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TORONTO – Initial Plan of the Africa Strategy  
Monday, October 15, 2012 – 15:00 to 16:30  
ICANN - Toronto, Canada

TAREK KAMEL:

Okay. Good afternoon, everybody. I'm delighted to give a couple of opening remarks at the beginning. Africans are here today to present the initial plan of the African strategy for ICANN, a plan that we have been working together on with the community within the last three months.

We have had a historic meeting in Prague that was chaired by Steve Crocker and our incoming new CEO -- at that time incoming CEO, Fadi Chehade. And they have given us the mandate to work on an African strategy for ICANN. And we were delighted -- we are delighted today to present the initial plan of the strategy that has been prepared in close cooperation with various stakeholders from the community. This plan would be handed over today to ICANN, and we as ICANN staff together with the community will work on the finalization of the final document before the end of the year to start implementation next year as part of the overall ICANN internationalization plan.

During the preparation towards the end of the year, we seek further input, if there is further input from the community.

Before I give over the moderation to the chair of the working group, Nii Quaynor, who has dedicated a lot of time and effort together with the working group, I really have to express our appreciation to Steve Crocker and Fadi Chehade for being with us today.

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*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

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A very special thanks to Fadi Chehade. He has been providing us -- even during the transition period in July, August, he was a tremendous support and for his recognition to this work. We look forward to further support until the implementation.

So, thank you, everybody, for coming today. I will be giving final remarks toward the end of the session.

I'm handing over the moderation to Nii Quaynor, the chair of the working group.

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you, Tarek. Of course, mine is simply to introduce our two dignitaries to hear some comments. But I thought I might say a few words about the project that we've been engaged in and before introducing them.

I think I need to at least thank the community for having been engaged on this effort. So at a minimum, you should thank yourselves and also clap for those who are far away so that they can also be part of our efforts.

[ Applause ]

I also need to express at least some appreciation to the African Union because as we did the outreach, especially in the continental and also the regional Internet governance forums as well as the ministerial meeting, we did get some good support from them. So I want to recognize their input and support in this particular activity. I don't know

if Maktar (phonetic) or Natalie or any of them are here. Yes. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

Also, AfriNIC decided to support us in a hands-off way, which we appreciated and they helped us significantly with supporting the secretariat for the strategy work as well as hosted us in Mauritius, and also to give us some significant input on what was going on with respect to the technical activity on the continent with respect to the Internet. So with that also, I think we need to share some appreciation. Is Adiel around? Thank you, thank you.

[ Applause ]

Again, lastly in that line, the working group itself, I need to also thank you for the effort for being maybe tolerant to both Tarek and myself who did not want to miss this opportunity and were determined to at least guide our work to some favorable conclusion. And I believe that the output probably shows that you've done the right things. And I would also like to thank you for that particular effort.

[ Applause ]

The elements of the strategy will be presented later, but I would like to point out that this was an opportunity we could not miss. So in spite of the tight program that we had, we decided to employ bottom-up, open, and public processes in spite of the short time because it was so relevant that we engaged the community in the process. So we even



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went as far as the public Web sites through which we received comments regarding the strategy.

Now, we think that we have the beginnings of a strategy for Africa: One that ICANN's presence in Africa will become improved and one that we believe African participation in ICANN will also be improved.

Of course, it was a best effort; so there is more that we can do. I wanted to point out that the first step we did was to seek input from the community by way of questionnaire before we even started anything.

And then when we felt that we had narrowed down some thoughts, we went straight back to the community to get input. And that's led to today's forum and we wanted to get more input as a result of that. So we are doing our very best effort to reach out to the entire community, to get support for the strategies and help to determine the actual elements that will go forward from this point on.

We also expanded the group as we went along to include the regional representation constituencies. And we even had liaisons to some constituencies as we went along.

I think the main important new element is the Africanization which is related to the internationalization that you very boldly emphasized. We understand that there is more to do, but we have started and would like to continue to engage your support in the next steps that come along.

So with that, I would like to introduce Fadi Chehade, but I would like to also share special thanks for your initiating this effort even before you



are fully on board. And I would like to also note that you have very good support staff who kept us going, especially Akram Atallah and Chris Mondini. They kept us going. Not to mention our own Tarek who coordinated activity from the ICANN side with whom I worked very closely on this effort.

So with that, I would like to welcome you to give some remarks.

FADI CHEHADE:

Thank you, thank you.

[ Applause ]

Thank you. I think you heard enough from me today, but just quickly to say this -- indeed this effort started very much on a whim. We had not planned it, but it was just so obvious that it was needed. When we met in Prague, I felt the sense of frustration at our inability to come together and move the agenda of Africa forward. We needed to do that. And I'm just delighted today -- I mean, I'm sitting here and there is a working group that was formed, that worked, that produced, and exceeded every expectation we all had. They will be -- and Nii is very humble in saying we have the beginning. You will see their work, and I had the privilege of looking at it. This is pretty impressive work. And, moreover, it is more impressive because it was built, as Nii said, with multistakeholder involvement across the board.

When Tarek went to Africa, I told him please work with Nii to make sure everyone is involved. This has to be Africa's moment at ICANN, where we grab the opportunity to do something together and we do.



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Now, he's right that it is the beginning because a plan on paper is just a plan on paper. And you saw me today present you my plans, and they're just slides right now. And I know that all of you will judge me and judge ICANN on how we translate this to action. And similarly, with the Africa plan, my commitment to the Africa plan will be consistent, disciplined and continues. It does not go away. Otherwise, we will fail. So that's my commitment to you. We will do that until we declare that we've moved off home base and we're starting to see the fruit of the true engagement that is overdue, that is overdue.

