HYDERABAD – Africa Strategy Update
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ALAN BARRETT: I'm Alan Barrett from Africa.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Adiel Akplogan, ICANN

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm very pleased to see that ICANN and AFRINIC have become
                        countries.

MARY UDUMA: I think we'll just go ahead. We're running short of time. We'll
                        listen to Pierre as he gives a brief report. Pierre, you have less
                        than 10 minutes.

PIERRE DANJINOU: Okay. Thank you very much, Mary. Well, I'm going to quickly go
                        through the… We have a background to this Africa Strategy of
                        course, which we started slightly—I would say, around three
                        years ago, and then we will look at our journey. We will put a

stress on how the Africa Engagement Center in Nairobi and type of activity we would like to be conducting from there.

When talking of the Africa Strategy, we do have two overarching objectives in mind because that strategy came out of what I would say we were calling them the new season of ICANN and wanted to have an engagement in the specific engagement with Africa. And the idea was to respond to a request by African Ministers of IT that met in Dakar during ICANN47, I think, and who requested that ICANN be much more present in Africa, and by the same time that we promote participation of Africans within ICANN.

So the then CEO instructed us to request the African community to come up with a strategy that really says exactly what Africa was waiting for in terms of any support from ICANN.

The result was a document that really insisted that it was important that Africa be transformed into a real DNS industry, meaning we noticed that the industry is not just the Africans are not really participating and it was important that we work on that environment.

And the figures are there. I'm not going to go through them. I only have 10 minutes, but suffice that you go for at least the reports on the New gTLD Program and how they saw less than—I

don't know—17 requests from Africa over the 1,900. In fact most of them were coming from one country in Africa.

And then we needed to promote a meaningful participation of Africa into ICANN. So these are the two objectives of this.

Our journey, the last four years has been one of engagement. And how did we engage with countries? I don't' know whether you can read this one but it really tells you where we have been in Africa, where we have conducted our activities.

Right at the inception, what we did was to select a few what we are not calling flagship programs. They were about eight of them. One of them was about the DNSSEC roadshow. We wanted to make sure we could secure the DNS management from Africa.

The other one was about the DNS entrepreneurship in Africa, which we started and then we were also relying on what you call the DNS Entrepreneurship Center in Egypt, in Cairo. My colleague VP from Middle Eastern is around and he can also talk about that one.

We did have many different activities. We started the first DNS forum in Africa. We went to different places. I'm not going to dwell on that but the presentation will be available. These are where we were able to conduct a few events.

Also we managed to piggyback on some of the events in Africa. Figures are there. Last year you requested that we provide you with more statistic and concrete figures on what has been done. You have them now, where we've been. Certainly there are countries that have not been covered yet but they will be.

We of course managed a discussion lists or webinars. All those are there so I'm continuing with the countries that we've been to.

Also I would like us to bear in mind that one of the things we did was working for partnership. It's not just us. It's not just ICANN Africa. For instance, we started a program which is about the incubation, I would say, or something like that but also where we were able to send a few African registrar reps outside Africa for the time being. We went to [affiliates], they went to Singapore actually to learn the job, I would say, because for some of them it was quite interesting to go there and also to be clear about business planning when it comes to this registrar thing.

Now that journey also made us organize something which is quite important which is what we're calling the Topical Workshops. For instance, we had a workshop on domain name and the whole issue of [intellectual] property rights and also dispute resolutions which are key in that business and that was

the first time that we were organized this thing in Africa. And we have a bunch of lawyers who are discovering this and it means that we need to work on those aspects.

Many details are there and of course I don't have time to go through them but the good news is that there were a few gains, actually, of course the gains about overall visibility of ICANN in the region. I spoke about the DNS Forum that's now going on. This we organized with our partners, fTLD and ISOC. The next one is going to be in May, I believe.

We now have multiple communication channels. We also are now trying to have a special IANA Awareness Campaign. You know the whole journey towards the transition. We managed to make sure that Africans know about it and then they also contribute. It happened.

We do have more members now within the GAC and we also actually are having more and more Africans. In fact, for this meeting total we did have150 Africans that registered and at least 100 of them came up here. Not all came who fellowship, which is quite good because that's also one of the things we were pushing for, that we're able to also have people here that will be coming on their own.

Special initiatives, I don't want to go through them. There are many of them where we've been or where we support it

definitely. So the highlights are there and I don't—maybe you cannot read these things but they will be available and this presentation will be available and you will see per activities per project, where we've been, and where we stand right now.

And then there was one thing that we didn't achieve and we managed to do it, in fact, before we reached Morocco. That was the ICANN's presence in Africa.

