the scope of this document and having to contribute, if at all, with my thoughts, too. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you, Leon. And now I turn the floor to Dr. Catherine Adeya. And Dr. Catherine and I have discussed the statement briefly yesterday. So I turn the floor back to her.

CATHERINE ADEYA: But, Hadia, we already discussed the statement, so. I told her she could summarize for me, but she still wants me to say something. So she forced me now to read the statement again so I can have something more to say. And when I was reading the statement, one of the things, you know, it comes out better, I think, in Kiswahili or in some of the African languages, where you say this statement is needed like yesterday. You know, we have to use the word like. So basically, the urgency of the statement, I was going to say it in Kiswahili, but let me not complicate it. But basically, it's such a critical discussion. And I've attended many of these sessions. But what I was telling Hadia yesterday is I've just seen so much growth in the way the statements are coming out, in the way they are written, the clarity now in the background without too much information, moving into what the real issue is, and with very clear

recommendations. And for me, it's really a breath of fresh air. I was going to pick on some of the things about why the DNS abuse mitigation is important, but Kurtis has done a very good job with that. In fact, some of the things I wanted to say on what ICANN is doing, like towards the end, you talked about the metric and everything else. This is very important. So I'll just also agree with the statement that many African, you wrote that Africa, but I wrote many African countries. I changed that part. Face unique challenges. Because again, as you've seen in Africa, people are at different levels. And there's best practice in some countries where they could even share with other countries that are being left behind. And of course, that will come out somehow when you're tweaking your statement. You may just tweak some of those Africa words to many African countries. And if you haven't done so already, I would encourage you to also read ICANN's DNS abuse mitigation program, the key updates from 2024. It's online. And I'm saying that for, I know there's some people who may not be aware. But I think Kurtis spoke to it, that this DNS abuse issue, it's for everyone. It's everyone's responsibility. And it will not only take governments, advocacy groups, professionals. Everybody has to get involved. But I would like to give an example from the Africa Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance, who are in Kigali. And I spoke to some of the senators at that point. And you know, up to now, Pierre, maybe I've not told you, they still speak about that training and that capacity building. Because they said they learned about domain name systems. They were trained on DNS abuse and mitigation. They actually learned what ICANN does. And

they are meant to be dealing with the issues of IGF. But they said they, as lawmakers, many of them are so ignorant, or they have a poor understanding of internet governance, leave alone the DNS. But with the capacity building ICANN gave them, they are now more curious to find out what else they can find out. And they can now advocate for better policies. This speaks to one of the recommendations. And I think there has to be a way to do more of this. I don't know. Pierre, I know they challenged you. I don't know how you're going to do it. It's all about money. I don't want to speak, as I'm a board member. But the final thing in the statement is the recommendations. I think they're good. But I would suggest also maybe putting them in some kind of logical build up. I had to find something interesting to say as a researcher. So I would put them in this order. Four, two, one, five, three, and seven. Whoever is dealing with the statement, that's the order. I can share that. And number six, I would qualify that. Because there's been a lot of issues on data collection. Basically, you're talking about the need for more empirical evidence or data to be able to make better informed decisions. So Hadia, have I done a thorough job now on the statement?

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much, Dr. Catherine. And yeah, we are still to read the statement. And then comment again on it. With that, I would like to turn the floor to Alan Barrett, who's joining us virtually. Alan, the floor is yours.

ALAN BARRETT

Thank you, Hadia. This is Alan Barrett. I'm sorry I'm not able to be with you in Prague. I always enjoy these sessions. So yeah, just a few words. I don't want to take much time. First, I want to say DNS abuse is a very broad topic. And we can't cover it all. Within ICANN, we focus on a few aspects that are within ICANN's remit. And you'll see them listed in the introduction to the statement. It's very important to combat DNS abuse. And I think that the drafters of the statement have done a very good job, as usual, in identifying the issues and making quite relevant recommendations. I just want to emphasize two of the points. I think that organizing workshops, training workshops in collaboration with certs and ALSes At-Large structures could be very effective. And I think that abuse reporting platforms are important. Make it easy for users to report abuse that they encounter. And translation of existing platforms into multiple languages could be a simple measure that where the benefit is the outweighs the effort. So let me stop there. I think we want to leave time for discussion rather than all these introductions. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much, Alan. And now I turn the floor to Jonathan Zuck, ALAC chair. Thank you, Jonathan, for joining us.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Thank you for having me. I apologize for my tardiness. I got the times mixed up. I am very excited by this statement and this

emphasis. I think that we're at an inflection point in the history of the internet in that we are dependent on the continent of Africa for the growth, the next billion users that we're looking for for the internet, to new markets, et cetera. There's this brief mention of emerging markets, but it's bigger than that. I mean, it's central to the worldwide plans for the growth of the internet. And I think that can't be stated more strongly, given the fact that these deficiencies exist. If we can't build and maintain trust, if we can't stem the tide of the phishing and malware attacks inside Africa, that growth really gets called into question. And so I think that I would really recommend landing on the dependency that the internet and the internet marketplace has on the continent of Africa for the next sort of tranche of users that will help grow the worldwide marketplace, I think, is really critical to this. I think it's a very good area on which to focus. And I think that Africa faces some unique problems here. But I think the recommendations are good. As you know, we are, At-Large, working on some courses to teach around the world, including in Africa. We're working on getting them translated into different languages and empowering people to educate users. I mean, the infuriating thing about DNS abuse is the same thing that's been true even before the internet. It used to be a saying that if you wanted to, the way that most hackers got ahold of people's passwords was to call and ask them for them. Something like 80% of software breaches and computer breaches are not the result of brilliant hackers. They're the result of brilliant social engineers who call up, who email, who et cetera, talk people into giving up their information. And no time in history is that more true than it is

