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JOHANNESBURG – At-Large AFRALO General Assembly Part 1
Wednesday, June 28, 2017 – 09:15 to 10:15 JNB
ICANN59 | Johannesburg, South Africa

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:	This is the ICANN59 At-Large AFRALO General Assembly Part 1 on the 28th of June, 2017, 9:15 to 10:15 in Ballroom 4.
AZIZ HILALI:	Okay. Good morning, everyone. Please take a seat. S'il vous plait. Take a seat, please. [Speaking in French]. I will speak French. Keep your headphone along the session, please.
	Hello, everyone. Welcome to this Fourth AFRALO General Assembly. I would like to remind you that in 2009, in Mexico, we had the Dakar meeting, we had the London meeting, and this General Assembly, I would say, is exceptional. Why? First of all, because we have a high number of ALSes present. We have 46 ALSes present today here in Johannesburg and we are very happy to have reached that number today.
	We currently have 52 ALSes total in Africa. It is also an exceptional meeting because it is occurring in Africa and it is the longest General Assembly that we have ever had. We will have two sessions with a break, a coffee break in between at, I think, 10:00. And so, our second session will last an hour and a half and

it will be dedicated to the Rules of Procedure revision, our strategy for awareness for 2018, the CROP program and improving participation of ALSes within AFRALO and ALAC here and globally within ICANN.

These days will be concluded tonight with the showcase that we are putting together, that we've put together for each of our meetings in Africa. It will also be an opportunity for ALSes to be introduced. We will have a local dance group, the Gumboot group.

We will also have an opening speech by Steve Crocker as well as Göran. I would like to thank them in advance. They decided to participate in at least three of the activities that we are putting together this week. So, before I give them the floor, I would like to truly thank them for accepting to participate in this general assembly.

The presence with us is a testament to the importance that they give to engagements. And I truly would like to thank them. I am very grateful.

We also have a very important activity. We are renewing our partnership with are regional registry, Alan Barrett who is on my right, will sign the renewal of the memorandum that we have

between AFRALO and AFRINIC that has worked quite well thus far and so we will renew it.

So, without further ado, I would like to give the floor to our first speaker. I would like to give the floor to Göran Marby who will give us a few words.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you, my friend. Thank you very much. And thank you very much for inviting me again to this important meeting. I made sure that I could come here. And in true typical ICANN style, that means that I'm double booked. So, don't tell anyone I was here because officially, I'm at a GAC meeting right now.

So, in a way, my travel with ICANN, my journey with ICANN actually started here in Africa, in Marrakech last year. That was my first ICANN meeting. I'm very happy to be back in this continent again. It's a very vibrant continent. And over the last year, I had the pleasure to visit several of your countries.

In a way, that vibrancies reflect on the people in this room and the important things that you are doing. I've said many times this week and I'm going to repeat myself that ICANN is not the Internet but we are a very important part of Internet, and you are a very important part of that thing. So together, we're building something that's very unique.

I also said that, and it means more here than any other places, is that we're not done with Internet. If you look on the next one and a half billion users or million users, many of them will come from Africa.

And you observe [inaudible] of the end users has a very important role in this because you need to help us and help ourselves to understand the needs of those users. The next generation users will not be the same as we had before. There will be people go primarily mobile, they will not have the same economic resources to get access. And that means we also have to learn how to be more local.

Internet is too fixed. It's a global interconnected network but it's also very local. I give you the opportunity and I hope you can take it together but you can create your version of Internet here in Africa.

I also know that you're going to sign an agreement today, an MoU between AFRALO and AFRINIC, which I congratulate you for. We announced two days ago that we are also trying to support you better. We think that the new office structure that we're doing that we're going to focus more on a regional basis, we realize we have to work better with everybody in this ecosystem. And therefore, I applaud for this initiative to have this

Memorandum of Understanding. It shows that we all can work together.

On a personal note, I always said that what you're doing is an answer to a riddle on the multistakeholder model because if you can't get the end user's perspective into what we do, we will be not as good as a multistakeholder model.