So we're happy and the Board was quite instrumental for that in facilitating this launch of the office in Nairobi. Well, so far it's a one-man's kind of office. It's not a big thing. It's not a hub, of course, but it's still there and whenever you go to Nairobi you could say, "Okay, I want to go to ICANN's house," maybe you can go there. It's quite interesting, if Bobby is around anyway, but that is another matter.

But it's quite interesting because we now have started a few activities there. Two or three months ago we organized what we're calling the localizing the multistakeholder model and we have a very interesting meeting there and I would like us to be replicating such a thing in other places in Africa.

Looking ahead, so many things to do. Of course we'll continue the outreach to all stakeholders. We believe we didn't do that much with the private sector. We need to do more. I hope Jimson is around. He'll tell us what to do more. We want to

deepen engagements with governments and especially now that we do have an Empowered Community now within ICANN post-transition. It's important that governments understand and then also understand their role. And then of course we'll also continue our engagement with the academia.

At-Large is fine. Our friends from AFRALO are around. I think we've been doing quite interesting things with them. I wish I had more resources to be involving them but I really want to thank them because they are behind us and they do whatever they can to the outreach.

But I will say maybe I just need to finish with my key remarks because capacity building is key to what we're doing and I don't want to –

Now quickly two or three initiatives that we're pushing: one of them is the Africa DNS Market Study, which we were supposed to post on the website this week and to give you close to three weeks for your feedback.

Unfortunately, that study has not been finished because of some issue that they were facing, the consortium was facing, but it will be ready by ten weeks time. It's going to be a draft report that really tells us exactly what does the African DNS Market looks like.

The idea is to provide also more knowledge about our environment and those who wanted to get into that business also will have some data. So this is where we are now in terms of the market study.

The issue—and I'm certain that those who know Africa also know that this is a permanent issue—low average of response and the coverage is an issue for them. But nevertheless, they are able to treat 300 questionnaires and they were able also to talk about the project and then have more people understand it. This year is the response rate and the registrants, resellers and the IPs.

Also they were able to do a comparison between gTLDs and ccTLDs and provide a few figures. I hope you can get into details later on but the figures are there. You'll have all the reports available in a few weeks.

Promoting Intra ccTLD Exchange Program. I spoke about what we had with the word Outside Africa but we also have a program on Intra Africans so we were able to send trainees to the Tunisian Internet Agency and we were quite happy with that and we thank Tunisia for this.

Next is going to be South Africa. Keep on promising but we will get there. This is the DNS Entrepreneurship Center which you can also send people there. [Baya] is around. He can provide

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more information on that but things are happening there and you can see the participants with one of the workshops there. It's about technical issues, management but also about marketing, all of the rest.

One other idea is this Africa Internet History Project. Nobody is really thinking about, you know, the first thing you look, in Africa internet thing was 1994, 1995 from South Africa but since then what has happened in terms of development of Internet in Africa, you need to tell that history. If you don't tell this story, it will just be like the saying in Africa that as long as the lions know, we'll not be talking. You'll only be hearing the story of the hunt from the hunters so it's good that we write on this.

We have a group working on that. Details can be given and the different workshops, we have figures there.

Now I'd like to maybe stop here and give some time to others to in fact react on quite interesting project, which is the IDN. IDN which is Internationalized Domain Name, we need to have them from Africa. Right now we only have in Arabic, which is fine, but we do need to work on African languages as well. We started with a panel generation in Ethiopia and [Disalen] is around and he will have maybe one or two minutes to brief you on this.

A few challenges, I don't want to dwell on them because I want to look at the future, but of course the same issues are there,

meaning lack of knowledge, a few things, language barriers, low participation, but we need to work on them. And we also do have a few opportunities, especially in terms of partnership.

I would like to stop here with that. Of course, if there's any question I can come back and provide answers and more details. I would like to give an opportunity to also hear from some of our partners and then we'll move on to questions. So with that I'd like to hand over to you. Thanks for your attention.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you very much and before we go on to question and answer, I was thinking that [Tarik] will be here for us to do the holistic introduction of our Board members from Africa.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sally is here.

MARY UDUMA: Oh, Sally is here, okay. So we have Sally and we would like Sally to introduce herself and then Board members Mike and the new Board member. So, please, before we go to question and answer, while you're digesting what Pierre has presented to us.

SALLY COSTERTON: Hello. My name is Sally Costerton and I lead Stakeholder Engagement at ICANN and I'm part of the CO's Leadership Team, which involves me in other projects particularly around ICANN's international offices and strategy, specifically focusing on how we improve participation at ICANN through our engagement activities and the resources that we have available to us.