today. So educating users is really the most foundational thing that we can do about DNS abuse. Because ultimately, you can't control people giving out their information, which is what really happens in a phishing attack, whether it's their login information, their financial information, et cetera. So I think that the educational component is huge. I think government should be involved in this. And that we should really push it more than historically we have, because I think it's at the crux. I think it's important to get civil society, as you mentioned in this system, involved in legislative efforts, because I think we should raise the stakes for people that are engaged in this kind of behavior as well. And that ties into the reporting aspect that keeps coming up, that we keep hearing that we need to improve reporting. I just got out of a session a couple of hours ago that was put on by the registrars, where they sort of put up these example reports, abuse reports, and how would we handle them. And they kept getting criticized, because they weren't properly formatted. They didn't have the information that was necessary, et cetera. There were so many reasons for them not to act on those abuse reports. And if you think about the typical end user, how many shots at that are they going to take, right? I mean, it takes a lot of effort to decide to actually report something. Even people that are part of a more sophisticated community like we are, we're not reporting every bit of abuse that comes across our inbox. And so if you took a typical netizen, if you will, and think about the effort that it's going to take to actually do or file a report, if nothing happens or it gets rejected, what is the likelihood that they're going to go and do it again? What's the likelihood they're

going to do it three times in order to get it right? So making reporting easier has got to be a critical part of that. Most of what they require, for example, is a header of an email. And I bet you most of the people in this building don't have any idea how to get the header of an email to forward it on as part of an abuse report. They'd end up having to look it up. And that can't be the answer, right? That friction, that friction to doing the right thing is what keeps people from doing it. And so I think I completely agree that that's an incredibly important part of the recommendations you have in place. So I commend the work. I think the timing is perfect because we're at this inflection. We're just about to have a new round. We're trying to get more communities that are historically underserved to engage in the top-level domain industry. We need to have the marketplace to make that worthwhile. Everything is focused on Africa right now, and so I think it's a good place to focus our efforts on building trust. So congratulations, and I look forward to reading the final report.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much, Jonathan. And indeed, you touched on many of the items that we did include in the presentation. And also, I do acknowledge, of course, that At-Large has a great role and a big role to play in that regard. And you did mention, of course, the At-Large campaigns with regard to fishing and other educational material. And with that, I would like to give the floor to Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Thank you very much, Hadia, and thanks for inviting me. And also, always a pleasure for us to be around and also kind of reporting on what we've been achieving within Africa in terms of supporting the continent. And to your meeting here, and especially the statement that you made, of course, is quite, as already said, this is quite useful, and this is a new commendable for what is being said, especially the statements, I really like them. And as usual, I'm going to repeat my key word that I like to repeat when I come to your meeting here, which is, how do we localize the ALSes? How do we make sure that, say, for instance, those recommendations, of course, most of them are turned to ICANN, but we also believe that there is some sort of homework to be done in Africa. So how do you mobilize, you know, the different stakeholders we are talking about? And Kurtis pointed rightly, this DNS abuse thing is for everyone, actually. So we are now putting the focus on the users. We had a report, you know, within the CDA, which is Coalition for Digital Africa, our latest report on the domain name, you know, industry in Africa, of course, was based on, okay, infrastructure, and some of the obstacle people were having in assessing the web, but also in terms of, you know, content creation, all of these things, and the usage of the domain names. With these sort of, you know, statements you are making, we are now seeing also that there is some part missing in that report, which was the consideration of the users' needs. And as far as we are concerned, we also believe that it's important to be able to educate the users on that regard. I can only offer here that, as usual, ICANN will be supporting, as has been said. We are on the ground, and we also believe that certainly

with the collaboration we are already having with you, I'm not going to cite what we've been doing. You've been part of the development of our Africa strategy document. I think, actually, one of them shared that group, which is good, and you submitted a draft, and the process is going on. Till end of June, we are going to have this final document. So, good collaboration. We should now think about communicating much more between us, and make sure that some of the activities that we conduct, you are part of them. I commend you, also, you are already within some of them. Universal acceptance, no day, you've been organizing those things, and we, of course, participate. And I think that's kind of good collaboration. I think we are also open, and I'll be finishing with that, we are open to having new initiatives. One of them is the internet measurement that we want to be starting with ISOC and the rest. I'm certain you are also opening a new sort of field for us, which is, of course, this DNS abuse. Let's consider what we could be doing, and back to the homework I'm talking about, what can we do better? Using our support, of course, from ICANN, what can we be doing at home, so that this message, of course, be passed over to a different number of stakeholders that we have. We're talking about the users. Governments are quite important in that regard, and also the industry in different places, and I can see your role in terms of contributing to the kind of campaign, I might say, we should be conducting. So thank you again for inviting us, and also to reinforce our support to you. So let me pause here, and back to Hadia, please.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much, Pierre. So now we go to the introduction of the topic, and the pen holder is Mr. Seth, but he was not able to join us today, and for that I will give a brief introduction to the statement, and then I will turn the floor to Bram for the discussion, and Hervé to read the statement. I must say also that many of our members are currently at the UA 10-year celebration session, which is happening in parallel to this session, so that's why we have many of our attendees only online and not in the room. So the statement, the topic, of course, is Africa's DNS Abuse Mitigation Initiative, Empowering Stakeholders Across the Ecosystem. So in this statement, AFRALO highlights the urgent need to address DNS abuse in Africa, which threatens cybersecurity, and hence the digital growth of Africa. So the statement acknowledges ICANN's global efforts, and stresses on the importance of adapting support to local challenges, local challenges such as limited resources, and limited technical capacity as well. The statement also provides recommendations that talk about collaboration and adaptive solutions. So AFRALO calls on ICANN and all stakeholders to support African-led initiatives, turning the DNS abuse challenge into an opportunity for empowerment, innovation, and resilience. I will stop here and turn the floor to Hervé in order to present the statement. Thank you.