So I just want to say thank you to Nii for your leadership, for your humility, for your success which we will all witness in a few minutes here. Thank you for that. Thank you to all the work group members one by one for your commitment to this.

I also want to send special thanks to people in the background that some of you may not know that have helped me give the support I did to this effort.

Few of you know that in the minutes before the Africa session started in Prague, George Sadowsky who is seated here, came and dropped a few words in my ear, simply saying, "This is important. We've been stuck here." And that's all he said. He gave me the inspiration to actually do something that day. So thank you for that, George.

[ Applause ]

And then I want to thank without any doubt the volunteerism and the sincerity of Ray, Ray Plzak, our board member who immediately offered his support and backed it by showing up to the working group meeting



in Mauritius and lending them all his support without any taint or any agenda, just being there and making it happen. So thank you for that.

[ Applause ]

And the last person you may not know was involved in this, too, is Mike Silber. I hope he's here. Mike, an African as well, on our board. Here he is. Mike, thank you.

[ Applause ]

In my brief meetings with him on the phone multiple times during the summer as needed, he's made it very clear to me how an Africa strategy should be supported. And he lent me his full support and guidance to make this happen. So I thank him for that as well.

And needless to say, as you will learn what happened in Mauritius, you will know that without AfriNIC and without Adiel's being there and making this happen, we wouldn't have had the support from Los Angeles to make all this happen. I view AfriNIC as part of our family, and they behaved this way. They received the meeting, supported it with an open mind, with an open heart, with an open pocketbook and made it all possible for that. So thank you for that, Adiel. I appreciate it.

[ Applause ]

So enough of all of this, we now need to get to work. So I will ask our chairman if he wishes to make a few comments. But then let's get to work and let's see the plan and let's all -- all of you here, Africans and friends of Africa, let's commit to make this real.



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And you all know that when we started this, Tarek was just helping me on Africa. And through his success and support with the African strategy, as you know, I've asked him to stay on. And now we have another African and someone who cares deeply for Africa responsible for the global government affairs of ICANN.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much, Fadi. I don't know if many of you know what I'm going to say here. But Steve Crocker has nurtured the African strategy at least since I remember from Senegal ICANN meeting. There were numerous discussions. And I even recall he and I had a meeting in Geneva and we signed some piece of paper on a napkin. I thought that was also a very important evolution of our work, and it needed to be mentioned here.

So with that, I also note that you did have some good support. Ray was mentioned. Ray kept challenging us continuously.

FADI CHEHADE:

He challenges me.

NII QUAYNOR:

And, of course, George gives us very insightful comments. And not forget to mention Mike Silber as well. Please, you have the floor.

[ Applause ]



STEVE CROCKER:

Nii mentioned that we signed a napkin. We wrote a little document in Geneva. And I have got to go find it now and make sure -- I think I sent a picture of it somewhere. So it is floating around.

There is a number of very key people with Nii being kind of the acknowledged leader in Africa of people who really make things go. And the history of the Internet is not just from a governance point of view of being bottoms-up and multistakeholder but in terms of action, the Internet has grown because it's been initiative in each local environment. It started in universities in the U.S. and has grown globally and has grown across different communities, and it is that spark and energy and initiatives in each environment that makes things go.

I'm really quite astonished at the speed with which this whole process has taken off. The events in Prague were breath-taking. Tarek came, Mia, Nii, others. Fadi showed up and said, Let's just get organized. Let's go make it happen.

And here we are. And I have taken a little peek ahead of what you are going to see. I had not actually seen it before.

It is a very substantial plan and commitment here. And I have to apologize. The reason why I peeked ahead is because I've been overbooked and been made to run back and forth.

Various have people have noted that today is my birthday. And I think the birthday present is to see if I can survive --

[ Applause ]



No, no, no. I the birthday present to see if I can survive. It is a stamina test, which is why I absolutely needed to get a cup of coffee in order to move forward. I have got an appointment in the other side of the complex in eight minutes.

I'm absolutely fascinated -- and that sounds in a peculiar way. My attention is focused on the what substance of the program is and on the success of it. And whatever the resources are needed to make things succeed, we on the board are 100% behind this.

And as you've heard, this is not just me speaking as chairman of the board. We have individual board members who are deeply involved, committed, and trying to make best use of all the resources. And it's not a forced effort. These are commitments that come from -- very naturally out of our deep interest.

And so we will be back visiting in Africa together and individually and cheering and paying very close attention.

So I commend all of you on the effort that has been put in and on the success that you already have in a really stunningly concrete and complete set of material, which I just sort of impolitely grabbed from Nii and said, Let me look through them. So it is quite impressive.

So with that, I'm just going to stand back and chair.

FADI CHEHADE:

Just before I leave with Steve, I would like to say one thing. What propelled us to action in Prague was the sense that Africa is behind.



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Now, with what you delivered, I think Africa is in the lead. And I think what you've done and the plan you put will be a model for other regions. And you should be proud of that.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much for the meeting. Dignitaries are to depart.

The next step is to get a spokesperson of the group to share with you as briefly as he can some of the highlights of the work. But the full work is available on the public Web site at AfriNIC under "community activities" so you can take a good look at it in your available time.

So, Pierre Dandjinou, you're on the floor.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much, Nii. And good afternoon to everybody. I'm Pierre Dandjinou. I'm spokesperson for this Africa strategy working group.

What I'm going to try to do here is briefly take you through -- so I'm sorry about that -- take you through a few slides. As Nii pointed out, a relevant working documents are posted on our Web site.

Okay, here's the working group members. Quickly, most of them are here.

