

[background conversation]

[music]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats.

[background conversation]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Mr. Minister, Mr. Director, Mr. CEO – good evening. Welcome to this Showcase which is an event that AFRALO organized here in Dakar. I would like today to honor the people who have made these events possible that we all organized this week. I will start with Heidi Ullrich who is a wonderful woman, really, who's always helped us realize our projects. Heidi was working with us on this project as she had just had a baby and she had her baby in her arms. Thank you, Heidi.

[Applause]

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Tijani Ben Jemaa: She was on maternity leave. Heidi was not alone. Heidi was not alone, indeed. All the members of her team helped us in realizing this work. There was Gisella, the real African, very dynamic and efficient. There was Matt – Matt is this man who we loved when he was Constituency Travel. He is so valuable, he is always so efficient. There was also [Seth Kinipala] who fortunately helped us put the report together to enhance At-Large. There was Marilyn.

We can say that we were lucky to have an At-Large staff who were so performant, thanks to all of them. The first person who believed in us in order for us to realize this event was Cheryl. Cheryl?

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: She helped encourage us with energy. She did everything she could so the project would come to good results. I cannot forget to mention two members of the Board of ICANN. I say Jean-Jacques Subrenat and Katim Touray who have spent so much energy to help us.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: And Olivier Crépin-Leblond, the President of ALAC, who with his astute Vice-President has helped us make these events possible by implementing a solidarity spirit within At-Large. All the RALOs, both the regional organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, have helped us and conceded their parts of additional travel to AFRALO, so because of them we're here. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: I want now to introduce Mrs. Fatimata Seye Sylla, our President who made us work very hard to prepare Dakar. Fatimata brought inside AFRALO a spirit as you say of understanding and confidence that helped us to do what we did.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: The mic is yours, Fatimata.

Fatimata Seye Sylla: Thank you, Tijani. I'm going to speak in English just to make sure everybody understands.

I want to welcome our guests, the Ministry of Telecommunications and ICT Senegal, Mr. Moustapha Guirassy; and Mr. Rod Beckstrom, President and CEO of ICANN; Mr. Sébastien Bachollet, ICANN Board member selected by At-Large; Mr. Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of ALAC; dear representatives of ALSes, dear ICANN staff members, dear participants.

I'm really honored to welcome you in Africa, and particularly in Senegal, the country of [Taranga]. [Taranga] means "hospitality." Thank you all for attending the AFRALO Showcase on internet development and African participation. I'm very thankful to all our ICANN community involved in the organization of this event; I mean ICANN staff members, the At-Large members and especially AFRALO within the AFRALO Dakar Events Committee.

This Committee worked hard together to set up a series of four activities to be undertaken for our community. One is the capacity building program, which has started since this morning; the AFRALO/AfrICANN meeting on internet users' security and best practices which will take place during this week; the AFRALO General Assembly and this Showcase.

The Showcase event was initiated for the first time in ICANN history in 2009 by AFRALO with our first edition in Nairobi. Since then, the At-Large community adopted the idea of sharing among ourselves the value of the region organizing the ICANN meeting. As of today, all the four other regions have organized their regional Showcase, their first edition as you say.

This second edition of AFRALO's Showcase in Dakar will be an opportunity for African participants to give the floor to key actors in internet development and to share some of our cultural items as you can see here.

[Applause]

Fatimata Seye Sylla: In fact, today we have the pleasure to have the famous acoustic band [Pop & Shek] to play for us.

[Applause]

Fatimata Seye Sylla: ...to play for us thanks to the President of [Promo Consulting], the well-known Mr. [Manek Jah] who also provided assistance in the organization of this event by allowing his staff to welcome us in this room. You can see the hostesses; give them applause.

[Applause]

Fatimata Seye Sylla: [Manek] stood up to ensure that I got the support I needed to make this event successful. I would also like to thank all the ICANN members in this room for their support.