I've been at ICANN now for just over four years and I think probably quite a few of you I've worked with and probably we've done things together. I really am impressed with the progress that we're making with the Africa Strategy. It's a completely bottom-up process but our job as the Staff Team is to help you to move forward to achieve the goals that you agree inside the strategy.

And I do realize that there are often frustrations that are preventing you from getting things done. If they are inside ICANN's mission to help you with, you have my absolute word that we will do that through the team we have in Africa and the broader team we have in ICANN.

Many times, unfortunately, some of the barriers are particularly around access. Of course those are things that are not in our gift but we will work with you to try and overcome as many practical hurdles to engagement as we possibly can, whether that be through the kind of tools we use such as Adobe Rooms and

Adigo dial outs, this sort of thing, languages we provide and translations, and also capacity building activities to the best of our ability to support the strategy that you have.

So thank you for inviting me and I'm very interested to hear how this debate continues. Thank you.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you very much, Sally. After the introduction of the two Board of Director members, we'll take up our partners – I think they are partners. The partners would also want to talk to us. Adiel will take up that so over to you.

[CARL KUBA]: Thank you. My name is [Carl Kuba]. I'm from Tunisia. I'm an incoming Board member at ICANN. I think I'm glad to recognize a lot of old friends and colleagues form the African region such as Pierre, Adiel, everyone from the AFRINIC community. I think I'm enjoying bringing with me the African background to the Board and joining my friend and colleague, Mike.

I hope I will be at the level of support for you at any time. Please count on me. Please reach out to me at any time. I will be much more than pleased to help to achieve any part at the Board level. You're obviously having full support from myself and from my colleague. Thank you.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you. Mike?

MIKE: Thank you Mary and greetings colleagues. I'm here really listening but the one thing that I will just mention, to me entrepreneurship domain business is one of the key drivers. ICANN can't do everything at the top level. For us in Africa it involves drilling a dam.

Lucky can tell you about some of the initiatives that are happening in South Africa. Mary can tell you some of the initiatives that are happening in Nigeria. And there are initiatives happening in each country but in order to do that you need a vibrant community and one of the absolutely critical elements to a vibrant community is a vibrant business.

And I know that this is not just a trade association of businesses, but at the same time good business makes good sense for the community because policy work needs to be supported by companies, by businesses who are involved in this process. And I would encourage those entrepreneurs around the room to stop thinking and looking but to start acting.

There's a lot of business that's done at ICANN meetings. ICANN doesn't need to come to you. If you're here, you should be

talking to people. If you aren't yet ready to become a registrar, then you need to talk to the registrars who have reseller programs. If you're not ready to become a registry, speak to the people who have reseller programs. They are out there.

I think there are too many of us in this room who just talk policy to each other and they're ignoring that there's a whole lot of business going on at these meetings that actually can be beneficial to all of us individually as well as our countries and the continent.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you. I hand over to Lucky to continue the program. Thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thank you, Mary. Thank you so much. I think you've been pushing the program very well, Mary. We are on time with the next program which should be opening up the community. [Jameson] will take us through this. [Jameson], if you can target ten minutes, we can give you an extra minute for that.

MARY UDUMA: Three minutes.

LUCKY MASILELA: Three minutes. Did you hear that?

MARY UDUMA: He has the ability.

[JAMSON OLUFUE]:   Yes, I will do some algorithm and be within the time scope, thank you. Well, let me begin by introducing my name again, [Jameson Olufue]. My day job is as CEO of Contemporary Consulting. We're into data centers, cyber security. We have affiliation with the Africa ICT Alliance. This is an alliance of ICT Association Companies and private sector or concerned private sector stakeholders in Africa.

We started with six member nations in 2012 and now we have membership from 27 African countries. AFRICTA is a member of the business constituency of ICANN. I really cut and paste what Mike said that we need to look at the business part of the whole engagement and it's in this regard we say that yes, we have played a very active role in the current transition so I want to congratulate everyone for this success.

If you could recall, business constituency was involved in a series of public hearing at the U.S. Congress and we provided a lot of support for legitimacy in this regard. So we continued to expand our engagement within Africa and ICANN has been a part

of this effort. I want to specially appreciate our Vice President for Africa Region, Pierre Dandjenou.

Pierre, thank you so much because there's nothing we do in terms of outreach in Africa that doesn't pass through the table of Pierre and he has never blinked. He always says, "Just go ahead," and, "This is what we need," and it's in tandem with the Africa Strategy that we all know about.

We also appreciate ICANN for the Engagement Office in Nairobi. That's good but there's just one staff. That shows clearly that we have some gaps. There's need for more resources so that we can really engage the business people, the community in Africa.