So Nii also explained how we actually assembled the group. We are supposed to deliver this outline in three months' time. And we needed people, mostly kind of volunteers, to donate their time to this. And I'm

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happy with this group. Really what was committed, especially during our retreat in Mauritius.

I will not go into the details about how we managed to do the work, but I wanted to say something I noticed. We sent out a few questionnaires. And the idea was to actually -- kind of see what are the expectations there on the ground. So from the questionnaire received, we did some SWOT analysis. And it was quite interesting to us to see that. Whether it was civil society, private sector or government, the expectations were quite different actually. So we ended up with three different SWOTs.

But we managed also to kind of find out a kind of synergy in a lot of this. And these are our recommendations that are there.

One interesting thing that everybody was saying that, Well, Africa needed a kind of special treatment for different reasons actually. Of course, the industry is not there.

The last round of new gTLDs also proved that there is a job to be done in Africa to actually communicate this to people so that they also see that there is business to do in this field. So, yeah, Africa should be a special place.

The other thing we noticed is that people are saying, Well, ICANN is not that normal in Africa, also in terms of participation, Africans were thinking they were not really participating in terms of efficiency and whatever they could bring to the table as well. And there was an addition of sort of ideas and things that we should actually work on so that we better the situation.

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The slides are available actually on the Web site, and you can also go through them.

The keyword here is that the SWOT really informed our thinking. The retreat in Mauritius also helped us. We produced facts about Africa. Of course, I don't have time to really get into that part. But the facts that we did have on Africa, the statistics are quite there. They're quite comprehensive, I would say. Very short as well.

In fact, Africa is a land of opportunity actually, that so many things are there to be done. Modem cables have been laid down. It's the second now in the world in terms of consuming the GSM. And then we also the next million of Africans who get into that Internet with their cellular phone, there's something to be done there. So we were quite clear about that one.

What was our approach? I think the approach was to align with focus areas of the ICANN strategy itself, especially the strategy for 2012 and 2015.

And also to actually emphasize the internationalization of ICANN and see how the African stakeholder group fits into that in terms of no engagement and to foster global partnerships and also the industry in Africa.

Now, I pass all the details because what's going to matter is also the type of interaction we are going to have with questions, right?

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Given -- these are the tools that I mentioned. We end up highlighting a few strategy objectives, a work plan for Africa, a strategic plan for Africa should have. This is what I'm trying to show to you here.

I'm not going to list all of them, but you will see some of them have been highlighted in green color and then that's the thing that people expect us to achieve as soon as possible.

Also, these strategy objectives, like I said, follow the focus area of the ICANN strategy itself.

What you should bear in mind is actually that we also added a fifth dimension, which is kind of work you might call the development dimension of the whole thing.

When you read through these, these sort of -- the remaining perspectives is going to be all of the slides. So maybe what I would just do now is maybe briefly point out some of the strategic objectives to you.

For instance, when it comes to DNS stability and security, one of the strategy objectives that most people think we should be having is to enhance cooperation with CERTs for better handling of DNS-related incidents. Obviously, there was the idea of notice of security issue that we need to tackle, especially in Africa. We believe that setting up new CERTs in different countries and regions would be the best way of doing this.

When it comes to competition of consumer trust and consumer choice, for instance, one of the things we are suggesting is to build the business



involvement that favors customer trust and choice. That goes through a technology solution, legal and recognition framework to be in place.

Now, for the IANA core operations, for instance, we believe the organization of IANA operations in Africa should also be a best tool to retain.

Now, to the healthy governance ecosystem, we believe that we certainly need to continue promoting the multistakeholder model and platform in Africa, government, civil society and private sector level to enrich participation in Africa in ICANN constituencies.

Outreach program, that will create, you know, more internationalizations and also most people think we should ensure a physical presence in Africa to conduct outreach to reflect ICANN's global image. Like I said, I'm not going to go through all of them. We can definitely go back and visit them if there is any questions on them.

I just want to retain one or two and then move forward.

In terms of the competition, consumer trust, and consumer choice, again, people like to have, you know, African entrepreneurship program in the DNS, you know, area.

Promote strategic partnership between global and local entrepreneurs in the DNS industry.

And a healthy governance ecosystem, there again, and ensure ongoing commitment of ICANN and constituencies to act in Africa's public interest, and this is up and coming, you know, public interest.



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Of course those strategic objectives, you know, have then been translated into a few sort of projects, and that will inform the action plan for the three years to come.

So now going to the strategic projects, there also we plenty of them but I'm going also to highlight a few of them.

One strategic project is about setting up business development incubators for the DNS business in Africa. So you'll be hearing these comments, you know, business in Africa, business (indiscernible). The goal is (indiscernible) to do that. This is something which is missing here.

Healthy governance ecosystem. Suggesting an ICANN academy to help in capacity-building and HR development in Africa. That was quite a very strong, you know, sort of suggestion of people, especially from the other comments because we did receive, you know, different comments and contributions from the community.

To build different projects, we also assign -- we went through some sort of key measures to help us measure the impact of all of these.

And let me try to go to the strategic projects again, and the key measures.

Key measures, for instance, in Africa would be for us the domain name indicators. If you want to set up this sort of industry in Africa, you don't need to know exactly what is happening there. Something like a domain name observatory, for instance, is quite needed there. Security indicators, for instance, from Africa.



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Mission for DNS, you know, industry in Africa, these are good ideas. So how do you measure those things.

Well, you know, by setting up those things, the indicators.

And then I'll move ahead.

One key measure will be an African sort of leader award, so a number of them that we give. A number of start-up companies are being in the incubators. The increased copy of the root server. We do have a few. Possibility we can also do more.