[Applause]

Fatimata Seye Sylla: Thank you, Rod. I know how much you appreciate being with us. Thank you. Thank you to the National Organizing Committee members who have been very supportive and helpful.

[Applause]

Fatimata Seye Sylla: I must admit that our IT community is very supportive to each other regardless of their country, and this is just wonderful, isn't it Titi? Our Honorable Minister here is one of them. He is here today with us because he understands the purpose of this gathering and wants to be part of it despite his busy schedule. Thank you, Honorable Minister, for being with us. Thank you, everybody.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Thank you, Fatimata, and now let's move on to the speakers. Mr. Olivier Crépin-Leblond will say something for the opening of this presentation, this Showcase.

Olivier Crépin-Leblond: Thank you, Tijani. I will speak from here. It is an enormous pleasure to be among you here in Africa, here in Senegal because first of all I want to thank the wonderful, wonderful welcoming of Africa which is just incredible. Thank you, all of you, for your welcoming effort.

Another person I want to add to the list that Mr. Ben Jemaa has thanked is Akram Atallah who is the Chief Operating Officer of ICANN, because without him, without his agreement we would not have been able to work together and take three regions and prepare all these events and all these activities with AFRALO here during this week. Thank you, Mr. Atallah.

[Applause]

Olivier Crépin-Leblond: Of course, this is the first time there is such a program. What you see today, the Showcase, the presentation from AFRALO is something that in fact is happening a second time. Africa was a pioneer in the history of the Showcase because the organizations, the Regional At-Large Organizations are five, and AFRALO started as a pioneer – this concept of presenting what the local At-

Large Structures do and what they do for ICANN, what they do outside for their country, for their community at a local level.

Since the first Showcase in Nairobi the other regions have followed but the first ones who did it was AFRALO. Again, bravo! It was a great example. AFRALO has not put the bar up. I don't know if it is just only a step or two steps or maybe even higher but I see that first of all there are more and more people here. I see there is music now, there are personalities that are more and more important – VIPs. And I see now that there are four Regional Organizations that are very scared because they say “What are we going to do in the future?”

But Africa, when it comes to the internet at that level was a pioneer in a lot of new technologies. I remind you of the '90s – they were pioneers that are here, for the internet connectivity here in Africa. I can see some in this room. Africa has started in very difficult places – a lot of distance between people, the infrastructure is lacking because of the distance, because of the climate and other reasons. Africa started with the internet in 1995. I was looking at the archives – in 1995 there were two, maybe first one, one test that was [Austin] which started and then a net [work fair] that started after that. And then [Sunatel] followed up and made a fantastic network. I don't know if you, I know that here we work on IPv6, we have optical fiber.

I know it's incredible. Senegal is really, really ahead, on the top of the list for the African countries that are connected and I that it comes in that same order that the pioneers for AFRALO who are

showing us what the next step is or will be inside the Showcases and the activities that the original At-Large Organizations can do, what those organizations can do.

So listen – I hope that this meeting from ICANN that is taking place right now will help to reinforce all the capacities that we have. The program for building capacity in AFRALO happens between 7:00 and 9:00 every morning. All the African delegates who came from 17 ALSes, maybe 18 ALSes – 18 ALSes, At-Large Structures that came – they get up very, very early and they’re still with us tonight, and it will be like this every day for them. I don’t know how we’re going to send them back home at the end of the week; I know it’s going to be difficult for them. Their families are going to be upset but in the meantime the delegates are wonderfully happy about this.

I’m not going to make it last too long because there are other people after me coming to talk, and once again I want to thank everyone – you, because you came. This is important for the community, the At-Large community to know that there is a lot of interest, a lot of projects that are founded, a lot of eyes that are looking and people that are trying to see how this At-Large community is being developed. And from now to see with our own eyes it’s very impressive. Thanks again, and I’m going to let Mr. Ben Jemaa take over.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Bless you, Olivier. So from one boss to the other, I'm going to ask Sébastien Bachollet as a member of the Board to take the floor.