I will need to, at this point, appreciate all the Board members. Mike, you were there at the very beginning when we started to prop up the Business Community, the concerned business stakeholders like AFRICTA, and of course thanking also Lucky. Lucky Masilela was with us in Windhoek three weeks ago. Tarek Kamel has always been very, very supportive.

So in recognition of Pierre Dandjenou's continued support, we want to take this opportunity to present a token plaque to appreciate his effort. We must encourage ourselves and it's on this note I want you to join me to appreciate Pierre for his commitment.

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PIERRE DANJENOU: Thank you, [Jameson]. Do you have a check?

[JAMESON OLUFUE]:   Thank you so much, Pierre, for your commitment and support and we count on more of this going forward. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJENOU: My pleasure.

[JAMESON OLUFUE]:   I'd really like to note that even if it's so difficult for Pierre to be in attendance, he will send communication and at the last meeting Patrick Jones was there and we received the message very clearly. Thank you very much again

LUCKY MASILELA: All right, thanks, [Jameson], for the quick update and the recognition of Pierre. Congratulations, Pierre.

And now next we ask Adiel. If you hear something beep, you must know that… building local partnerships. Thank you. No, sorry, Technical Engagement. Yes, my apologies.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Thank you, Lucky. On Technical Engagement, I will have really loved to hear from our colleague coming from the technical community what particularly they're expecting from ICANN in terms of technical engagement. But before I go there, I want to just highlight a few priority areas for ICANN the organization in terms of technical engagement and what we're doing about that.

The Technical Engagement function at ICANN is a global function and it's a function that is mainly focused on how to one, engage more the technical community in what ICANN does, but on the other hand engage ICANN with the technical community with issues that are important for them and also for participating in technical activity at ICANN.

In terms of engagement, right now we are much more talking about the upcoming root server key role. I don't know how many of you have heard about the KSK role process that is coming up.

It's a very technical topic but I think it's important for our community and the technical community in our region as well to be aware that something like that is coming up, and if you're running DNSSEC and you're running validation particularly, it will be very important for you to look at the plan for the key role because it will affect all the validation DNS out there and get ready before it happens. There is a whole set of presentation

about that. I don't have them here but that is one of the areas we are pushing around right now in terms of technical activity at ICANN.

In terms of participation to ICANN proceeding, I will also like to highlight to those who are actively engaged in DNS that ICANN has the RSAC, which is the Root Server Advisory Committee. The RSAC itself is a close Advisory Committee to ICANN Board but to allow broader participation, the RSAC has now what is called the RSAC Caucus. The RSAC Caucus is open to anyone. Anyone that is interested in DNS in general or the root server in particular can participate in the RSAC Caucus. You have to apply online, express your interest and contribute.

Why I'm talking about that is because the RSAC work on several interesting topics. They just released this morning a document that I thought may be very interesting for people in our region, which is the History of The Root Server System. We talk a lot about the Root Server System but the history, how it has evolved and what is the status today, that document has been released and it's something that we can use in our engagement at the regional level very actively beyond participating in the RSAC.

So if you are interested in DNS from the technology part, I would really encourage you to join the RSAC Caucus. They are very

open to hear from people there and contribute and participate to the world.

In terms of technical engagement as well, within ICANN we now have a fully fledged research and measurement department at ICANN and the research department is very active doing different kinds of measurement research related to the DNS particularly. And one thing we are interested in as well is to have feedback from the community on areas where ICANN can take non partisan measurement and present.

Recently for those of you who have been to some of the area meetings, one of our colleagues from the CTU office has presented a research he has done on IPv6 pickup and GDP, co-relationship between IPv6 pickup and GDP. That story is adding another story which is DNSSEC. If you compare IPv6 pickup, DNSSEC pickup and GDP, is there any correlation that we can draw there? I think it's something that is useful and can help decision makers in the region.

The research department is another important element of technical engagement at ICANN. Pierre has mentioned the good work that they're doing with the L-root to increase L-root footprint in the region with implementation of new incidences. So if you want to host L-root, I think L-root is one of the root

server operators that has a very, I will say, less constraint in terms of deployment.

And if you want to host an instance, just let us know. There is a very well-documented and simple process out there to host an L-root. Talk to Pierre or talk to any of us. We will put you in touch with the right person to do that.

I will end up touching a little bit on capacity building. Usually in regions like ours, when we talk about technical engagement, capacity building comes up very high on top of the [inaudible] like what people want. They want capacity building. How many of you here know that ICANN has a training program?

PIERRE DANDJENOU: On what, a general program or?

