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JOHANNESBURG – At-Large AFRALO Showcase  
Wednesday, June 28, 2017 – 18:30 to 19:00 JNB  
ICANN59 | Johannesburg, South Africa

AZIZ HILALI:

Tijani, please take a seat. Hello, and welcome to this 5<sup>th</sup> African Showcase organized by AFRALO, our RALO. We are very pleased so that this event that we have launched since Nairobi in 2010 continues to perpetuate itself and become a tradition even among to the all RALOs. This African meeting is exceptional because of the participation of 45 AFRALO members from 30 countries, African countries, who have the opportunity to be involved and contribute in a series of activities especially prepared for them. With this presence, they also have the opportunity to participate in all the activities of the ICANN Public Meeting.

As you know, our RALO tried to be very active whenever an ICANN meeting is held on African soil. This week, we organized here in Johannesburg a series of activities, a Capacity Building Program with the five session of training, the AFRALO General Assembly that we have this today. Local Community Engagement, we have success in bringing local student and teachers here to brainstorm them on the Internet and ICANN. And today, this special social event African Showcase for the

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exhibition of our different members and presentation of African culture and values.

The objective of this program was not only to synthesize our ALS in the ICANN development process, but also involve them more on the questions discussed by ICANN and thus increase the effectiveness of participation of the Africa through the end users. Our ambition now is to extend this operation so that our ALS attendance at ICANN working groups can be much more important and more effective to make a good follow-up and effective contribution to the open public consultation for which ALAC prepares comments.

Before completing, I would like to thank all those who helped us to set up all these activities. I would like to thank AFRINIC, which has always been an [inaudible] pertinent to help us in our efforts.

My warm thanks go also to the staff who accompanied us in this organization.

And finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all my colleagues of AFRALO organization committee of who have been mobilized for several months to organize these different activities, thank you.

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And now, I will give the floor to our Chairman of the Board of ICANN, Mr. Stephen Crocker, please.

STEPHEN CROCKER:

It's always a pleasure to come here. Our original slogan 50 years ago almost when we started to build the first network was "Networks bring people together" and I think that has endured and no place more so than in Africa. We have these ICANN meetings three times a year. We rotate them around the world. And so approximately, we'll have another ICANN meeting in Africa in about two years.

Aziz just made note of all the progress and quite impressive chart actually. Think about where you want to be in two years and two years from now look back and see how far you've come, and I'm sure it will be a very long way, I think. Aim for double. Aim for double.

I don't think I have more to say. You've heard the same complimentary words from everybody. You guys are amazing. And you guys are the future and you guys are the present. And I will soon be part of the past. So with that, my congratulations and good wishes and keep moving. Thanks.

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AZIZ HILALI: And now, I want to give the floor to our President and CEO, who helped us very much, Mr. Goran Marby. Please.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you very much. I'm honored to be invited to give a speech in front of you. My journey with ICANN started in Africa. I met the ICANN community the first time in Marrakesh a little bit more than a year ago. And I know I aged a lot during that year. So for me, Africa, well for personal reasons or for other reasons will be important.

I've said something today that I want to repeat. Your Internet is yours. You have an obligation and responsibility to make Internet in Africa yours. You are an extremely vibrant continent. A lot of different countries. You do good work. Me and my organization is here to help you. The work we do together with the so-called [inaudible] south regions is very, very important to us. Because we need to understand better how we can create the local villages on a global Internet.

But we not really talk about that. We are here to celebrate so I'm asking myself, where's the party? Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI: And now, I will give the floor to our friend, Rinalia Abdul Rahim. She is a Board Member representing ALAC. Please, Rinalia.

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RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Hello. I made a new friend in Johannesburg. His name is Mduduzi. He speaks Zulu and he taught me how to say hello. And I thought I'd try it on you tonight. Sawubona. So greetings to my sisters and brothers from Africa especially, and from around the world. Bonsoir. Assalamu alaikum.

I would like to say that Africa is pretty special to me as well, following the lead of our CEO, because many important things happened to me in this continent. And I will mention one or two.

The first is that my understanding of what it takes to lead and manage a global multistakeholder organization and community actually began in Africa. I had to chair my first global multistakeholder meeting for the global knowledge partnership in Addis Ababa in conjunction with the first African Development Forum. It was 20 years ago and I was relatively young and it was a fairly big deal, but it was also extremely traumatic. And I still remember it to this day. And another reason why Africa is very important is that that was the start of an interaction with the African community with its wonderful people and culture, which I cherish to this day.

Next year, ICANN will be 20 years old. Did you know that? It's going to be 20 years old. This is a significant milestone and I look forward to celebrating it with you as I will be part of the

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community then. What I can say is that I'm very pleased with the trajectory that ICANN is on today, that ICANN at 20 will be much more diverse than it was when it first started. And your participation and engagement in ICANN adds to that richness in diversity.

I want to say a word about the AFRALO General Assembly at ICANN59. During my term as the At-Large-Selected Board Director, this is the first time that AFRALO got the chance to bring all of its At-Large structures to an ICANN meeting. This is a momentous event. It doesn't happen very often and we should definitely celebrate it. And I expect that some of you will go wild, after this during the Showcase. But within the bounds of our code of conduct. And we do have those at ICANN. And if you don't know what it is, please make sure you check.

Being present in an ICANN meeting is quite important. If it's your first time, it will give you a sense of the complexity of ICANN. The full range of the ideas and the hugeness of our multistakeholder community. But it will also give you an informed opinion of whether it is worthwhile to engage in this community. Because what it takes to meaningfully participate requires time, effort, dedication, and a lot of energy.