[Applause]

Sébastien Bachollet: Thank you very much. Thank you, Tijani. Mr. Minister, Mr. CEO, Mr. President and Vice-President, Mr. ALAC President, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, this is a real honor for me to be here today with you. And I don't know how we can personify what we are experiencing now at this point. This is a continent, this is a country where impossible becomes possible. AFRALO did demonstrate and prove in 2009 and shows us today that Africa is a pioneer in many events, and Africa will show the way to the world.

We should be looking at Africa not only regarding the internet for some guidance. I came with a badge which says "ICANN At-Large Summit." In 2009, just before the first Showcase organized by AFRALO, ALAC, At-Large did organize the first Summit which enabled all the At-Large Structures meeting; and this was the event that enabled us and enabled ALAC to grow, and each region to really be more competent and to operate better in their specific area.

Since then, it was impossible to put together a general session during a meeting of ICANN, and today we were able thanks to the support of several areas – Africa area and AFRALO today shows leadership. Just like it was said before me, there is also a training scheduled, put together by AFRALO for their members and I think it's absolutely essential and it's a very good initiative; and I am convinced that the area is going to benefit from this. And I am convinced that ICANN, the internet will benefit from the African experience.

We have several meetings with government members, with other structures, with local representatives and leaders and I'm very impressed with what I hear with the devotion to their job; and I'm convinced that this is a good image which is taking place for the first time in a French-speaking Sub-Saharan country. That's why I do speak French today and I thank you again. Have a good evening.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Thank you, Sébastien. You are going to make us blush. Mr. Minister, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to now have Mr. Rod Beckstrom, President and Chief Executive Officer, take the floor.

Rod Beckstrom: Thank you so much, Tijani. I'm very happy to be here at the second ever AFRALO Showcase. It seems like it's becoming a tradition and a tradition that started of course in Nairobi last year. And I especially want to thank the outstanding Senegalese dancers and musical performers who started off this session so beautifully today.

[Applause]

Rod Beckstrom: Thank you for sharing the richness of your culture. And I'm honored to be here with all of you as the regional leaders and the ALS leaders from 18 different structures in Africa out of a total of 24 – you've made remarkable, remarkable progress in helping to move ICANN forward, the global community forward, and of course Africa forward in its utilization of the internet. And your work really impacts so many of the end users here in Africa so we're deeply, deeply grateful to all of you.

And I'm especially grateful of course to Tijani Ben Jemaa for his leadership in AFRALO and also for Fatimata Seye Sylla, for her leadership and help also in bringing us to Senegal for this wonderful event. And today I know that we're going to hear the voices of different end users here in Africa, and we've already enjoyed the sounds of the culture.

I also want to thank the AFRALO At-Large Structure representatives participating in the AFRALO Dakar events. This will increase the engagement overall in the ICANN community and this increases the effectiveness of all of our work here. And of course it's a great pleasure today to be able to introduce Moustapha Guirassy, Minister of Communication, Telecommunications and Information in Communications Technologies, and spokesperson of the government of Senegal. He also serves as the Mayor of Kedougou and he was a Parliamentary Deputy here in Senegal from 2007 to 2009.

He's a Regional Advisor for Tambacounda and in charge of international relations from 2002 to 2009. He has a degree in electrical engineering and an MBA from the University of Quebec, and also served as a lecturer there. We welcome you, Minister Guirassy.

[Applause]

Moustapha Guirassy: Thank you very much, Mr. Beckstrom. I realize that the internet is really strong because you have lots of data! I don't know where you found my bio but it's pretty dangerous with the internet – you can know everything about everybody. You cannot hide. And I would like to thank you. In the name of the country of Senegal I would like to thank you for what you are doing for the world, for

internet, for choosing Dakar for your meeting – your 42nd meeting of ICANN.