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Yes, again and this part of the CTU office as well, we have the SSR Team that does training. It does a very specific kind of training, two kinds. One, partnering with ccTLD locally on ccTLD best practices and second, on law enforcement, they do a lot of training around the globe on law enforcement. Those are not publicized trainings but on-need basis and on-request basis.

The SSR Team will be much happy to come and help you talk to law enforcement, help them in very specific area of security so if you have interest in that, talk to me. We'll see how we can work that out and that is the specific area where the SSR Team engages.

Now beyond that we have the OLP that many of you know now – the Online Learning Platform that has broader online training activity – and we are looking at how to integrate that with what the SSR team is doing and even explore new areas of capacity building.

So that is what I will say roughly but I will be very much happy to hear from you about what you want from ICANN in terms of technical engagement and how we can increase participation of the technical community from our region into ICANN proceeding. Thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thank you so much, Adiel. Thank you so much for the information. Now let's hear about Kenya local partnerships, Abdalla.

ABDALLA OMARI: Thank you. My name is Abdalla Omari, the CEO of Kenya Network Information Center. First of all, I'd like to thank the

Africa ccTLD community for electing yesterday on the ccNSO Council. It was a highly contested election between me, myself and I. Yes, it was very hard so thank you for having confidence in me. I think it was one of the few times where the French and the English decided it's Abdalla, so thank you for that.

My second appreciation is for ICANN deciding to open an office in Africa, specifically in Kenya. I want to promise that one was a good decision. Although it has one staff member, the local community beefs up. Pierre, don't worry, you have unpaid staff from TESPOK, KENIC, ECTA and the rest of the community who work free for ICANN as a contribution to society. I think you saw the partnership when you were opening the office. You had one staff but it looked like you had 50 people working for the office.

We have had some good partnership initiatives. There were some before the office but the partnership initiatives have increased as the office came into place.

The first major event, which was a partnership between the civil society, the private sector, the academia, the non-profit making organization and business community, that event was sponsored by the community and ICANN and ICANN gave the biggest part of the contribution.

It trained the participants on how to be ICANN accredited registrars because there were some key issues which were not

clear and students were also encouraged on how to make money by being resellers and how to participate in Internet governance issues.

There were few lawyers in the house at that time and they were taught about the WHOIS and mediation arbitration processes.

I'd like to report to you, Pierre, that initiative bore some fruits. The Law Society of Kenya currently has included domain name dispute as part of their professional upgrade course and it's in their timetable. It's falling in the first quarter of next year and we're happy one of the registrars who attended the event is partnering with ICANN to sponsor that course. It's good when the local community picks up the bills because before we were all looking for sponsorship of events.

That event has brought also another partnership. There's' a local university called USIU which is now having an Internet governance day for students where students will be taught from an early stage how to participate in the Internet governance space. There's a partnership now being signed between the university, the ICANN office and the local partners which are TESPOK and KENIC. So that one you can see there are some fruits which came out of that partnership.

Now just to cross over to Tanzania, there was a partnership between ICANN and wiki. The event happened at the University

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of Dodoma and .tz was key in ensuring that that event went and the event went very well, which has resulted to another partnership.

We had an agreement on Saturday with the wiki Team where .ke and .tz will do some funding for the Kiswahili interpretation of the wiki. So I think we're doing well. Students have given their time. Lecturers are giving their professional input. .tz and .ke are going to give some small funding to ensure that interpretation of wiki is done in the local Kiswahili language.

I think if these partnerships are duplicated within the region, it's going to be a good initiative for Africa whereby the business community, the civil society, students, that's the academia and the non-profit making organizations take note that they can benefit by being part of the great initiatives. And I think you've started on a good note and we are feeling the effectiveness of ICANN. Thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA: Okay, thank you colleagues. Now, to the open mic. You're ready? Okay, open mic is on.

MARY UDUMA: Please we should not take much. Maximum two minutes and if I drop my hammer then you stop.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much. Abdalla, you said that francophone and English speakers voted for you. I am so sorry to hear and to see and to notice that there is really a problem of language between Africans. I saw what happened in AFRINIC. I am really sad of it and I hope that it will never be done like this in the future. Everyone coming from Africa, we are all equal and we don't have to be—what is that? We are fighting for languages that are not ours. This is stupid.

LUCKY MASILELA: Okay. I think we have a colleague from Ethiopia to quickly tell us something for one minute 30 seconds.

[SAM DESALIN] Okay, thank you. For the interest of time, I will try to condense a long story to a few sentences. Sam [Desalin], the Chair of Ethiopic Script Generation Panel. I work for the Academia Computer Science Department of Addis Ababa University.