HERVÉ SETONDJI

Thank you, Hadia. I would like to thank our distinguished guest before I read the statement. So the preamble, we members of the AFRALO ICANN community who actively participated in the ICANN 83 meeting during the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN session held on June 11, 2025 in Prague, engaged in thoughtful dialogue and reflection on the topic, Africa's DNS Abuse Mitigation Initiative, empowering stakeholders across the ecosystem. Following lively and meaningful discussion, we offer the following corrective statement. Background and context. The increasing misuse of the domain name system such as phishing, malware distribution, botnets, pharming, and spam when it serves as a delivery mechanism for the offer types of DNS abuse, threatens trust in the internet, particularly in emerging regions like Africa. As digital services proliferate across the continent, DNS abuse undermines cybersecurity, amplifies digital inclusion, and impedes the growth of the digital economy. While global efforts are underway to mitigate DNS abuse, Africa faces unique challenges, including limited technical expertise, low public awareness, inadequate reporting mechanism, insufficient collaboration amongst stakeholders, and significant financial constraints. Many organizations operate below the cybersecurity power line, lacking the necessary resources to implement effective defenses against cyber threats. These financial limitations hamper developing and deploying robust cybersecurity infrastructures, across the continent. Nevertheless, Africa is home to resilient and diverse internet community that includes registries, registrar, cyber society organization, mobile network operators, internet service

providers, law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, and end users. These collective strengths present an opportunity to develop inclusive community-led solutions tailored to the continent's specific needs. Recognition of ICANN and community efforts. We recognize ICANN's commitment to addressing DNS abuse globally, including through the DNS Abuse Mitigation Program, the Registrar Accreditation Agreement Enforcement Mechanism, the Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains Project, and Capacity Building Program. We particularly appreciate ICANN's regional engagement teams that support African stakeholders with training and outreach. AFRALO acknowledges these initiatives and emphasizes that their continued effectiveness in Africa depends on further adaptation to local realities. This includes addressing persistent financial constraints that hinder the growth and sustainability of the DNS industry on the continent. The 2023 Africa Domain Name Industry Study indicates that most registrar and ccTLD operators in Africa are barely breaking even, and as a result, lack the technical and commercial capacity to grow without target investment and support. Tailoring ICANN's program to address these limitations is critical to ensuring inclusive, impactful progress across Africa. Empowering stakeholders across the ecosystem to effectively mitigate DNS abuse in Africa, we believe a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach is critical. Empowering stakeholders at every level, from government and ccTLD registries to registrars,

civil society, technical communities, academia, and users, in the foundation for building a trusted and resilient DNS ecosystem.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: If I may, this is Hadia for the record. If we can go through the recommendations, only the titles.

HERVÉ SETONDJI: Okay. Thank you. Okay, okay. We propose the following recommendation. So now I will just read only a few recommendations, not all recommendations.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Not all the recommendations, but only the titles. Thank you.

HERVÉ SETONDJI: Okay, okay. So first one is strengthen capacity and awareness. The second is develop clear abuse reporting mechanism. The third is encourage regional collaboration. The fourth is promote DNSSEC and DNS ecosystem security best practices. The fifth is empower cyber society and users. The sixth is encourage data and research. And the last one is advocate for policy development and legislative support. Conclusion. Africa is at an important moment. As digital growth increases, we must focus on improving security and trust. The domain name system, DNS, is a key part of the internet, and we need to protect it from misuse. By supporting everyone involved from technical aspects to community groups and using global help

while creating local solution, Africa can improve its cyber security. This collaboration can become a beacon for how sharing responsibility leads to a safer and more resilient internet. AFRALO calls on ICANN, regional groups, and all stakeholders to support African efforts for a safe, trust, and strong internet. Together, we can turn DNS abuse into a chance for teamwork, new ideas, and building skills across Africa. Thank you so much. Back to you, Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI Thank you so much, Herve. And now we move to Bram in order to start the discussion of the statement.

BRAM FUDZULANI Well, thank you, Hadia. This is Bram for the record. Just inviting anyone in the chat room, those that are joining us online, but also those that are in the room, physically present. If you have any comments, anything that you think needs to be changed in the statement, now is your time. You can put up your hand. And Hadia, I think in the room, you help me identifying anyone who has their hand up.