Mr. Sébastien Bachollet, selected by At-Large, Mr. Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Ms. Fatimata Seye Sylla – I would like to in a few words say something because we are going through a revolution in Dakar since the last week. We are talking about the internet. This is already a revolution, we all know that, but what is amazing is that we are experiencing incredible moments and times thanks to the will of two people. In general, we didn't see them a lot before in information technologies; we didn't know them very well. This lady, and this is great that we have a lady here that honors all the women in Africa and really makes them proud.

[Applause]

Moustapha Guirassy:

This is a wonderful organization. That was a challenge and this is such an important sector for the world and for Africa, and our other sister just left the room – and you know her well, [Eucorimae]. I would like to thank her as well – that's why we are here in Dakar. Thanks to those two ladies.

And in Senegal, we just passed a law for parity for the equality between men and women. The Head of State of Senegal is very aware of the needs for women to help us out. They are better organizers, they're always reaching out for success.

[Applause]

Moustapha Guirassy:

And I can hear a voice that sounds like Soufia. Ladies and gentlemen, please, dear representatives accredited by ICANN, dear staff, dear guests. It's a real pleasure that today I do open up this Showcase organized by At-Large and AFRALO, ICANN AFRALO, to underline the identity of Africa and its participation to the internet and to prosperity. I'm going to talk about the development of the internet and the participation of Africa in the development of the internet. I'm going to go back to those African actors that always try for it to become a reality.

Ladies and gentlemen, here and now I would like to thank all the women and all the men, and especially all the women of the continent that started those activities that did define our internet policies for its future and its stability, and in order to improve a lot of the population of the world. For developing internet in the world we were recognized at the highest level by ICANN and the Internet Governance Forum. Yes, Africa has the human resources, quality human resources in internet technologies. Yes, we do also have the political vision and will to have better infrastructure. We have governance so that we are performing with internet in Africa.

Dear guests, our heads of state do understand why the IT sector is so important for Africa and for the future of the continent. That is why we are very favorably investing in the internet. Thanks to the

private sector and telecomm operators most of the African countries do have infrastructures with new cables, fiber optic cables that will enable us to have a faster internet in Senegal. You can, in the entire country use ADSL or even better technologies thanks to the private sector and to donors. We have partnerships, public/private partnerships; we have new governance structures in AFRI NIC and this is along with ICANN as well.

This is the time to talk about the promotion done with IPv6 in Africa, for the users in Africa. This is a non-governmental structure that is very useful. We have other technical sector entities and public and private sector as well as the civil society. This is clear that the representatives of the African civil society play an important role in the growth of Africa thanks to the internet. You're going to enable us to grow for four main reasons.

First, you do represent the end users of the internet – clients, potential clients that do pay for services and bring resources so that we do R&D on the internet. Secondly, you give feedback on products and make comments and proposals on internet services. Thank to your cultural identity, your values and your sensitivity you do innovate in your countries and in the world. You follow the process to develop the internet, to manage it better, and you do inform and bring awareness to populations about the usage of the internet.

You are the strength that helps government to elaborate policies to develop internet in your countries with ICANN. You are very active and involved and today you did organize this meeting in

Dakar to show that Africa is part of the internet development thanks to human resources, and also thanks to its cultural diversity. I am very proud to be here and to see the 24 African structures accredited by ICANN that do so much for Africa with the internet, and I am very honored that the African culture will be shown in all of its diversity.

I do declare this Showcase open for our 42nd meeting in Dakar. Thank you, and thanks, ICANN.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa:

Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your participation in this event and your kind words of encouragement. They warm our hearts and they help us to do more in the future or do better in the future. Thanks again.

As you know, ladies and gentlemen, the theme that was chosen for this Showcase was the development of the internet and the participation of Africa. To talk about this subject we have chosen three people who contributed to the evolution of the internet in Africa, and I will start with Mr. Mouhamet Diop who's the CEO of NEXT SA.