The multistakeholder model works for ICANN because Internet today is something that touches so many parts of every person's life. It's much more than just government, it's much more than just education. Jokingly, I sometimes say, it touches everything including your love life. I talked so much about it. So, they asked if I was divorcing. Well, I can say I'm still happily married after 21 years. But that means that when we talk about Internet and when we talk about it, we have to take all aspects into account, aspects that no one has faced before.

So again, the real answer to the riddle of the multistakeholder model is the perspective of the end users. You're doing a very important work and you're helping us and we're helping each other and we're also helping the next generation to form the next generation Internet. Thank you very much and thank you for having me here.

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And now, I'm going to sneak back to my other meeting. Sorry. I'm very sorry that I cannot stay on.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Göran. I would like to wish you a great rest of the meeting.

So, we will now move to the next point which is the Memorandum of Understanding signing between AFRINIC and AFRALO. I would like to remind you that the first MoU was signed five or six years ago in Durban.

And so, I would like to mention a few things to Alan Barrett and to Sunday who is the Chair. And I would like to remind you the three main points, three main elements of this memorandum. Strengthening cooperation and development and mutual understanding between two organization, capacity building as well as putting together activities, mutual activities including meetings, projects, workshops for research and development in the African region.

So, I would like to first give the floor to Alan Barrett so that he can say a few words.

PASTOR PETERS OMORAGHOUN: Observation. I want to make an observation before we continue.

AZIZ HILALI: I don't think [the same].

PASTOR PETERS OMORAGHOUN: I want to make an observation before we continue. Mr. Chair, sorry. I create division of the house. I don't ask. The program has started. I just want to quickly draw attention to a document I sent to the Chair this morning. But as we'll do, we'll take slight amendment to the agenda for today. This is a General Assembly and they will travel far and wide to be here. So, I sent the document to you this morning and I wanted to include that in the agenda.

So, I would be glad if that can be because I only wanted to put that as an AOB item. It's very important. It has to do with the rules of AFRALO and the program out there already. So, I want to draw attention to it, Mr. Chairman.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Peters. We did receive your e-mail last night. We did receive what you sent and we did add that the AOB point. We will deal with it this afternoon because this morning, we are

focusing on the signing of the MoU between AFRINIC and AFRALO. We are also, this morning focusing on the participation of our guests. And so, the discussion, the AOB additional business points will occur this afternoon. We will discuss the rules of procedure of AFRALO this afternoon. Thank you, Peters.

Now, I would like to give the floor to Alan Barrett.

ALAN BARRETT: Thank you very much, Aziz. It's a pleasure for me to be here in this AFRALO meeting again. I'm very pleased that AFRINIC and AFRALO have been able to collaborate a little in the past and we are now renewing that.

The first MoU between our two organizations, between AFRINIC and AFRALO, was signed in 2013. And that was only for a short period. And so, it is now expired, we need to renew it.

So, the MoU that we will be signing in a few minutes is for an indefinite period. It can be cancelled if either party wants to cancel it but I hope that doesn't happen anytime soon. But if no one takes action to cancel it, it will continue indefinitely.

And also, each party has a right to call for a review. If we want to change the terms at any time, we just need to give three months'

notice. We can change the terms and sign a new agreement with different terms.

We're all Africans. Whether we're from the ISPs or the registries or the domain name system or the At-Large, we're all Africans. We're all interested in the development of the Internet even if we focus on different aspect of it. And so, because we focus on different aspects, it's important for us to collaborate.

In the past, AFRALO has invited AFRINIC people to come to a meeting such as this collocated with ICANN to say a few words. And I've taken advantage of that a few times to say things of interest to me and to AFRINIC and the reverse too. AFRINIC has invited AFRALO people to AFRINIC meetings. Often, there's been a booth or a table where you can hand out pamphlets or meet people. We plan to continue all of that. And perhaps, we'd like to do more. We'd like to collaborate in a capacity building in the future.