A healthy governance ecosystem, visibility of ICANN at African fora, communications in French, and most people insisted that be also in different other languages such as, you know, French and I think we are prepared for that.

Well, then what I was suggesting, if you go through all of these in terms of a critical list that could go into what you might call the first year of operation, in our terms of reference, we're supposed to actually split, you know, whatever activities are there into different years, three years time, so the first one -- first critical list, those we are having here, set up a program for enhancing cooperation with Internet -- we call them Internet star in Africa. We call them, in fact, AfriStars, meaning AfriNIC, AfriNOG, all of them. In addition, an IGF. So kind of be sort of enhanced cooperation of them.

We want to promote regional events for multistakeholder engagement, which is necessary especially in Africa where government, civil society, and business components are not really playing, you know, together.



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We would like to be producing targeted documents in appropriate languages regarding ICANN operations.

Capacity-building is key.

Establishing ICANN operations in Africa within the six coming months.

Also, a kind of innovative suggestion was to have a sort of ICANN ambassador program to promote global ICANN values.

So maybe having regional ambassadors in Africa. And also a leadership development program in multistakeholder Internet governance.

Now, this is for year one, and for the rest -- the rest of the projects, you know, are going to be actually kind of arranged into those year two and year three. And in terms of resources that is needed and what is going to be done along those also to define what budget we deserve.

Now, in terms roles and responsibilities, we really feel that this joint work is to be done jointly by Africans and ICANN throughout implementation.

And definitely we do recognize that while ICANN is not a development agency, it is strategic for it to partner with others to develop ICANN's constituent, you know, industries.

We also believe that while Africa can benefit from support, it must invest in its businesses and partners, and as most of you certainly will be reading, you know, in the press, if there is any part of the world where the GDP is supposed to be growing, it's Africa, which means that



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something needs to be done. So that's why we say it's a land of opportunity but that it really needs to be actually helped.

And then briefly my concluding remarks on this, this is a slide that we actually did. I will say that it was quite timely to actually think of designing, you know, a strategy for Africa.

As we said, Africa deserves special attention to be fully integrated in the Internet business and industry.

We also believe that ICANN, in so doing, will be assisting in transforming genuine capacities into real development opportunities.

In fact, we also learn how to better engage with the community. When we started, you know, three months ago, what the committee wanted was they to spend time in knowing who is going to be on the working group, why we are thinking that what we needed to deliver. So having engaged, you know, with the community is quite important.

We also believe that it is attaching some part of ICANN's regular delivery.

And our principal recommendations, I think one of the first one, which is the principal one, is the -- we recommend that this draft outline of this strategy plan should be further turned into a fully fledged strategy.

Of course after necessary consultations are conducted within the African community and ICANN constituencies.

We also recommend that we should integrate this sort of activity into the ICANN annual corporate planning process. And also, we believe



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that we should inform the membership of the Africa strategy working group to be better aligned with ICANN constituency and SO/AC organizations.

These are our recommendations and I would really like to thank you for your attention and stand ready for questions. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

And thank you very much, Pierre. In the interest of time, since I am well aware that some of the board members would like to move on to some other activity, I'd like to seek comments from five of them.

So I will start by inviting Ray, if you can say a few things.

RAY PLZAK:

Thank you, Nii. I don't have a lot to add in terms of the description of the work we did. I do want to note that what you are seeing is a result of a strategic planning process that actually took a very intense effort over two days to produce this.

But the most important thing that I think needs to be taken away from this is that it's integrated into the ICANN strategic plan. It's not a special plan for Africa. It has --

[ Microphone feedback ]

The objectives that will make the Internet grow and ICANN succeed in Africa are part of now the ICANN strategic plan.



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When you look at the documents, you will see that there is the ICANN strategic objective, but then if you keep on looking, you will see that inside that ICANN strategic objective, there are now strategic objectives for Africa that relate directly to that.

Then you'll see the projects and the focus.

And the most important thing is the key measures.

In other words, how do we know that we are succeeding.

What you don't see here in the large amount of work that has to be done is the work on identifying resource requirements and staff actions and all the rest of those things. So there's a lot more work to be done.

I will say this from a personal perspective: I was very honored to work with you, and the door's always open for me to continue to work with you, and I enjoyed being with you while we also had some good times, as well, at dinners and so forth.

But I will assure you that we will continue to work very hard. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much, Ray. Really appreciate it.

I'd like to invite George Sadowsky to share a few comments.



GEORGE SADOWSKY:

Thank you, Nii.

I'm not going to comment on the strategy. You can all read that, and there are lots of pieces of it that are interesting to look at.

I'm going to take a little bit broader view and say that to me, this meeting is symbolic of something, and it's evidence of a real shift, a transition in ICANN and its view of the world.

One of the problems that's affected ICANN in the past is that we tend to be more inward-looking than perhaps we should have been, and this meeting, the initiative by you as a group, and ICANN's willingness to support it, indicates that we are looking more outwardly, and I think it's much to the good.

And I'd like to focus on the word "community," to illustrate this.

We often talk about the ICANN community: Let's put this to the community; how does the community feel about this; it's the community's job to develop something; et cetera, et cetera.

And I think this is a very slippery word, but it's indicative of how we view ICANN and the ICANN process.

I can identify seven ICANN communities, and you can think of them potentially as a set of concentric circles of increasing radius, including more people.

There are the people who always line up at the microphone and comment on the Web. That's a very small community and we know exactly who they are.



Then there's the ACs, the SOs, and the ALACs, the governing bodies. The people who contribute to those governing bodies in the case of the ALAC, the AL- -- the 100 and some ALSs in the world.