Mouhamet Diop:

Hello, President. Hello, Mr. Minister and Mr. President of ICANN, President of At-Large and all the regional structures as well. I'm very honored to be here for this 42nd conference of ICANN – all the delegations that are here a little bit from everywhere. I would say that today we talk about a component of the internet and ICANN who is asking for different dimensions.

Africa today is a continent full of energy but before I talk about Africa I would like to make the link between ICANN and At-Large. What does At-Large represent today when we talk about the organization such as ICANN? ICANN as an institution has three roles: everything that has to do with identification on the internet – IP address numbers; and a second function that concerns the DNS; and the third function is concerned by the development of policies and everything that is around all these technical functions. And I want to right now point to At-Large as being the structure which in fact, outside of other constituencies like the institute that manages the domain names, and the institute that manages the IP addresses – ICANN and At-Large.

ICANN can't be today what it is without At-Large, without At-Large being engaged, giving a way and a voice to the people today who don't have a voice. ICANN is quite technical – people that talk about addresses and domain names and so on and so forth. Can we participate in this organization if we are not either one or the other – technical or else? The organization has listened and given a place to all these people who consider that the decisions that are being taken have an impact on their future or their lives,

and that they have a right. And that's what was done by opening this door with At-Large.

You have to see this relationship in two ways because simply ICANN needs advocates, needs people who understand what they're doing. ICANN needs relays in different sectors because ICANN itself is also in transition between a structure that was very technical and an environment that is let's say a guide – it's now an internationalized environment and now it is a multi-stakeholder environment. And everybody needs to understand each other and be implied in the process.

And I think in my opinion this is what At-Large is. At-Large is the advocates of ICANN. They are relays for information from ICANN. They are communications spaces, information spaces for understanding that the final users, the registrants, the organization have; and today, without this dimension inside ICANN, ICANN would not be so rich, would not be so colorful as what it is today.

Fatimata, thank you for this mobilization. The message that we want to give to the African community is this one. In fact, when someone asks us what the problem is in Africa for ICANN, you know, we say it's the participation. And you will understand today that a space like At-Large is trying to solve that problem. I'm going to give you a few details.

The implication is that participation is low. We need more. We are told that "We do not quite know what ICANN does for us. We need to understand better. Do you have something for us to

understand better?” The aspect also of legitimacy – what is your concern? What do we confer to you? What are your prerogatives today? Do you want to talk to the whole world, organize a side to see that we’re waiting for new gTLDs, we’re open to new opportunities, we look at new IP addresses? What confers to you these rights in the technical corporation in this space? How do you impact our daily life?

It has a role in the regulation of the internet in different countries, this aspect. We need to talk about it. We need to address it. The fourth dimension is the inclusion. Without At-Large, where do you find all the resources that you need if you’re not technical? If I’m not technical but I’m concerned, how can I be involved? The inclusion is important in ICANN. How can we show that what we are doing is not just for the elite but that it concerns everybody on the internet on a global dimension? It concerns the whole of humanity.

It’s not because we don’t use internet that we’re not impacted by what it does. Another element is the partnership of organization, enforcement and strength. ICANN will be strong when ICANN will have members in all the continents that will all be very strong compared to what AFRALO is doing in Africa; if everybody is as strong as what we do here. We all need to be partners. We have to have engaged partners so this organization will be solid – it’ll be harder to bring it down. I think it’s very important.

I’m going to finish on three points and I want you to think about this. First, in the legal way, for security for example... It seems

that we have three minutes so I'm going to summarize for example. I took more time than I had. The summary, the idea, the conclusion is such that in fact the registrants and the users in Africa need to be heard and can be included and can implicate themselves. We say thank you to AFRALO to give us the opportunity to be included without being necessarily technical, that we can have this dimension at a level of culture and at a legal level as well. And we say thank you to the organization, and we hope that as many Africans will be implicated in this program every day.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Thank you, Mouhamet. I will ask from the other speakers to not be too long. The next speaker will be Katim Touray, who is a member of the Board of Directors of ICANN.