AFRINIC also has a small budget where we can provide support to other organizations. We provide support to some network operator groups, to some conferences and some of that financial support which AFRINIC has budgeted goes to AFRALO. It's not a lot of money but it's a small token of AFRINIC's appreciation for the good work that AFRALO does. So, I'm very pleased that we're renewing this agreement today. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Alan. Yes, AFRALO has always been involved in the AFRINIC activities. We have a very tight relationship as far as capacity building is concerned. We are also very involved in the summit that is put together by AFRINIC, the AfNOG Summit.

I would like to also give the floor to Sunday Folayan who is the Chair of the Board. Everybody knows him. He is one of the founders of ALAC, we can't forget that. And I would like to thank him for being here and I would like to give him the floor now.

SUNDAY FOLAYAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thank you, distinguished members of AFRALO. Let me recognize Seun Ojedeji who is also a member of the Board of AFRINIC. And also Kris Seeburn who is a past member of the Board of AFRINIC. And of course, Pierre Dandjinou, the past Chair of AFRINIC and now ICANN. Thank you for this opportunity. Thank you for the opportunity for AFRINIC to work with you.

I thought it's appropriate to just make some comments on the task ahead. I know we have a lot of people working on issues that have to do with governance, making sure that the Internet is a safe place and so on. But I would not want us to take our

eyes off some balls that are very important for us to achieve goals.

The first is IPv6. We need more advocacy. We need more efforts. We need to push our operators in our various countries that IPv6 is important. It's not a difficult technology. It is not esoteric. It's not something that is for the future. It is now. So, we need to push that very well. AFRINIC is there to support.

We still have some IPv4 addresses remaining but we want this to be for new operators who don't have v4 space at all who needs to serve their customers especially in the underserved regions.

The second thing that is very important is key to economic development of Africa. And that is, first, to make sure that there are more Internet exchange points. Let's keep local traffic, local within Africa. As much as possible, AFRINIC is there to support, to make sure that where we need to interface with governments and explain to them that exchange points are really, really very good for developing the continent. We are available to help with that.

Beyond building exchange points in countries, we should also look at cooperation within other, let me say subregions, subregional integration, by having exchange points that are within subregions will also very much help Africa.

The last one, I think, is important for us to also keep our eyes on is local content. The Internet thrives on content. And the more local content we have, the better for us. I'm sure there are many people from East Africa who rely on West African music, West African songs, Nigerian movies and so on.

As we keep building exchange points, generating these contents, making them pervasive within the continent, we will make the Internet a better place. Once again, thank you very much for this opportunity and good luck with the General Assembly.

AZIZ HILALI: So, we will now move to the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding, this agreement of partnership. I will do it with Alan Barrett at this point. If we could please have the documents. Here they are. Okay. Thank you. And we need our photographs as well.

ALAN BARETT: So, as we sign this, I'd like to mention that we're signing in English and French, two co-versions in English and French. Next time, I hope we can do Arabic as well.

AZIZ HILALI: So next point, we have our guest speakers. I would like to give the floor to our dear friend, our support, Cherine Chalaby, who is a Director at the ICANN Board. He is the Vice Chair actually. And he is from Egypt. He supports us a lot. He is also from Africa and I would like to thank him for being here.

Cherine, you have the floor.

CHERINE CHALABY: Hello, everyone. I will speak in English. I can't actually use both languages at once. I apologize. I could actually also speak in Arabic if possible.

Good morning, good morning. And thank you, AFRALO, for inviting me to your General Assembly today. As an Egyptian and one of the three African members on the ICANN Board, I'm really proud to be here with you and to be back in Africa, our home.

This morning, I want to convey to you four messages from the ICANN Board. I'm told by Aziz that I only have four minutes so forgive me if I have to be very brief. But first, I want to start by sharing with you an experience that I had recently that really left an impact on me.

A couple of months ago, I was in Cairo in Egypt and I participated in something called the DNS Forum that was sponsored by

ICANN. This DNS Forum was attended by many of our North African colleagues and stakeholders. It was really a capacity building workshop to train the region different communities on various aspects of the domain name industry.