HADIA ELMINIAWI Sure. Dr. Catherine, you had some comments. Do you want to share more? Earlier about the statement itself, about maybe some amendments? If you can elaborate more on the structure that you suggested. So you suggested restructuring the order of the

recommendations in a specific order. So if you can walk us through the suggested order.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Actually, it was just a suggestion. You can take it. I was just trying to look for some logical flow. I'm trying to go to the statement. So I was suggesting that maybe you start with number four as number one. I'm just saying order them. And then you can look at them if you want. So go to number four. Then number two. Then number one. So you see number four, I was feeling like you can promote the ecosystem system best practice. So it's informing the number two, which is developing a clear abuse reporting mechanisms as you continue to strengthen capacity and awareness, number one. But you can still rethink them. And then number five. Empower civil society and end users. Then you go to number three. Encouraging regional collaboration. And number seven. Advocating for policy development and legislative support. This goes to also what the legislators were talking about. And I think they were saying they need more support in this area. Although they already got the support. It may come from ICANN, it could come from other places as well. Number six is where I was struggling, even with the heading. Because what the heading is, is not fully what it is you're saying you want to do. But it's a good one. But I was saying, I mean, what you're trying to talk about here is that you're trying to encourage. The genesis here, and you can correct me, is really that

you want informed decisions being made from evidence. So there needs to be more data collection.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

I think here it's more of like two folds. One of them is promoting evidence-based policymaking. And the other one is actually research in collaboration with universities and institutes. So maybe what we can do here is elaborate this in the title. So the title, like add to the title more so it does actually reflect the two folds. The research as well as the evidence-based policymaking. Or even maybe the, but I'm not sure it would fit there. Because we have another bullet that talks about measurements and evidence-based policymaking is actually based on data collection and analytics and measurements. So we either modify the title or maybe move the bullet point. But maybe, but this is noted. This is something we'll be, I think we need to think more about.

CATHERINE ADEYA

No, think about it, but I think it's more about tweaking it so that even if somebody just reads it the way you told him just to read the headings, it speaks. But it's not a big deal.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Yeah, I mean, the mention of data, I think brings me back to my other point that there's a narrative here to tell about starting out by talking about what the market potential is, and sort of the dream for Africa, and the role the Internet can play in opening new

markets, et cetera, and then talk about how that's threatened, and in both cases use some data. You know, what is the park of potential, and also what is the level of DNS abuse, et cetera, that's taking place in Africa in particular? They're just assertions now, but if some of that was backed up with data, I think it might make the statement more powerful.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

So, Jonathan, indeed, so your suggestion here makes perfect sense, that we need to add more facts to the statement. Let's see if we can actually, the only problem about this is that if we put figures or numbers, we need to be sort of sure that those figures or numbers are reliable and true, and maybe this is why we sometimes like, we are a little bit afraid of doing that, but let's see what we can do. So, yes, I acknowledge, can you please introduce yourself first? Thank you.

NNEMAYA MAGAZINE

Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Chair. My name is [Nnemaya Magazine.] I'm originally from Zimbabwe, but I'm here as a participant. I just wanted to give a little bit of comment from, I don't really understand everything on the statement itself, but from my understanding, I'm seeing a little bit of opportunities in what the group is trying to achieve. I wanted to agree on definitely starting with the data analysis to understand what is the gap we have in Africa, then the next step, which I didn't hear or see was clear objective of what ICANN is trying to do in Africa, then build up a

baseline of the objective, which is, to me, the guidance, policy framework, which countries can implement so that we can even understand what type of DNS they are using. We have no idea. To me, I have no idea what my country's DNS, which type of DNS, which they recommend different providers to use. So I see a gap in the data collection, then define the objectives, then we go to recommendation from ICANN on usability of DNS providers, then final recommendation on misuse, because if we don't even understand what is each African country doing on the DNS, it will be difficult to even talk about abuse. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: I just wanted to respond here that we are very specific about the misuse of the DNS that we are talking about, or the abuse of the DNS abuse. So we are basically talking or speaking about five forms of DNS abuse, which are phishing, malware distribution, botnets, farming, and spam when it serves as a delivery mechanism for the other types of DNS abuse. So this statement is specifically speaking about DNS abuse as it relates to those five aspects of abuse. I don't know if this helps.

NNEMAYA MAGAZINE: Yes, it does. So from my understanding, from my background being in Africa before I moved to Czech Republic, even the definition of abuse may be not the same what the room sees to what the country sees as abuse.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Dr. Catherine, go ahead. Yeah, but I think I would suggest as being a bit careful, because this is a statement which is actually following on to work that has been done. So the assumption that we do with these statements and what this particular session does, there have been other statements before dealing with the topical issues that ICANN is dealing with at the moment. So if we start going way back and explaining and defining, it will take away. And we are actually running, what we are running away from is what you are encouraging in a way, because we are the ones who said we need statements that are clearer and more succinct. That's why you had me even in my open remarks suggesting, go read what ICANN has done on exactly this topic. But now here in the statement, they are focusing just on Africa. What is Africa doing in relation to what ICANN is doing? So this is not something which is divorced from something else. So I would be very careful, if I understand you correctly, in trying to overexpand, defining, explaining, and the work ICANN is doing. The work ICANN is doing, Pierre has even explained it, and we keep talking about it, what they're doing in Africa. So this is all just part of a process to make sure that we are keeping Africa in the radar.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER

Thank you, Dr. Catherine. I'm pretty sure I'm lacking a little bit of context of the previous statements and stuff like that, so I'll take a look at them, yeah.