[Applause]

Katim Touray: I would like to request the interpreters to allow me one 30-second limit to talk to my Senegalese brothers and sisters in Wolof. (speaks Wolof)

[Applause]

Katim Touray:

I asked for permission to speak in Wolof because between the Gambia and Senegal I strongly believe that there are some things that need not be interpreted – we can talk directly to each other. And with regards to the topic of participation of Africa in internet development, and also the implications for Africa's cultural identity, it's a very important topic and I think it's most unfortunate that we have two issues lumped into one. Participation in and of itself is important; cultural identity is a whole other can of worms and also very important.

But let's start with participation, and I think to get a better grasp of the issue, let's very briefly try to all be on one page. What is basically participation? It really, to paraphrase a definition from the World Bank, it's about sharing in the decision making process; it's about sharing in having initiatives in organizations; and also sharing in the allocation of resources in an organization. So basically from that perspective it means then that if you don't participate effectively you have absolutely no say or very, very little say in the development of initiatives in an organization. You have no say in the allocation of resources and neither in the decision making process – in other words, you are just floating. And I think our people deserve much better than that.

It's a very important issue for the simple reason that it in fact also, for an organization and for a country and for a company, for that

matter, it results in an increased emphasis on resource use and in the increased emphasis on resource use which an organization will use to achieve its objectives. But for me, as an African, I always tell people participation is especially important because it's a new paradigm for us. We are talking about a people who are frequently disenfranchised, a people who frequently have their rights denied them. And so the whole idea of building capacity for greater and more effective participation is, in my opinion, of cardinal importance if we are going to achieve our development objectives.

With regards to the participation, all participation in an organization like ICANN – and ICANN is just one of the many organizations that we need to have a presence in. We have to understand that we face quite a number of significant challenges. Of course we all know that we have infrastructure problems. If ICANN, for instance, organizes a meeting and we talk about remote participation, I always tell my friends that when you talk about remote participation I actually cringe because when I travel out of The Gambia and I see the kind of bandwidth people are getting – up to 1 megabits per second – I find myself in a situation where back home sometimes when I get 20 kilobits per second I am jumping for joy. As the Senegalese would say, I'm doing the [Yalgotte], you know?

And it's quite a world apart we're talking about. And of course we also have to realize the fact that we all have logistical problems. I'll give you an example. A few years ago when ICANN had the meeting in Australia, I had to DHL my passport to South Africa

and DHL back again; not to talk of the incredible distances that one has to cover. That's another issue that we have to deal with, and on and on and on. And of course we also have the language problems, not to mention that we don't even have enough time usually to talk about the issues that we really want to get to. I have one minute left.

And so those are very important issues, and I think the message here is that we have challenges that we have to deal with as a community, and an international and global community at that. With regards to cultural identity, I think we have to understand that the development of the internet is a double-edged sword for us. On the one hand, it can lead to cultural preservation and to the increase in the strengthening of our cultural identity by virtue of the fact that cultures who hitherto would not have had the opportunity of being preserved and thereby being shared with other people would now enjoy that opportunity.

At the same time, too, we actually also run the risk of being swamped by other cultures that predominate the content on the internet. We all talk all the time about local content problems, and so it's a double-edged sword and it has to be handled as such. I think on that note my time is up, and thank you very much. I'm looking forward to the interaction. Thank you.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Thank you very much, Katim, and sorry to interrupt you. It's too long. Okay, now we're going to let a young African woman, another woman, Mr. Minister, who was a coordinator for the Youth Caucus. Her name is Titi Akinsanmi. Please take the floor, Titi.

[Applause]

Titi Akinsanmi: Good evening, everybody.