Then there's the whole domain name industry. Thousands of people who -- upon whom we depend to provide services and they depend upon us to provide effective and intelligent quasi-regulation.

Then there are all the meeting attendees that have ever come to ICANN.

And then there are all the registrants. Now we're getting up into the millions.

And finally, there are all users of the DNS. There are the current ones and there are the ones that are going to be coming on board. And now we're up to 5 to 6 billion people.

These are very different communities, and the notion that -- I think that the important thing that this particular activity illustrates is that we are expanding our sense of community to include most of the people in the world, and that this is the community that ICANN is increasingly under -- aware that it's the real long-run community of ICANN and we're starting to pay significant attention to it. Thanks very much.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

Gonzalo?



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**GONZALO NAVARRO:** Thank you very much. Gonzalo Navarro, chairman of the BRGC, board global relationships committee.

Well, what a nice birthday present for our chairman. He expressed his satisfaction. I think that this is an historical day and this is a first step in better days coming, not just for the African community but our community.

I was in Prague when Fadi was presenting this idea of having a special strategy for the African region, and I remember the eyes -- his eyes. You know, he was so passionate, and really truly believing every word that you were hearing during the last hour.

Africa now is going to be living ICANN in so many regards, so this is a first step. Let's use it in a really positive way, and I'm sure that we will. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

**NII QUAYNOR:** Thank you very much.

Sebastien, if you can share some few words.

**SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET:** Thank you very much. We are in an area where we speak several languages and we have interpreters, so I'm going to speak in French, if I may, Mr. President.



Tres bien.

Thank you very much.

What I think -- what you did is just like when AFRALO started to have specific events during the general assembly, the general AFRALO assembly, and all the other regions followed.

You opened -- you led the way. You opened doors for ICANN to work at the regional level before going to the worldwide level, the global level.

So what you did, the other regions will have to do it as well. Maybe we have those five strategic plans and with five strategic plans, maybe we'll be able to have one strategic plan for ICANN, thanks to you.

Thank you for your work, thank you for your engagement, for your commitment, and good luck.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much.

I'd like to also invite Mike Silber to say a few words.

MIKE SILBER:

Thank you, Nii.

It's an absolute pleasure to be able to comment on what's been presented so far, and having followed Nii onto the board as an African representative, it's even more of a pleasure.



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What I can say is I think the approach that you've taken is so spot-on. What we don't need is a special plan for Africa. Africa is special in so many respects. But what we're doing is we're following the key objectives of ICANN.

If we need special treatment, then we'll do it in our own special way. What we're doing here is following the key focus areas of ICANN and then looking at specific projects and specific implementation where, as Africans, we can add more but also we can put up our hands and say, "Include us in some of these areas." Because for various reasons -- historical, and otherwise, lack of skills, lack of infrastructure, to some extent the lack of interaction with the technologies -- we've fallen a little bit behind. Let's come up to speed, and as Sebastien was saying, let's actually bypass that.

And there are other regions who can learn from that, to say, "Well, let's put this focus "-- I'm incredibly positive because this truly looks like an African strategy for ICANN, rather than an ICANN strategy for Africa.

How does Africa best leverage the expertise, the network, the facilities that ICANN offers in order to expand its growth and then, in return, Africa will be giving back to ICANN.

And this, to me, is the right model, and congratulations to this team for spotting it, for putting it together.

And the thing that I'm most excited about, there's been a little bit of muttering within some portions of our community that the committee wasn't inclusive enough, that it wasn't big enough, it wasn't small enough, or I'm not even sure where the criticism came.



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But I'm really positive to hear that this is seen as a work in progress. This is a longer, larger, more inclusive project, and what this committee has done is set the path and now is inviting other people to walk along to contribute, to take over, to take some of the burden off your shoulders and to actually advance this.

So those people who are still passionate and feel they've been left out, well, they're invited to come in and join.

The CEO made a slight factual error when he referred to the fact that he met with all of the African participants in Prague. Fortunately, the room wasn't that full, or nearly as full as this room is, to suggest that he had all of the African participants there, but it's really pleasing to me to see a room this full, largely primarily with African participants, and to see how many of us there are over here; to see the other people who really are interested, which is also fantastic; but I'm hoping that this is something that we can grow on as well, is that together as Africans, we get together once in an ICANN meeting to move this forward to see what progress, whether it's a working group or specific workgroups that continue hereafter, where progress has been made reporting back internally, so we can take it to the rest of the community.

So well done to all of you. My real congratulations.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much.

And Cherine Chalaby.



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For those of you who don't know, Cherine also comes from Africa, so he's –

CHERINE CHALABY:

Indeed, I do come from Egypt, and as a lot of you know, I head the new gTLD committee.

So while this effort was going on in the summer, I was doing a lot of other things trying to get the new gTLD program on track and forward, and I'm going to make a comment about that related to Africa as well.

But when I came to this room to -- I did not know what to expect. I thought I'm going to hear and see a few slides with a few generic things, and I was blown off by seeing an integrated approach to the ICANN overall strategy.

I don't know who thought about that, how you came about to do this, but that's genius, in my view.

And as everybody said, it would have been totally wrong to have a separate strategy for Africa.

So the fact that you guys got it -- I think got it absolutely 100% right, you have my congratulations and my admiration, and the admiration for everybody who worked on this strategy.

Now, I want to turn to new gTLDs because this is important in terms of outreach.

As you know, there's going to be a second round. We don't know exactly when this is going to be. And one thing probably we didn't do



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very well in the first round was an outreach and an awareness into Africa and getting this program really deep into Africa. And I hope that we can integrate that as part of the strategy for the next round, and that we specifically focus on the outreach and education, and we will see in the next round far more applications coming from Africa making it to the top level.