CATHERINE ADEYA

And Hadia is busy, but one of the things she was telling me yesterday, Hadia, you know, the final part he said might go to something you told me yesterday, I won't say because it's your secret. He's saying that he would like, it means that it would be nice to maybe also at some point see the various statements. Oh, you got that.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Yes. So this is Hadia again for the record, and yes, this is something we've been thinking about, that looking at previous statement and looking how Africa's views or AFRALO's view has evolved over the time with regard to a specific topic. So if you look, for example, at DNS abuse, this has been addressed many times before in many of AFRALO, previous AFRALO statements, and we can look at the previous statements and see how we evolved and how we think about that specific topic, and maybe also this could help us develop new thoughts and new ideas. So looking at the past, not only to see how we evolved, but also to, as an inspiration of how we can proceed forward, going forward, maybe we come up with a new thing. When it comes again to the DNS abuse definition, I fully agree with you that there is no global agreement that this is the definition. However, in order to have a starting point, in order to address the topic, we need to have a kind of a definition. So the community here decided to address DNS abuse as it relates to those five areas. And that's why this is what the statement is

addressing. I would like to turn the floor to Pierre. Maybe he can inform us more about what's happening with regard to some mitigation efforts. Maybe DNSSEC would be one of them.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

Well, thank you, Hadia, you know you are actually putting me on the spot here. We are not really, I mean, in terms of what we are doing in Africa so far, and when you cite the Coalition for Digital Africa, there is no specific project about DNS abuse mitigation. We don't have it, for many reasons, actually. And Kurtis said it, you are talking about a definition, and you also, although ICANN does have its own ideas, and we have a team working on that, you know, finalizing definitions and all of those things, we didn't go into that because we are also waiting for a kind of consensus on those things. So this was not our priority to launch, you know, a kind of project on DNS abuse in Africa. We will do it, but depending on the partners we have there. In terms of DNSSEC, yes, definitely we are here to ensure security, you know, as we said, of the DNS, which is key, and we do have a project that is called DNSSEC Roadshow that actually does a few things. It's about going to countries and working at different levels. So it might be having the policy, today I'm going to talk to you about how the decision makers or governments discuss why we are talking about DNSSEC, why they should have a safe destination for the ccTLDs in their country. And the good thing is that we have now a few countries that have signed their zone file, which is great. It's about working with the ccTLD managers to actually not only understand what you have here as a

tool, because it is a tool that ICANN has, and then people just need to master this tool to sign their zone file, and then validate these things, which is sometimes takes some, I would say, some effort, because when we come as ICANN, we just, you know, it's kind of hand-holding to do those things, but once you are no longer there, how does it continue, you know, and this is one issue that we are facing, that we train people, and then maybe six months later on, they just go, they move to another, you know, function, and it is an issue. So how do you build this sort of sustainability within the countries, this is the issue we are facing. Well, we are happy to also announce that the landscape, you know, the map on DNSSEC, you know, signing your zone file in Africa has been very, I would say, impacted by those effort of ours. Now, we are having, for the last two years, you know, three countries have signed in their zone file, plus the almost 15 that we did have. The plan is to have all the 53 or 54 countries, you know, sign their zone file, which is our objective there. So things are happening. We have a few sort of issues that we are facing, but I would say, basically, most issues, you know, pertain to capacity development, and also, once you develop those capacities, how do you retain them, and this is not our job as ICANN to be retaining people, it's about how best we, again, I would say, localize this thing in such a way that when you want to – someone is trained, that might not just be moving, and because he's the only one, you know, has been trained, that the whole thing can really stop. This is what we are facing today in Africa, and if you could eventually help mitigate those, I would say that would be a good thing to expect from you. And like I was also

saying, if we find ourselves at the stage that we need to launch, you know, a few operations, a few projects in Africa vis-à-vis DNS abuse, I think we should – we will do it, you know, without any issue here. So yeah, it's – we are just hearing, and we are also here to actually support you. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI Hadia, there was a hand from Hervé. Maybe if there's no one in the room who wants to speak, maybe Hervé can go?

HADIA ELMINIAWI Yes, no one from the room wants the floor. Thank you. Hervé, please go ahead.

HERVÉ SETONDJI Okay. I would like to answer to my colleague from Zimbabwe, the one who lives in the Czech Republic. I don't know if this is the first time that it takes part of one of these meetings, AFRALO-AfrICANN. Well, we have not maybe explained the objective of the meeting, the objective of the statement. What he said is true. If it is your first participation to the meeting, you're not going to understand everything that we do. We, Africans, we know that there are problems, issues that are the same all over the continent, but maybe sometimes the level of the problem is not the same in Africa as it is somewhere else. In the declaration, in the statement, we explained to ICANN that if this problem is the same everywhere, but Africa needs more resources to solve such and such problem. So

each time we put together a statement at such meeting here, the objective is this one. This time, we want to present a problem and we want to present it from an African perspective. And what are the solutions that we think that ICANN can bring to Africa? I just wanted to say that for those people who are here and participate for the first time at one of our meetings. Thank you. Go ahead, Bram.

BRAM FUDZULANI Thank you, Hervé. Back to you, Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI Thank you, Bram. So, Pierre, you did raise very important topics like capacity building and how do we attain people and how do we, after training them, how do we make sure that they stay? And so that becomes a continuous process for you. You train people and they leave. And maybe also train the trainers. So if you have a few trainers, then even those who leave can be trained by other trainers whom you have actually trained. And with regard to DNS abuse mitigation, I don't know if we can attribute this to ICANN or to the contracted parties, but there were or there are some efforts in that regard. For example, the amendment of the contracts of the contracted parties there. Also the systems that have been put together to collect data. But then I'm not sure how is this data being used? Like we have metrics, we have data, but how do we use this data then? In order to feed into something useful with regard to

DNS abuse, something that the community can use and not only ICANN.