But two things and two things really struck me at the workshop. The first thing is I witnessed at firsthand the desire, the hunger, the commitment for learning, for knowledge acquisition and for skills building. It was very impressive.

An example of that was the special attention that was given to IDNs and how IDNs can help the Internet become local to these diverse communities and how the IDN can foster the development and utilization of content that are in relevant languages to those local communities.

The second thing that I witnessed was that the participants in that forum, in that workshop were not only thinking of themselves. They are also thinking of how to create a better future for generations to come.

An example of that was the very enthusiastic and vigorous discussion on how the evolution of the DNS can help future generations of all countries in North Africa reap the benefits of the cultural and socio-economic developments that would be

achieved by the growth of the digital economy. So in Cairo there –

[Speaking in French]

Tijani Ben Jemaa who's sitting here next to me leads that effort. Thank you, Tijani.

Webinars, in my view, are clearly important because they scale up in a way face-to-face workshops cannot. We must also recognize the excellent work made by AFRALO in capacity building sessions and local community engagement.

And AFRINIC also has an impressive educational and training program. They, for example, train about 600 network engineers per year free of charge so thank you for that.

So here is the point. The point is if we all truly believe that the multistakeholder approach is important to ICANN, then we must truly believe that the full voice of all stakeholders must be heard.

That means bridging the knowledge and capacity gap between developing undeveloped region to enable inclusive and diverse participation of all stakeholders in ICANN policy processes.

So now, I want to talk about the second message from the ICANN Board. It is on a separate but related matter. The Board wishes

to inform you that it is very supportive of the evolution of national and regional IGFs in Africa. And by this, I want to stress the word "national".

So, at a recent meeting of the Board in Geneva in Switzerland, the Board adopted a proposal put forward by its Internet governance group for supporting national and regional IGFs. These events, especially the national ones, enable ALSes to conduct activities on the grounds.

They are really effective platforms, enables us to reach out to new stakeholders. And once we do that, and once we reach out to them, it enables us to do our best to educate and train those people on relevant ICANN issue also in a multistakeholder environment.

The third message from the Board relates to the relationship between AFRALO and other stakeholders. The Board wishes to congratulate you on signing this new MoU which we have witnessed now with AFRINIC. So well done.

This MoU is a renewal, I think, of an agreement first signed in 2013. And in the eyes of the Board, this agreement underpins the importance of special relationships, endlings between ICANN stakeholders. In this case, representing civil societies and regional Internet registries.

AFRALO was the first RALO to engage directly with an RIR. Congratulations. And others RALOs such as AFRALO, NARALO and LACRALO have followed these examples and today have concluded agreement with their respective RIRs.

Incidentally, I visited AFRINIC last Easter while I was on holiday with my family in Mauritius. Alan was not there. And I met with all the staff and I was very impressed with their diversity. By the way, they're all bilingual. They speak English and French. And to my Egyptian friends, I tried to speak to them in a bit of Arabic as well. Some understood.

I was also impressed with the complexity of AFRINIC constituency which consists of 56 countries across six sub-regions of Africa. So, if you ever have a chance to go to Mauritius, make sure you visit AFRINIC. I assure you, you will be impressed.

And now, to the fourth and final message from the Board, the Board wants you to know and wishes everybody to encourage the African civil societies to make every possible effort to participate and engage in ICANN meetings and ICANN multistakeholder environment so that the voice and perspective of all end users for all over Africa reach the rest of the world.

So, in closing, I want to thank you again for inviting me, for giving me the opportunity to share with you some messages

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from the Board. And I wish you a very, very successful meeting. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

We thank you for all the encouragement and your support. I'm going to give the floor to a friend, Pierre Dandjinou, who is the Vice Chair of ICANN in-charge of the engagement and the relationship with the stakeholders in Africa. He has always had a presence with us. And you all know him, I don't need to introduce him.

Pierre, would you take the floor, please. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

I would like to speak in my mother tongue. Good morning.