So once again, congratulations, all of you, and a superb job. Well done.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much. I think I promised the board members we'd be at this point by 4:00, and I think we've done that, so you can stay as long as you want, but if you need to move on, you are welcome and we really thank you very much for having supported us, and the comments you've made are very encouraging to us, so we will carry on and we'll come back to you with something better in the future. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

I think we would now like to take a few comments from other members of -- yeah, other panelists.

Palesa.

PALESA LEGOZE:

Good afternoon, everybody. I'd just like to say that I'm really -- I feel privileged to have been part of the team that was doing the strategy



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and also to say that this was a passionate group that wanted to see Africa pushed forward to finally be at -- to have a level playing field with other countries. And also to say for me, you know, there's an issue about government participation within the ICANN community or within the GAC. I think now we have a document that we can actually take to our governments and say that, you know, we now have a strategy for Africa, and I think that will be, you know, a motivation enough for them to actually start participating in ICANN. And also to say that, you know, as Africa, I think it's very important also to take the issue of process and development to heart and also capacity-building and skills development, because for us to actually, you know, be part of the global Internet community, toward the global world, we really need to ensure that we - - those are the places that we look to and ensure that we have the -- the capacity and the credibility to actually do that. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

Mouhamet Diop.

MOUHAMET DIOP:

Thank you, Chairman.

And I just will take the opportunity to -- not to rehash what everyone has already said, because we don't need to thank ourselves for what we are doing since we have been involved in the ICANN process.



I see myself as a self-appointed ambassador for my continent. I do not ask anybody to appoint me for that. And when it comes to be part of any initiative that allowed our voice as Africans, I will not ask people to ask me to join, and I think that it's a common sharing feeling.

I see here many people who, for over 50 years, they are just devoting themselves and their energy and time just to make our continent and our country more visible.

So this is an opportunity for both ICANN and us. An opportunity for ICANN because it's an organization we trust, we believe in it, we join it, and we deliver a lot of our energy and our hope that what we are doing will be for the benefit of the whole community.

And it's also an opportunity for us because everybody is asking for more participation and involvement from Africa, and this is truly an opportunity for us to say, "This is our concern. Can we have our own agenda?" Because we don't need to follow other people, necessarily, on their own agenda. We got our own issues, and we need to take care of this. And it's really a matching between two feelings, two needs, and two opportunities, and I think that it's the right timing.

Nothing was perfect and I just want to be very humble. We lost, in the past, very many contributors who think to put something in it, but it's not -- it's not a unique way of doing this. It's an open path. We go pass through the line, so we need to do a lot of things behind. As Ray have stated and many others, there is a lot things to do, this is just a start-up, and so let's join and make it in a very positive manner. Nothing was perfect but we will improve it. Thank you very much.



NII QUAYNOR: Thank you, Mouhamet.

Maimouna, some comments?

MAIMOUNA DIOP DAGNE: Thank you, Chair. I really like to be at this session, and I just want to recall that we start these communication between ICANN and Africa really in Dakar meeting where we organize a high-level meeting with all the ministry in charge of ICT in Africa and we produce African agenda there for ICANN. And we had a discussion with the Board, and I really want to keep this -- this opportunity to thank Steve Crocker for his support of the African agenda. And I think that we start in Prague a new process with Fadi with a positive approach and perspective, and I think we spend last three months on working on this initial plan. It is an initial plan, and I think it's important to raise this point. It is not the final plan. It is an initial plan, and we work on it for next month to have a final one which will be available, I think, in November and December. And I really call all the African community to participate on building this plan and really implement it for the interests of the continent. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

And lastly, I'd like to invite Tijani.



TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Nii. Good afternoon. I will speak in French just to prove that the diversity in ICANN is effective.

I am an engineer, and this is my trade. I'm a vice president of AFRALO and a member of ALAC and I did participate in the work of this working committee for a strategy for Africa. This group is very diverse, and my points of view were expressed and taken into account. The points of view were expressed as a civil society activist and an end user of the Internet. Mine were taken into account. The government point of view were expressed and taken into account. The civil society, the companies were also heard. All those point of view were expressed.

Some members did work quite a lot, and I would like to applaud Nii and Pierre for their enormous amount of work that they did provide to our group.

[ Applause ]

I think that this initiative does represent a new evolution in the way we work and I think that its impact is going to be strong and visible for the involvement of Africans in the ICANN process and Policy Development, PDP. We still have a lot of work to do and we need all our strength and will to be able to achieve our goals. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

I think we've now entered the next important phase and that's the phase in which we really want to hear from you. So anyone who wants



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to tell us anything, you're welcome to the mics. And if I don't see you going to the mic, I may invite you. Alan.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Yes, thank you. Most of what I would have said was already being covered by the four Board members that Nii allowed to speak, although I would like to highlight what I think is the brilliance of the incorporation in the ICANN strategic plan. And again, I don't know who thought of it, but it was good. I wish I could take credit for some of this work, either approving it, working with you, or whatever. I can't. But I want to applaud what you've done. It's way overdue. And it's going to be delightful to watch it unfurl. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Olivier Crepin-Leblond, ALAC chair. I've seen the developments in the African community and all the work that has been done, both prior to this whole initiative but also during this initiative since one of our members is on the committee. It's absolutely unbelievable. It's incredible. I'm so thrilled about what is going on, and really, chairman -- sorry, CEO Fadi Chehade earlier said that this -- this continent is pioneering, and I think that it really is the case. And so on behalf of the at-large community, I would like to say thank you.

[ Applause ]



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NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. Edmond.