This is particularly important because you may not be present at all the meetings and most of the work actually happen in

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between meetings. And if you believe that the work of ICANN is important, then you will make this dedication. And it is at this meeting that you get a sense of that. So please look around very, very carefully. And more importantly, you will form relationships that hopefully will last a whole lifetime.

I was pleased to see so many capacity building activities during this week for the AFRALO and African participants. ICANN issues are not easy to deal with. It takes a lot of time to get up to speed. And we don't do this well without learning support. Now I just want to say that I think Tijani, Aziz, and the rest of the team from AFRALO and our staff from At-Large have done a wonderful job in preparing all the activities that make our participation more effective. So thank you for that work.

I'm also extremely thrilled that tomorrow, AFRALO will look at your policy priorities. Because I think this will be the channel in which you bring your diversity of views to ICANN. Now, what we want from you, from Africa, is not just your participation. Not just for you to be counted as a diversity statistic.

What we want is for you to channel your views. And it's not just views by saying, "This is what I think," but considered views where you really understand the issues and you consider the views of others before you make it. And if you do so, you will have impact and you will be able to make a difference. So please

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continue to do that. And I look forward to enlarging my circle of friends from Africa. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Rinalia. We will miss you. Next guest speaker is our President, Alan Greenberg, Chair of ALAC.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you very much, Aziz. I have a long tradition at these events of speaking for very short periods of time. Usually because I'm told I only have one minute. I'm not sure how long I was told this time. I didn't look at the piece of paper. I have three minutes, I'm told. I may or may not use them.

This is the third time I'm addressing much of the group and certainly the AFRALO General Assembly. I'm following Rinalia, who said a lot of what I was going to say in terms of participation and getting involved. Should I say it again anyway? No? No.

Like Rinalia, I've got a lot of good memories of working in Africa and a lot of friends, many of whom are around this table and in this room, I am absolutely thrilled to see the progress that's been made over the last number of years. The number of people involved, and the level of participation. We say we want more, and we do want more but it's impressive what we're getting today compared to what it was a number of years ago.



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I encourage you to keep on working. Working within At-Large can come in a lot of different ways. We'd be delighted if someone wants to learn everything they can about the RDS or Registration Data Services and participate in four conference calls a week. Just put your hand up if you'd like to volunteer.

But on the other hand, there's a lot that you can contribute without going anywhere into that depth, anywhere at all near there. And still make sure that when we end up with policy in ICANN, it's going to meet the needs of your communities not only the communities of other people.

So I encourage you to keep on working. I'm delighted to see the group here – sorry, I'm at a loss for words – to see the involvement of people here. And I'm looking forward to a great party. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Alan. The next one is our Dean, our mentor, Mr. Tijani Ben Jemaa who is the Vice-Chair of ALAC. Please, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Good evening. Bonsoir. [inaudible]. What I can say more than they said now. I will say only that AFRALO is a united community. AFRALO is strong because AFRALO is united. AFRALO will

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continue to be like this. And AFRALO did a lot of things to become what it is now. AFRALO will continue to do the same and will improve, thanks to the young people, Seun, Sarah, and others, Abduljalil, a lot. So we will remain like this. We will be always very strong because we are always united. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

So next speaker is younger than Tijani and me. I will give the floor to Seun Ojedeji, who is AFRALO ALAC member from Nigeria.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you. I don't know what else to say. I know the elders have said it all. I feel honored to talk about AFRALO and ALAC. Folks like Tijani have more history about AFRALO and ALAC than myself. But since I joined, I think it's been very, very interesting. AFRALO as a true representative, in ALAC and our participation has been to my own personal observation has been interesting. And I hope it's been [effort] to ALAC as well.

We have a Vice-Chair, which we can say we are proud of, [who] actually has really, really helped myself and my other colleague Wafa to actually get our feet within AFRALO and most especially within ALAC and participation from the CCWG level when we're doing the transition. The fact that AFRALO as a community contributes independently in the statements, writing

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statements, making our own independent view, even though some of them also still goes in line with ALAC view, shows that like Tijani has said, we have a very strong community. Our diversity is our strengths and I'd like to say that that is one of the big achievements that we will ever achieve.

And I think that is something to continue. You have not seen all of us. I think this is the beginning. And the sky remains the – they say it's the limit but I think it is the starting point. Let's enjoy ourselves. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

And finally, the younger speaker, please I want to welcome – I ask you to welcome her with applause, Sarah Kiden, AFRALO Secretary.

SARAH KIDEN:

Good evening, everyone. So I'm not going to keep you from the party. I promise I'll take three minutes of your time. Just to remind you or to tell those of you who don't know, we have 52 At-Large structures in 30 African countries, and 42 of them managed to come for this General Assembly so that is a very good number.

So I'm going to invite all of them to come to the front. We are going to show you the dresses from our countries or something

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that was prepared for you. So I'd like to invite all our representatives to come to the front so we can show off to the world. And some of us also carried our flag so we can show you.

Then I'm going to invite Mr. Steve Crocker, Mr. Goran Marby and all the speakers that we have had today to come and take a group photo with us.

AZIZ HILALI:

Please, please, out. All of our guests are invited to Level 4 foyer for the continuation of the Showcase at the cocktail and entertainment. Please rendezvous Level 4. And food also. Food, yes.

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