A year ago we established a Generation Panel composed of professionals from the linguistic domain and from the cyber domain from several disciplines.

We formed a Generation Panel task on the development of Labor Generation Rules for Ethiopic Script for the root zone. We have gone several steps. We are nearing completion almost. Some small pieces are left. In a minute's time we'll be, I think, having a Labor Generation Rule Set for Ethiopic Script for the root zone. For the interest of time, this is what we have done as a Generation Panel so far. If you have questions, thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thank you very much [Desalin]. We do have a PowerPoint presentation on this program they started in Ethiopia and it's important that this be replicated, if possible, in many other places.

If we proceed with the open mic, did you have a comment there?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, just to follow on the idea and issue. I think it's an important issue for our languages. Pierre just mentioned that there is a lot of work that had been done with the Arabic script. Just to mention, the Arabic script is used by different African languages and an alphabet sometimes in a complete way but sometimes using part of it. So it's great to build on that and there is great stuff done by Sarmad and the team and ICANN so at any time we

can figure out how we can bring the expertise from the team to Africa.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you. If any of our members sitting behind, please you can come to the mic or raise your hand. Thank you. I have my sister close to me here.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you. [inaudible] I have three simple commands. The first one, Pierre I saw in your presentation [inaudible] that the biggest number is for other activities. It will be interesting if you would detail these other activities in the slide #7 of your presentation first part.

The second command is when you mentioned the action you will take in the second part of your presentation. I saw the engagement on private sector, engagement on government. I think the third I don't remember but I'll remember it. My command is that seeing the specification of our region, we know that in most countries in Africa, the ecosystem of the Internet is government lead. It's not private sector lead.

So I think we should have a special focus on the engagement with the government in our countries. You know that our ccTLDs are governed by policies imposed by the government and they

are hindering the evolution of these TLDs and it [can't] let us to make some industries behind that.

The third command is please I know about the DNS Africa Study and please I hope it will be spread as much as possible because the more outwards we'll have, the better action we'll take and it will be of benefit not only for your study, also for our TLD we need this output to have which better actions to take. These were my three commands. Thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA: Continue open mic. Can you get that mic? I think the CEO of AFRINIC, Alan, wants to say something.

MARY UDUMA: …what Mark is saying now. The mic will get to him. Mark, go ahead.

ALAN BARRETT: Hello, thank you. I have a few things to say. Firstly, Pierre during your opening I think you said something about the first Internet connection to Africa was to South Africa. That's not true. I believe the first one was to Tunisia, maybe the year before 1990 or thereabouts. '91, okay. South Africa was also '91 but later in the year.

And then ICANN is the Internet corporation for names and numbers so I'd encourage you to think about the numbers as well. I know most of you are involved with the TLDs, country code TLDs and gTLDs and things, but you also run networks. And Adiel from the ICANN side on Technical Engagement has been very active in dealing with the Regional Internet Registries and he's certainly not forgotten AFRINIC and we're pleased to collaborate with ICANN in that work.

We also can assist in deploying other root servers so if you are interested in getting a root server deployed at your exchange point or in your network, you can also speak to AFRINIC and we'll put you in touch with the right people at ICANN to facilitate.

I suppose I should never hold a microphone without saying something about IPv6. Please deploy IPv6, okay? IPv4 is not enough. Africa still has some IPv4 addresses but don't let that make you complacent. You must deploy IPv6 as soon as possible because the rest of the world outside Africa has run out or is very, very close to running out of IPv4 and your customers in your country on your networks with IPv4 only will have trouble when they try to communicate with people out there who have IPv6 only, so you should have both, please. So come talk to AFRINIC to get your v6 and get some training about it as well. Thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thanks, Alan. Any other comment? We only have two minutes.

BARACK OTIENO: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Barrack Otieno from AfTLD. I want to speak with regard to African ccTLDs. This is just an appeal to all the African stakeholders. We need to help grow our ccTLDs. They're critical in supporting the Internet governance space in our continent and I just want to say that gTLDs are good as well but you know when you buy gTLDs, it's like planting seeds in your neighbor's farm. When it comes to time for harvesting, you're not a stakeholder and you cannot partake of it.

So I want to encourage us to make sure we have strong ccTLDs so that we can have strong Internet communities locally because if the ccTLD belongs to our local community, then we have money for activities and events. So that's what I want to just pass across.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you. Yes, Mark. 30 seconds.

ANDREW MARK: Thank you, Mary, and Barrack that was a wonderful setup. My name is Andrew Mark. I run AM Global Consulting based in

Washington DC. As a number of you may know, our firm was commissioned by ICANN to take a look at the lack of pickup of the New gTLD Programs by groups in the Global South.