EDMOND KATITI: Edmond Katiti from the NEPAD agency. On behalf of my colleagues from the African Union, I would like to thank the team for their very excellent work that they have done, as we have heard from all the speakers going before. I would like to assure the team and the community that the African Union is ready and willing to support this effort in the polishing up the plan and in its implementation. Quite often it is thought that being an intergovernmental organization the African Union organs, like the commission and the NEPAD agency, work for governments. But in reality, if you look at our mandate, our job is to work with all stakeholders who have got projects to implement. So we will be very pleased and very keen to work with the Internet community in whatever stakeholder form to implement programs like this.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much.

THOMAS RICKERT: Thomas Rickert. Thank you very much Nii and crew for a wonderful strategic plan. I want to note that some of the folks who have been there earlier had a chance to make a lot of mistakes and you have a wonderful opportunity to make sure that you won't make those same mistakes. We hope that you have and create in Africa the best instantiation of an Internet system with cooperation, of governance, and of the ability to make the Internet -- make the most for your people



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because you will have had a chance to learn from the rest of us what we've done right, what we've done wrong, and to be a shining example of what it means to do it right.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. Marilyn.

MARILYN CADE: Thank you, Nii. My name is Marilyn Cade. I chair the business constituency at ICANN. I see many, many long-time friends and colleagues in this room that I have known who have been working in this space for a very long time, and it is indeed a very exciting time. But what I'd like to do, and I am possibly speaking on behalf of Waudo Siganga who -- from the Computer Society of Kenya who is a very active member in the business constituency and intended to make our comments here today but got delayed due to a Visa and flight problem. He will be here later.

We have long had a dream of our own of enhancing the business activities and presence in Africa and to strengthening how business users in Africa are interacting in all ways. So I do hope there will be an event in Mozambique, in a new association that has also just joined the business constituency, Avita (phonetic), a representative of the Board is here with us this week, and we'll be hoping to have you come and be with them. It happens to be the week of the WCIT -- the ITU WCIT, and I will be in Dubai, but I am hoping that someone can come and



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participate there. And I hope that you -- when Waudu is here and Jimson Olufuye are here and I hope that we can talk more about how the business constituency at ICANN can also be your partner.

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much. That's just what we want.

[ Applause ]

ALIOUNE TRAORE:

My name is Alioune Traore from Mali. And I'm -- I'm going to speak in French. And I'm very happy, very happy for this initiative which is going to be implemented. This new structure that is going to enable Africans to speak together, to speak with the same voice, to express themselves, express their concerns as well regarding Internet, regarding the development of Internet in Africa, the use of Internet in Africa. I did participate in many meetings of ICANN, but I do believe that this is one of the best initiatives that I've seen. And this is a visionary initiative for Africa, and I would like to congratulate this group for its work. And as an African, I am going to answer the questionnaire, the interactive questionnaire. We do translate, but we do not have enough reactions for our people and our constituents. This is very important for everybody, all of us here, to be very active and express themselves and use the questionnaires on the Internet so that all your points of view be taken care of and taken into account. Thank you.

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**BAHER ESMAT:** Baher Esmat reading questions coming from remote participants. One question by Gustav Ericsson. What will be the approximate headcount for the ICANN Nairobi office? What will be the approximate headcount for the ICANN Nairobi office?

**TAREK KAMEL:** I will take that because nobody said that there will be an ICANN office in Nairobi. Nobody even yet said that there is an ICANN office in Africa, we haven't committed yet. We were talking about programs. We are presenting a strategy. If during the implementation there is a need to establish a strategy and a physical presence, then definitely we can look into that. But I guess there might be a misunderstanding for Mr. Ericsson for the presentation. Maybe because he's following us remotely. We haven't committed there will be an African office to give headcount and we haven't committed to Nairobi either.

**BAHER ESMAT:** Here's another question by Nnenna Nwakanma, and the question is not to the group, it's to ICANN. What is next?

**TAREK KAMEL:** Yes, I will say this in the concluding remarks, what's next and the roadmap for the next steps, but thank you for her inquiry anyhow.

**VICTOR NDONNANG:** My name is Victor Ndonnang. I'm an ICANN fellow for this ICANN 45. I has been welcoming the initiative of setting a strategy plan for Africa on



the mailing list but I would like to take the opportunity here to say it and to congratulate the members of the working group for what they are -- they produce. I will continue by saying that the strategy plan is not just about what ICANN can do for Africa. It's also about what we in Africa can do for ICANN. So -- and we must take that in consideration, and starting by putting more energy on what we more effectively. I would like to -- this morning ICANN here was talking about more cooperation between ICANN and other Internet organization like ISOC and in the strategy plan it is mentioned about the ICANN community. I would like to suggest here, because the ISOC has been running things I think two or three years, a program calling Internet Next Generation Leaders for training young persons from developing country and developed countries to well understand the global landscape of the Internet governance and then participate more efficiently. Many Africans have been taking part in that program. I would suggest the working group to see how they can use those persons who have been trained and then because when you understand very well what an entity is doing, you can efficiently contribute. Sorry. This is French-speaking so to be open I prefer to speak my say in English, so thank you.