Begin and to meet with old friends. Like I always say, I belong to this community actually since I always say we craft it this ALS, whatever, and this At-Large, what it's becoming today. Back there, we sat on and find out how best to have the civil society invite the users, registrants and represent it within ICANN. It was a challenge.

So, sitting here and see all these new vibrancy and vibrant community in Africa, for me, is quite rewarding, I would say. The other thing I'm observing here is that I want to admit, well, but

this AFRALO, they are everywhere now which is good because that's what we were expecting from you guys.

Now, I would like to quickly say a few words concerning what we are doing in Africa in terms of Africa strategy but also it was good that Cherine also, what Cherine said. I think after Cherine gave you all of this support from the Board, I don't know what else I should be adding here now because the only one thing I'm now seeing at least from Africa is that we are under much, much more pressures in terms of people wanting us to provide any support.

Cherine rightly signaled this domain name entrepreneurship center that we actually built in Cairo. And I'm happy that he, as a Board member, actually went there and could witness. That was a good decision by myself made back there to establish this center. That's catering not only for North Africa or Middle East but also for Southern Africa. Definitely, we really want to beef up capacity. And this center is one of our mechanism, actually.

But quickly, I would like to say that we are quite happy with the kind of relationship we've been having as ICANN staff underground in Africa with AFRALO. Of course, we love to do more.

Allow me to share a few ideas I have, in a way, observing the way you've been organizing yourself and then your activities in the continent.

Capacity building is important and we need to build capacity across the board. Again, Cherine was right when he pointed out what we did three or four years ago, the law enforcement agents that we met here that we had in our workshops. We support this.

You could see that clearly, there is a role to play for you, guys. In that room of representatives from government that came to this LE, law enforcement agents meeting workshops, out of the 50 of them, I think only two of them knew about ICANN which means that you guys have a job here, meaning how is your outreach being done, being conducted. And at some point, we would like to rely on you to do this sort of thing. How are you engaging with your government at home?

I would say that when it comes to Internet governance, 90% of it is to be done at home. It's at home that the multistakeholder [for instance] approach needs to be established.

For me, I don't see the interest for you guys to be coming to international forum debating those things, while at home there are so many things to be done, while at home, you need to have your multistakeholder model playing there. I think it's

important. And as you understand those things, you should be the one to be spreading the words at home. I really believe in that one.

Now, the last word because you've given me four minutes. Well, I don't know. I still have so many things to tell you but I wasted your time anyway.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: [inaudible].

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Tijani is my good friend. He always gives me extra minutes. So, fine.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Aziz. Aziz, not Tijani.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: But the two of you, I don't know who is who. So that's my problem. No. I think I see this potential that you have and I see what you really want to achieve. But all of this come with some resources, definitely. Where we are we getting those resources? As far as we are concerned, as ICANN staff in Africa, well, we do have our own strategy, our own involvement.

I would like you to consider a few things. I would like to be seeing the ALS much more active on ground in such a way that you really make sure that the word is spread but also that you participate into capacity building.

For that matter, I'm quite happy also to see. But again, they say, and from Africa, there's always something new. Okay. Having you been the first one to sign an MoU with AFRINIC, for me, is quite interesting. I think you are really innovating definitely and I'm so happy with that.

Which means that for what we need, the kind of resources we need to build capacity in Africa on those issues is not just about ICANN. And I'm being frank with you. It's not just about what we have there as a resources within our strategies. It boils on to the type of strategic partnership that we should be able to develop as AFRALO regional level, on national level to be able to conduct what we are doing.

So, I would like to be seeing you also getting much more involved in your regulators. Regulators, especially in Africa, have a very symbolic role to play. They do have the resources and they need the type of thing you want to do. They would like to be much more involved in Internet governance. You should find ways in which you engage with them so that they're form part of those who actually also finance some of your activities.

And, of course, the business sector At-Large, mobile operators, all those, I think you need to consider those. We will be supporting so far as we do have the resources. But I'm certain that for Africa, it's not just about ICANN. By the way, I always say we do have a strategy for Africa. You guys also need to have your Africa strategy for ICANN. But that one is another issue to discuss. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Pierre. We will ask if anybody has question for Alan Barrett, Cherine, Tijani, myself, go ahead. There are no questions? Abdeldjalil, do you have a question?