...all protocols duly observed. When I was asked to speak, I always say this, that sometimes when you're so good at something people then put you in a particular position and you're categorized. So I'm standing here as Titi, Titi Akinsanmi, a Nigerian by birth, but an African by inclination and I say that with a lot of pride, a lot of pride.

Tonight alone with the previous speakers who have spoken before me, you've had us demonstrate three particular kinds of themes that show us as Africans. You have had Mouhamet. He has presented with a computer. You have had my very good older brother do the oral tradition, so I'm going to take us to a place that also finds its history in Africa – the written word.

As I walked into the room today a smile walked across my heart and found its way to my lips. Like I said, I am Titi Akinsanmi. I began this journey as an Information Society activist, and today in

this room I find myself again. I was last in this room about five years ago but it was on gender issues. Looking back, I realize that we have come quite a ways. I [wonder], all you knowledgeable folks with the how's and the why's and the what', the most obvious being the smartphone that you're all probably holding or working with in one way or another right now – a quick diversion from my speech. And Tijani, I promise I am not going to spend more time than is actually needed.

How many people here have at least two gadgets that are connected to the internet – at the very least, two? I'm being very gentle with the word "two." If you have two gadgets, at least everybody here has a mobile phone, yes? And either a laptop or an iPad or an iWhatever or an iSomething, right? Okay.

So with this gadget, it keeps us connected all the time. As a part of the recent past, the evolving today and the emerging tomorrow, permit me to paint a picture of what I continue to not only hope for but that I daily work to achieve – an internet ecosystem that is truly about one world, that is about development and a sustainable socioeconomic growth, not just for the African continent, not just for us who are in this room and who are informed, but for every single human that has the opportunity to walk this Earth; one that enables our budding entrepreneurs while protecting our vulnerabilities against crime and issues of security, one that is secure and yet allows me and you the freedom to speak and be what you need to be; an internet that strengthens our capacity to actively partake in the democratic governance system; an internet

that continues to enable and that I particularly would wish to increase my knowledge.

How? It's a collective and individual role to make this more of a reality. The concept of participation has been raised. How do you participate if you don't even know what you need to participate in? It's sitting upon us at the At-Large Structure particularly to take the message back to the individual users. By individual users, I don't just mean individuals in the normal sense of it but I mean as a collective, as a community. Think of the ICANN logo. I love the ICANN 42 logo – I love the tree, I love the lion. But that concept of the African conversation tree – take it back to that level. That is where we need to be able to participate and carry the information across.

How? By the policies and regulations we enact in a multi-stakeholder way. I always take every opportunity I have when I have particularly people in government sitting with me, is that first and foremost, the opportunity we have is to make the right policies and regulations. If you take it back we are on the African soil. Back then we would have conversations under the trees – this was important. Those who were in leadership set the right parameters in place for us to be able to operate. We can have as many ICANN meetings as we want but if in our national governments they are not the right policies, they are not the right regulations – all we'll have is a talk shop. If we are not able to translate it to the things that help us grow then we are not moving forward.

How many more minutes do I have? I need to wrap up. Okay, so by the strengthening of our socioeconomic sectors, permit me to say further putting money where our mouths are to support the knowledge building, to support the innovative research, to support entrepreneurial efforts. This is not to say I have covered all because again, you can see I don't have so many minutes, but here is what I'm trying to say: an expression of my oral tradition, and I will speak in Yoruba. I'm sure my Yoruba friends will be very happy with me, my Nigerian friends.

In Yoruba we say something. We say (speaks Yoruba), meaning you do not hit your chest with one finger. You hit your chest in a confident motion. I'm an African, and for this to work we have to work together. We have to make sure we are together. Another proverb says that (speaks Yoruba), meaning one tree does not make a forest – never. And it's only a strong forest that's able to withstand the issues of climate.