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

ANDREW MACK:

Thank you, Nii. My name is Andrew Mack, and I think it's fair to say I know many of the people in this room. For many, many years there has



been a tremendous silence when we come to things like the open forum. When we come to the ICANN meetings generally, when there's -- there's been a real lack of attention to an African agenda, and you all were very gracious to talk to the ICANN officials about their level of commitment and their level of cooperation. I think that that's great. But I think you really deserve a compliment yourselves for all the hard work. For years and years there wasn't really an Africa agenda at ICANN. There wasn't really an active Africa voice at ICANN. I know because I was often one of the only people standing up at the microphone saying hey, wait, there's the rest of the world that's not -- that's not being served here. The proof is in the pudding. It's easy to come up with a plan. The implementation is always the hard part, right? And so I can only encourage everyone who is in this room, and there are so many more Africans in this room than there have ever been, I can only encourage everyone to hold ICANN accountable for the promises that have been made, and the best and the most important way to do that is to get up, stand up, speak up. There are many people who are, like myself, not originally from Africa who will do -- will work very hard to support you. So good luck.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR:

Thank you. I believe that the last three is it. Time is running out. The last three and then that's it. So please, go ahead.



**RAFIK DAMMAK:** Okay. Thank you. Yet another non-English native speaker. So my name is Rafik Dammak and I come from Tunisia and GNSO council for the non-commercial stakeholder group. I want really to thank all the people who lead this effort in the African -- Africa strategy working group, acknowledging all of the difficulties and the criticism they faced from the committee itself. So this strategy should help to increase the representation of all stakeholder groups, and I want really to emphasize the non-commercial stakeholder group. So we are underrepresented from Africa community, especially this stakeholder group. So we need more efforts to bring more people from Africa. And for other sub-region in Africa. So there is still work to be done. I think that we are in the beginning and hope we will continue and keeping doing this. Good show. Thank you.

**NII QUAYNOR:** Thank you. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

**BAHER ESMAT:** Another remote participant, Ibra Sylla. Question, is there any mailing list that could help people interested to be informed on this plan of African strategy?

>> Yes, thank you. I think we all agree this was a great initiative, great work done. And I think as we are all here it also may be time for us to take out, go, leave this room with some question on how we can make



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this a reality because the work is good. It's for ICANN. But how can we take out from this strategy and localize them because I fundamentally believe that we cannot impart ICANN and ICANN process if locally we do not do some aspect of some part of this.

So one question, I don't know if we have time again, that I will probably like us to discuss, how can we localize this? What can we do individually at each of us level to take this strategy and start building it at community level because participation to ICANN come from community participation, community engagement, and also the economical impact of all of this. If we don't have strong industry, if we don't have people who can devote their time, devote their energy and resource to this, it won't succeed because ICANN is not going to form everything. So if we have time that can be something useful as input to the strategy and the way forward. Thanks.

NII QUAYNOR:

All right. I'd like to thank you all for the very useful comments.

[ Applause ]

And in the interest of time, I'll hand over to Tarek to give some remarks.

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you very much. And I'm delighted to have all these comments from the floor. Indeed, I was happy definitely to see today that we are taking a new approach to Africa, an approach that is not only based on capacity building and awareness as in the past but on business development, DNS business development, developing our industry in



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Africa, ensuring inclusion by our business development. This is the new approach that we are taking. By this we will find, then, players, African players, at GNSO constituencies and more African players in the GAC and more African players in the ASO industry and the various ICANN constituencies. It seems that there is a wide welcome to this approach. It will happen by entrepreneurship program, as Pierre has mentioned. This should be done by African start-ups, African local company start-ups, that should be supported by global players hopefully that will help us in that. An incubator program definitely would help and this direction with awards and an Internet foundation would definitely help in this direction together with an ICANN academy.

All of these are new ideas that to some extent we hear this for the first time within our African plans. But I have to say, ICANN, as Fadi Chehade has mentioned, our CEO, ICANN is committed to help but will not do this alone. We need the support of the various players in Africa. As such we need the support of various development organizations to work with us. ISOC definitely has a great history in Africa by its chapters and by its outreach. We will be working together with them to implement this strategy. As we use the past we look forward as well for the support of the various African organization. African Union is definitely one of them. The African Development Bank, The World Bank, as well as many other players as well. IGF is our multistakeholder platform in Africa and outside Africa to reflect our ideas. We're glad to have several regional IGFs this year in Africa and subregional IGFs in South Africa and in North Africa, West Africa, and East Africa, and we continue also to propagate our message and ICANN values within the IGF platforms.



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I have seen today a wide welcome for the ideas that have been presented, so we are taking now this work and this initial plan from the work group. It is being handed over to ICANN. For the gentleman or the lady who was asking what's next, so we will continue to develop this work towards a final strategy document for ICANN in Africa. That should be ready before the end of the year hopefully. During that period we still welcome any input and any ideas further on from the community. We are open as ICANN and we will develop this strategy in its final form and we will then present it to the Board and to the -- to the CEO to make sure that the resources needed are committed to be implemented within the overall -- within the overall strategy plan of ICANN for the next three years.

So I hope that we will have a follow-up session in Beijing. If you are do agree, we will come to you with a detailed implementation plan and we will share with you the start of the implementation at that time, after the finalization of the document.

I will definitely seize this opportunity to thank all the present participants today for their input. I definitely thank the work group and the panelists. All of them are close friends and dear friends, Nii, Pierre, Palesa, Tijani, and Mouhamet Diop. Alice Munyua, she's not with us today but she has been part of that work in Mauritius and added to that work a lot. I know she's involved in the GAC as a vice chair of the GAC and could not leave the GAC. And many other players as well. Michael and many other -- Barrack and many other players as well. And I really stress again that we are still open to any ideas and any input until we finalize the final document towards the end of the year towards the implementation.



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So once again, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming, and we look forward to another session hopefully in Beijing in April 2013 where we are then talking about an implementation plan that would have started by that time. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

NII QUAYNOR: Of course, I also thank you all. But most important, I thank Tarek for such a good job.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you very much.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, there is a coffee break in Metro west. Please go enjoy some refreshments. The next session starts in this room at 5:00.

>> END OF SESSION