We've done a lot of research we're going to be presenting at the high interest panel at 5:00. Tijani will also be on that panel. It's about you. I am very grateful for the many of you who we spoke with as part of this activity getting interviews, getting contacts, getting your feedback. We really wanted to thank you. We got some excellent feedback from the continent.

To Barrack's point, I think it is fair to say that every one benefits when they have a balanced diet so I would encourage you not to try to live on one crop alone. I'm guessing that there is a place for the ccTLDs, the gTLDs and for growth in both baskets. We know that there are awful lot of people that need to be fed both literally and in the Internet ecosystem going forward and so let us all grow the Internet agriculture of Africa together. Thank you.

[BARASMUS]: Thank you. Just quickly, Pierre highlighted quickly one of the projects that we've been working on the DNS Entrepreneurship Center, which is actually an effort to promote DNS industry and DNS business in both Africa and the Middle East. The project has been alive for almost 18 months. Much has been done so far and much to be done actually in the future.

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Very recently we've been seeing some reaps coming out. We've been seeing a few local trainers coming out of the region, particularly from North Africa so far, from Egypt, from Tunisia, and those trainers actually participated in some of the local activities that we do with universities and small businesses in the region. We hope to see more of this coming in the near future.

The other recent development, the center has recently announced a partnership with IBM. IBM has a program called MEA Academia, I guess, or MEA University. It's Middle Eastern and African University mainly targeting university students and freshman graduates providing training on various IT issues. So the partnership is to include DNS as one component or one element of this program and the very first workshop as part of this partnership took place in Cairo, Egypt ten days ago. We are continuing our engagement with IBM to explore opportunities to do similar activities in Africa.

Tomorrow at 3:15 p.m., we're going to have a similar session but for the Middle East. The ICANN Middle East Strategy session tomorrow and there will be dedicated 10 minutes presentation on the Center so if you wish to hear more about the Center or about what's going on in the Middle East, please come and join us. Thank you.

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MARY UDUMA: Thank you very much.

ABIB RASHID: Actually one and a half. Abib Rashid from .tz registry. I wanted to add to what Alan said, the AFRINIC CEO, to concentrate on numbers and names and he forgot to invite you to AFRINIC25 in Mauritius.

MARY UDUMA: Thank you very much.

LUCKY MASILELA: Thank you. Adiel then Azziz, then we go on.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: I just wanted to add something when we were talking about the IDN and a message that we can all give back to our different countries and talk to developers in our country.

There is a program called Universal Acceptance at ICANN which is the acceptance of IDN but also the new generation of TLD. I've done the exercise recently to look at a few of the websites in our region and tried to enter e-mail addresses that take the new TLD and a few of them failed.

It's an issue and the Universal Acceptance Group has done a very good job trying to lay down where the problems are and what to do if you're a developer, if you're a website owner, etc. Go to ua.tech and you have a lot of information there and that's something that I will also ask you to take back to your committee locally, especially those who develop web applications, online applications, online forms.

And this is even valid for applications that are not even connected to the Internet but as soon as they handle e-mail addresses, they have to be able to accept us. It's something that I want to say. It's technical but I think it's a message that we can carry.

LUCKY MASILELA: Okay, Azziz?

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you. As we have translation I will speak in French. I wanted to mention some of the activities that we do at AFRALO. As Pierre mentioned, we are very active within ALAC and I would like to congratulate some of my colleagues in Africa because of the work that they did, the extraordinary work that they did over the past two years, especially as we worked on the IANA Transition and on ICANN's Accountability.

Mohamed Albashir who was the Vice President of the ICG, Tijan Ben Jemaa who was at the CCWG and Seun Ojedeji who was also a member of the CCWG Group. I would also like to congratulate them for the work that they did and the work that AFRALO did because I think that we were the only region within the RALOs and the ALAC to have provided several statements. It necessitated a lot of work and I would like to thank my colleagues.

I also wanted to announce to all of my colleagues who are members of AFRALO that we will have a General Assembly Meeting in Johannesburg in June, next June. We do have a budget, an ICANN budget and each ALS will be represented there by one representative so our presence there will be quite substantive.

We will try with the help of Lucky—he offered to help—we will try to do what we always do which is to have an African meeting. We will try to do outreach work at the local university level.

Last point, I wanted to ask you to be present tomorrow as well during the traditional meeting that we always hold at every ICANN meeting where we gather the entire African community. Once again, we will talk about the statement that we will submit to the ICANN Board on the impact of the IANA Transition and the

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Accountability and the point of Africa on that. Thank you very much.