Now this is what I'm saying, that even as we have chosen to work together ICANN is one of many in the internet ecosystem. ICANN is beginning to get it right a whole lot more. I have the opportunity to serve on ALAC right now and I'm hoping I can contribute further in that direction, but here it is, that if we all as multi-stakeholders do not continue to work together then our conversations ten years from now will be about “Where did we go wrong?” Thank you very much.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Thank you, Titi. When we talk about people who participated in the development of internet in Africa, we have to talk about [Serguney], who always supported us in everything that we do within AFRALO.

[Applause]

Tijani Ben Jemaa: We are talking now about the most important thing, the presentation of the ALSes. Mr. Aziz Hilali is going to introduce them, the ALSes.

Aziz Hilali: Everyone, ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the ALSes from Africa, contributors – we cannot let you all speak because we are many, many of us. There is a list that you have; you will see all the details on every single ALS with all their objectives. This document describes the mission of each one of them. There are 24 ALSes that represent ICANN.

First, these organizations are ONGs. They are associations that represent local organizations. I tried to find common denominators between all these ALSes. A lot of them talk about youth. There are some that work in the militants for the promotion of the human

being. At least to summarize the activities of all these organizations, I would say there's only a common point – it's the human development in Africa. I would like to also thank [Max King] who is here, who has worked really hard on the edition of this document that you saw, on the publication of this document that you saw.

I am honored to introduce the ALSes. I will call you one-by-one and I will ask you to stand up and to come... I don't know if I can ask Mr. Minister and Olivier to come and welcome them? I'm going to call them one-by-one. I know Mr. Minister that you are busy, but if you could, okay. I'm going to start with the ALSes.

They are listed alphabetically. I will start by a woman, Hadja Fatimata Ouattara. She is from Burkina Faso and she's General Secretary for Linux and Free Software Burkina Faso. They're all dressed in their traditional clothing for each country. It will give you a more colorful look to this Showcase.

[Pres Hanah], who's from Ghana. She is the administrative representative for African Youth Foundation, AYPF. Robertine Tankeu from Cameroon – she is the Coordinator for .ac. Alioune Diop from Senegal, who is the technical representative for Bokk Jang of Senegal. Michel Tchoung from Cameroon who is the Coordinator of Consortium of Support for Action for the Promotion and Development of Africa.

Baudouin Schombe from Centre Africain D'Echange Culturel, from the RDC. He is in charge of cultural exchanges. Also from

RDC Arnold Mulenda, who strengthens human rights and capacities and promote access to NICT and schools in rural areas.

Madame Soufia Guerfali who missed the elections today in Tunisia, who is in charge of cooperation to the Mediterranean internet space. Igor Ciza, is he here? He's the oldest one, he's the elder, sorry. He's from Burundi and he is the President from ISOC Burundi.

[Shas Kalah]? Is he here, no he's not here. We will save some time indeed. This gentleman is from Mali. He's Vice President of [Zokmed]. Now we have Didier Kasole, RDC. He's President of ISOC RDC. Tarik Merghani of Sudan. He is the technical representative responsible for the ISOC Sudan. Mohamed Elsadig, the President from Sudan.

Now Abiola from Nigeria. He's from the Coalition of Internet Users in Nigeria; he's no here. Now Peters Omoragbon from Nigeria. Peters is President of Nurses Across Borders humanitarian initiative. It's an NGO.

And finally, the last one, Mr... He's not here from Egypt, sorry. Is he here? No? I am letting Tijani talk again. No? Okay, I made a mistake, oh my goodness but I kept the best for last. Yaovi is President of ISOC Benin. Yaovi, I'm so sorry, excuse me. And now we have [Najeep Sayed Bashir] who represents the Moroccan Internet Society. I think I missed a whole page.

Khaled from Tunisia, are you here? He's not here. Did I call everyone? Okay, good, everybody was called. I hope that we can

take a picture with all the ALSes and then Tijani will close this Showcase.

Tijani Ben Jemaa: Thank you, Aziz.

[background conversation]

[music]

[End of Transcript]