PIERRE DANDJINOU

I don't know whether I got you quite well. Your question was about new data and the condition in which we kind of have those datas. Because there are so many issues surrounding data collection, actually, and we don't. And that's why in terms of the platform that we develop, we should make sure that, you know, there is kind of legal involvement, you know, and ICANN legal functions. So you don't just collect whatever you have to collect. We do have regulations on that issue. And in fact, that's why some of the projects we are having, say, for instance, Internet demographics, that's one project that we have. We are talking about Internet measurement. There are so many other, you know, projects, you know, pertaining to the ccTLDs, you know, we do collect a few data on them. Has to be the maximum. You have to agree on kind of the type of data you are actually collecting. It is an issue, definitely. And now, if you are getting involved into dearness abuse, you might need those data and to which, you know, I mean, what are the steps for doing this thing? How is all of this, you know, organized in terms of the legal aspect of it, in terms of regulation that you have at home, and also, you know, regional levels, all of this needs to be considered, actually. So yes, some of the things we want to do, sometimes we have to just wait until we get all the clarifications, actually, before we launch a few projects. And this is going to be an issue, actually. And we just believe that we need to sit down with

the partners and agree on, because different partners have different regulations in terms of, you know, data, which data you want to collect and in which condition you store, you know, those data. And as far as we are concerned at ICANN, I think this is something we are really following up, and that's the kind of assurance we can give. But we are not going to be collecting data because you have to collect data. We need to have a kind of agreement, you know, on whom data you are collecting and what the destination. But that's also the thing, what the destination, what are you doing with people's data, it's quite important that you explain, and then they really agree that you are doing those things. Yeah, data has been an issue for us, but it's the same for so many other institutions, actually.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you, Pierre. This is Hadia for the record again. So maybe we could be more specific and talk about Domain Metrica. So ICANN Domain Metrica, as it says on the website, it serves as a comprehensive measurement platform that aggregates diverse datasets into unified interfaces. And through the consolidation of the data sets, ICANN Domain Metrica unveils patterns and trends that aim to better observations. And it does say also that the platform provides valuable information pertaining to DNS abuse, volumes, types, and distributions. So this is a piece of, this is a platform that could also help. Could you elaborate on this? Or

maybe someone else? I don't know. Could you tell us more about this?

PIERRE DANDJINOU

I think domain Metrica is one of the initiatives by our CTO, and which actually, again, is about having a few data. There are selected data that they are collecting to do this. Because no matter what you say, of course, there are a few sort of important information that we do need. And this is about assisting, supporting users sometimes. But this has, so far, I think it's an internal sort of project, not something that is really a kind of public realm, per se. Because it's important to also understand that not all data can be exposed and accessed. So yes, we do have these sort of projects. We have internally, which is not something that we are actually exposing publicly. And yeah, that's what you need to know at this stage. But I also say that it all depends on what you want to achieve, and which places you are actually doing this. If different countries have also different regulation on those issues, and you have to understand the regulation before you start any project there. But there are many of our platforms which are internal, which is not necessarily for public consumption. So I mean, that's the rational I can share here.

YAZID AKANHO

Hi, everyone. This is Yazid from the office of the CTO. Just to add to what Pierre has already said very well. So when it comes to domain abuse in general, from ICANN's position, we need to, first of all, be

sure that we have the right, especially from a legal perspective, on the kind of data which is being collected, on the kind of processing which is being done, and on the type of publication which is being done of all of this kind of data that are usually collected. So we have, as Pierre said, we have quite a number of platforms and tools that are used internally, but also meant to provide the general community some factual information. For a couple of years, we have been running the Domain Abuse Activity Report system, for instance, the DAAR, which was the first ever platform that ICANN has put together for the community to be aware and to follow on the trends of the different abuse categories as defined by the community. And of course, as Pierre and Kurtis and Catherine and all the panelists have also highlighted, we are still debating on the consensus around these types of abuse activities. Now, when it comes to domain matriarchy, two meetings ago, in I think it was in Istanbul, if I'm not wrong, the announcement was done around the new platform. And progressively, there will be some of its modules that will be open to the public. Recently, very recently, the platform is now accessible to the public. We already have some registries information. And as the DAR platform also, we are comparing the domain registrations with the reputation blacklists. Some are commercials. Others are open source RBLs that are available there on the internet. So we are processing all this kind of information. And as opposed to DAR, domain matriarchy is also capable of collecting some information coming from the registries. So we are now expanding on domain matriarchy, the information that are getting into the system, I mean the input information. But again,

we are progressively moving toward a platform which provides much more information that the community can consume. And as of today, if you connect to the system, you can log in with your ICANN account. And you can see there are some graphs that are already available there that you can use. Now, most of them are not really actionable from the community per se, but registries and registrars can take action out of the different graphs and the different informations that this platform produced. As DAAR also used to provide some specific information for actions to be taken by the registries. And again, to conclude, it is a progressive work. And as Pierre said, there is a lot of legal concerns that needs to be addressed. So we know that the community is impatient. But yeah, this requires a lot of efforts that most of the people also sometimes do not see. Thank you, and back to the room.

HADIA ELMINIAWI Tijani, please go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA Thank you, Hadia. For me, DNS abuse mitigation is mainly about who will notify about DNS abuse. And this notification should go to whom? Should it be verified? Who can verify it? And then if the first receiver of this notification is not able to act, how this notification should escalate? These are the steps that are meant to be done to mitigate the DNS abuse. So I think that we should be aware that everyone, every user, can notify about the DNS abuse. And this will

help to act against this abuse. This is something that we can perhaps add in our statement. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much, Tijani. So maybe we can look together at item number two, which is develop clear abuse reporting mechanisms. And under this, we say encourage African ccTLD registries and registrars to adopt and publish clear DNS abuse policies and contact points. Promote the development of, I will read number three, and then I will go to number two. Because here, I have a question, actually, to the community. Bullet number three says enhance reporting of all incidents in a quarterly or monthly publication with wide circulation. And number three, promote the development of centralized user-friendly abuse reporting platforms in local languages. So maybe the first bullet about registries and registrars adopting and publishing clear DNS abuse policies and contact points, maybe this says who needs to do what. But the second point about promote the development of centralized user-friendly, by centralized, centralized on what level are we talking about centralization? Are we talking about the country? Are we talking about ICANN have a centralized platform? And again, reporting of all incidents in quarterly and monthly, reporting again to whom? Is it to this centralized system? So this is an open question to everyone. Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA

Yes. Having a centralized platform for the notifications is a very good thing. But we don't tell people that they have to be notifiers also. It doesn't mean that each notification will lead to an act, because there are notifications that are not real DNS abuse. So we need this notification to be verified. But people should know that if they notice anything, they have to report it. They have to notify. But we should tell them notify whom. The notification should go to whom. I think this is the practical things that we have to tell people to do so that they participate in the mitigation of DNS abuse. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER

I just wanted to share experience from the corporate environment on the escalation and notification of abuse. I'll give just an example from a corporate perspective. So when we escalate abuse of different domain names, we usually utilize trademarks, if it's a trademark-related issue. So on this, if we are targeting phishing, different other use cases, I'm thinking maybe this can be part of the policy which can be assigned at the registrar level. I don't know. Just a suggestion.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Well, I think I'll just pick again from the statement. And I'm now just even looking ahead and listening to also some of the questions. To also share, there's an opportunity, I think, tomorrow. Tomorrow, there is an At-Large plenary on progressing DNS abuse mitigation efforts. And I think it would be good. This ties in very well with the

conclusion where AFRALO is calling for ICANN regional groups and all stakeholders to support African efforts for safe and trusted strong internet. I want us to just focus on that last sentence. Together, we can turn DNS abuse into a chance for teamwork, new ideas, and building skills in Africa. The reason why I like this conclusion ties in with what this statement is doing, is asking for what we are doing here, but more concerted efforts, but looking for ways that you can also then build on also what ICANN is doing, but looking at Africa specifically. And maybe allow me to conclude with something I did in Africa Space this morning. And in Africa Space this morning, I looked at African sayings and proverbs that are linked to internet governance. It was just something I was doing as a hobby, but I'll pick one. And this one is from Ghana, from the [inaudible] of Ghana, where they say a single stick may smoke, but it will not burn. And I remember in the morning, people like that, because a single stick may smoke, but it will not burn. So I wondered, what does it have to do with what we're talking about? It's highlighting the power of collective effort. That is what we're talking about, even in this statement. And in creating a secure network and defending against cyber attacks. I think we can also turn that into the DNS mitigation efforts. The reason I'm bringing this proverb is just as we keep thinking, any time I sit in this session's idea, we'll go on and on, we'll have discussions, very healthy. But I think in this particular case, as Pierre said, this is something which is ongoing. And if there's anything you think we

can continue to build up, let's build up. But improve the statement, but still keep it succinct. Thank you.

HEIDI ULLRICH

I was inspired by Dr. Catherine to remind you, if you are not aware, that tomorrow, there will be two sessions of At-Large on DNS abuse. It is one of the two key issues for At-Large here in Prague. The first one, tomorrow morning at nine, is a session with OCTO, and that will include a detailed discussion on the Domain Metrica, including a case study, a couple of case studies. So I invite you to that session. And then the second is immediately following, and they were developed to follow each other, is the second At-Large plenary on DNS abuse. And it's very similar to your statement. It's on DNS abuse mitigation. And that session was designed to be very much cross-community. So you're going to be hearing the views of not just At-Large, but of other communities, groups within ICANN. And I think that's going to be important as you develop your statement here. And then finally, Silvia has just reminded me that in the past, there was some detailed DNS abuse mitigation training within AFRALO, but that hasn't taken place in a few years, I understand. So that's something that you may wish to consider, to have a specific training on DNS abuse for the African region. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Can I just help? The one tomorrow that you're seeing is at 11:00 AM, and it's exactly in this room. So you can even book your seats in advance.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

So I would suggest that, of course, we received some comments on the statement, and we will be updating the statement according to those comments. But I also suggest that we wait until we attend both sessions tomorrow, the first one and the second one. The first one, again, is about ICANN Domain Medica, and the second one is about DNS abuse mitigation. And after that, we will keep the statement open maybe for two weeks, two more weeks, for the input of the community based on what they have heard, based on the discussion, on today's discussion, and on their attendance and what they have learned and heard from the sessions that we are having tomorrow. One other thing that I would, I think I would like to add to the statement is being more specific, like coming up with more specific actions to the At-Large and specifically the AFRALO community. So there are some specific items in the statement as it stands, related of course to workshops and training and raising awareness, and this is something At-Large structures do. But also maybe trying to be more specific with regard to other items or other recommendations related to other areas. So from the discussion today, we received recommendations that speak to targeted workshops including search and At-Large structures, translating documents. We spoke about capacity building. This included capacity building of parliamentarians. But maybe there

are other parts that we need to flesh out more regarding, for example, the reporting part. Here I will stop and give it back to Bram in order to see if we have more community members that would like to comment or discuss further the statement.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Yes, thank you. Just one comment from Seun. He was advocating that maybe perhaps we could organize as AFRALO, we could organize capacity building for the AFRALO community members on the issue of the DAR that has extensively been discussed, the Domain Abuse Activity Reporting System. So that's a comment that came from Sean. But there's a hand from Winnie in the room. Winnie, if you can hear us, please go ahead.