JAMES BILAL: Thank you. James Bilal from South Sudan, the new country in Africa which obtained independence in 2011. I just have a query that I needed to raise with this quorum. I believe it's the right one. Of course right after independence there was a proposal for .ss as the country [inaudible] level domain. But later on, I think it spark negative reaction from Europe simply because it was associated with the Nazi party. But to me I think we're so different, we're Africans and we don't have any connection with Europe.

Africa is a different continent. I don't know how it came to be linked with the Nazi Party so up to now South Sudan is a country without any domain so it's from here I think you need to think about it, come up with something, we'll also help push so that we go back to our leaders so that at least we're registered and we have a domain. Thank you.

LUCKY MASILELA: Tijani and then we close.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: One word only to tell you that the session Andrew talked about regarding the underserved region will take place in hall #3 at 5:00 this afternoon.

LUCKY MASILELA: Okay. Pierre, please close the session.

PIERRE DANDJENOU: Quickly I just want to thank you all for the contributions and also for the news that we've been passing over because that's also why we're having this sort of gathering. Maybe there were specific questions addressed to me and by the way Alan, thank you very much. I knew about this issue so who actually between Tunisia and South Africa started Internet in Africa. And yes, we maintained that that was a question of months anyway but the same year. Okay, that's fine.

Sorry? One minute once a Chairperson is closing? Please, I'll give you half a minute.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: South Sudan just mentioned a very serious issue. Yes, South Sudan mentioned a very serious issue. I think that we applauded and then we moved on. I think we need to think about what we're going to do to help them get their domain name. We need

to be practical. Those are our brothers who are concerned by this problem. We need to work towards that. What can we do concretely to help them?

I'm not sure if a Board member can help. Some of them are present. I don't know exactly. We need to find a solution. It is not right.

MIKE: That's Pierre's baby.

PIERRE DANDJENOU: Right. It is a very important problem. It is to seven countries that's why I'm calling it problematic actually, and so those issues are there on the table. The only one thing is that it also boils down to knowledge. You have to know exactly what to do.

We have fTLD, for instance, on the ground for anything that can assist. There are procedures that you have to follow and as far as ICANN is concerned, procedures are clear. What is not clear sometimes is the relationship within countries; who is doing what. We have issues with whoever has been managing the domain name. Sometimes it's outside the country and they don't agree on issues there.

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But then ICANN does not enter into that one. There has to be a consensus whereby you know exactly—you agree on who is going to be your admin contact, your technical contact, but ICANN does not get into whatever contractual relationship that people are having.

But we are ready to assist. Actually, we are doing this. At least with five to seven countries we are talking to the government, to the regulator, to all of those stakeholders, but it's a good point and we're actually planning a special meeting on that with [WATRA], for instance, in West Africa and elsewhere. We really want to tackle this issue.

Maybe before the rush out of this place, I would like to say that it was quite good to discuss and also to gain some of the knowledge of what is happening in Africa. On the question I might take them specifically especially your question, the slides are available as I said and we can still continue in terms of the activities we've been conducting.

Let me tell you something that I also say. This is only the ICANN Strategy for Africa and I always finish our meeting by saying, "Where is the African Strategy for ICANN?" So I would like to end on this note and also I'd like to know whether we do have any Fellows around here? Do we have any Fellows?

MARY UDUMA: There are Fellows here.

PIERRE DANJINOU: Oh, Fellows are around here. You know that I'm taking you to drink or dinner tonight? But you did not confirm so.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: What about non-Fellows?

PIERRE DANJINOU: Okay, so thank you all. And again—okay.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm so sorry. I'm just going to take ten seconds of your time. I just wanted to throw a suggestion out to the floor. I see that we have a lot of Africans here at this meeting. It might not be possible at this meeting but maybe going forward we should think about getting together informally. I think that's a fantastic idea. I see a lot of people in the hallway. I'm so busy running around to meet my schedule I don't actually have time to talk to anyone and I think we need to either have a dinner, a lunch, cocktail, whatever you want to call it. We need to actually come together and get to know each other.

PIERRE DANJINOU: Thank you. I think [Beran] is right. The only one thing that is missing is dancing. Sorry about that.

[THIMALA]: I'm [Thimala] from AFRINIC. Just before everyone leaves the room you know that there is an African organization for all of you in Africa, AFRINIC. We work very closely with ICANN and we have an AFRINIC Government Working Group for all the governmental regulators. So if you're a governmental regulator in the room from Africa, just talk to me. And we have back-to-back meeting with our AFRINIC meeting twice a year. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

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