WINNIE KAMAU: I'm trying to switch on my video, hope you can see me. My name is Winnie Kamau and I really like the conversations, I just plugged in to the conversations that are going on. One thing I'm seeing, people are just talking about capacity building of different sectors or different teams in the network, but I'm trying to understand if there's a role of storytelling and just telling success stories so far, what has happened, where we've come from and where we're going. I don't know if that can be captured.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Winnie. So, Hadia, just for context, Winnie is one of the Africa MAG members but also, I think, a journalist. So, perhaps she's

asking in the context of whether when such drafts have been made, as AFRALO, we've gone a step further to engage in publications or telling a story of the African perspective. So, maybe that's something that you can take later on. Hadia, back to you. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much, Bram. And, of course, all community members can be part of our policy development and work on statements and contribution to the policy sessions and especially through the Consolidated Policy Working Group. If you're not a member of AFRALO, just go to the website and register as an individual AFRALO member and then you will be on the mailing list. You will be aware on the statements that we are developing and the issues that we are discussing and you could, for sure, take part in it. And also, you could lead groups if you related to your specific interests, of course, as it relates to AFRALO and ICANN. Just one more thing. I just want to note that ICANN Domain Metrica has replaced DAAR. So, when we mention ICANN Domain Metrica, this is the new version of DAAR. Thank you. So, it's not the new version. It's a new platform, an entirely new platform.

PETER KIM

Thank you so much. My name is Peter Kim. I'm from Liberia. I want to just buttress on the point our sister Winnie just made. I also want to suggest that the issue of DNS is the word itself might be very, very new to some people, not more technical in our region in Africa.

And I would like to propose that at least a sub-regional approach in terms of, as she said, storytelling will keep the idea of the concept of DNS as an issue. And the issue of DNS abuse also being put into right context for it to be actually related to issues that people do know, but they don't know that this is the nomenclature that is being described in our sector. That is just what I wanted to just make an input on that. Thank you for the floor.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. Yeah, it's just I have Heidi. Her hand is up here.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah, just really quickly. I know we're at the end of the meeting, but I wanted to just invite all of you to, given your absolute interest in DNS abuse mitigation, to let you know to join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group session. That's on Wednesdays. It's a pretty good time for all of you. And they will discuss DNS abuse pretty much most weeks. So if you do want to contribute to the At-Large discussion on that, I would very much encourage you and would welcome to see you there. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA: And just to add something quickly, I'm really appreciating the concern about that many people may not understand about DNS, DNS abuse. And it's true, even the senators and all the rest say, but sometimes, and I'm not being critical, sometimes now there's a lot of information out there. So I think the person who spoke, I didn't

get your name. I sometimes challenge some of the science editors, even back home, that they need to also demystify some of these things. So I'll give you an example, only one quick example. If you just Google right now on the ICANN website, why the DNS is broken in plain language. It's there with diagrams in simple terms, broken down in even very simple terms. So now if you can take that, tweak it and simplify it into the various languages you're saying, I think we could still get the message across. What I'm saying, let's go back to my African proverb of the collective. Let's help one another to communicate this and make Pierre's work also easier. Pierre, am I not helping you? I'm just saying, I'm trying to make your work easier by saying let us all work collectively where we can be able to communicate this even in simple terms.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. I tend to agree with you because a few weeks ago I had engagement with the parliamentary select committee on budget in Ghana. And then it's a meeting between the communication ministry and its agencies. And then the Ghana Domain and Registry is part of it. So it got to the turn of the Ghana Domain and Registry to engage the parliamentary select committee. And it will interest you to know that none of them knows about a DNS. If you are talking about a registry, all they know is what? I have internet. I'm using the internet. But they don't know what goes on. So we needed them to also at least give their support when it comes to the domain name. Because over the years, they always ignore the domain names. Even giving budget and all of

that, they ignore them. Until I use certain terms that we are sitting on a time bomb. I mean, the registry is suffering. The resources are not there. And all of that. And then all the payment gateways and the resources, the E, whatever it is, and all of that, gov, everything. One day, the whole thing will shut down. And then that is where they begin to wake up. And then you could see that the interest, I mean, yeah. So I mean, we just need to do more and see how we can educate everyone.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Wisdom. And I would just like to note that Alan Barrett, in the chat, when we were talking about centralized systems and what does this look like, so he's telling us about a NetBeacon reporting system. And that's a system that's actually been there. I was going to mention the DNS Abuse Institute, but now actually it's NetBeacon. Right. Yes. And then one other information about DAAR and the ICANN Domain Metrica. There has been a discussion in chat, and apparently DAR still exists. And there is a possibility also to have training on both. And with this, I thank you all for attending AFRALO-AfrICANN session at ICANN 83. This session will be updated based on today's discussion and also based on the information.

WINNIE KAMAU: I just wanted to let you know that in as much as we are communicating, if you talk about... You're just speaking in terms of acronym and people do not understand. So, and even just the

dimension of DNS and I go to... I see DNS and I don't understand what it means. I can't even be able to have the appetite to go to your website and learn what Madam was explaining about DNS. Kindly, is it possible to be able to have a strategy where you can reach out to communicators to be able to help demystify some of these acronyms? From there, then we can be able to push the conversations of knowing what it means and where to push the conversations

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much, Winnie, for your contribution. This is Hadia for the record. And I actually encourage you to join us in order to develop together what you're asking for. So this is a community we all work together in order to develop what we think with regard to policies, and now you're talking about DNS abuse. So join the AFRALO community, take part in the discussions, help in the development and shaping of AFRALO's policies and decisions. With that, I would like to thank you all for attending the AFRALO-African session, and I turn it back to staff to close the session.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**