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Abdeldjalil from Chad. Thank you so much to the Board and to Cherine for his message, his support message. We, the ALSes, are going to continue to impact the local community and work with Pierre to increase our activities. We would like to ask if ICANN can help us and how they can do it as ALS to have some financing for our local activities. Thank you.

I think we say in Africa that money doesn't like noise. We are going to think about it.

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AZIZ HILALI: Are there other questions? [Cédric] has a question and then we'll go to [Zahid].

[CÉDRIC KINANGA YINDU]:   My question is about the MoU between AFRALO and AFRINIC. I just want to have an idea on that subject. The different points that I noted, were this point presented or propose to all the different ALSes present in order for them to give their recommendation or their agreement?

AZIZ HILALI: [Zahid], do you have something to say?

[ZAHID JAMIL]:   First of all, a concrete question. If we can have a PDF quickly with the MoU so we can publish it, we will publish it At-Large.

While I was listening to Mr. Marby, I heard that he insisted on one point which is, to my opinion, very important. It's very important in Africa. The difference between the Internet that comes directly from new layers without a gradual history of the PIC evolution. And since ICANN and its mandate is to protect the consumer, the end user, I think that AFRALO should be heard at the level of ICANN because over all the technical processes, there should be a discussion or reflection on how today, Africa

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could be a model of this generation which are coming to the Internet directly through mobile devices because it gives a special specific way of working. I think we should have a discussion on this.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you. I think there are other persons who want to talk about this. I hope we can continue the discussion after we listen to Alan Greenberg, the Chair of ALAC. He's here with us so we will give him the floor and then we'll continue our discussion.

[Cédric], a quick answer. The MoU was discussed within the leaders of AFRALO, Cherine, Tijani and myself, etc. If you have any comments, we could make changes but it's pretty much the same MoU that we signed in the past. Thank you for being here. Alan Greenberg, I will give you the floor.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you very much. As has already been noted, as you speak after enough other people, almost everything has been said. And I'll be moderately brief.

First of all, it's an honor to be in the same room, something that rarely happens these days with two of the founding members of ALAC. Both Sunday and Pierre are original ALAC members going

back to 2003. And I can't remember another instance in recent years where I've had two people in the same room at the same time.

It's also a pleasure to sit beside Alan. Alan, I've known Alan now for 22 years, I think, when we're both involved in Internet training workshops for the Internet society. So, it feels at some level like old home week coming here. And they're not the only people around the table but I'll keep my list short.

Having been in ALAC and involved in ALAC now for I think 11 years and watching some of the struggles that AFRALO went through at the beginning trying to get almost any people to be actively involved and seeing the dynamic group we have right now, it's really a pleasure.

There are a few people around the table who know who they are who worked very, very hard to make this happen. And it's just delightful.

We've heard a number of things about ways that Africa must develop and we just heard a request for money. I do want to mention one thing which is not of immediate interest but it's going to grow. As you may know, ICANN has released a large number of generic TLDs and part of the process resulted in some

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auctions where they were competing people wanting the same character string.

We're now sitting on about $240 million which we will be ultimately giving out for good stuff. We don't know exactly what the good stuff will be. Both Seun and I are on the working group that are starting to build the rules for it but I am optimistic that will end up with something which will give lots of opportunities for groups in Africa to request funds and get them to help do some of the kinds of development we're talking about here.

So, keep an eye on it. It's going to be another year or two probably. But I'm very excited about some of the things that might be done because of that. With that, I'll end. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Alan. We will now give the floor to Bram, is that right? Yes. So, you'll be next. Bram first.

BRAM FUDZULANI: I would go back to the ICANN strategy for Africa which Pierre, I think, presented. I had a question earlier that I had asked to say. Do you have a specific plan as in in terms of the outreach and engagement in the strategy?

So specifically, to say we would like to have every part of the Africa by, I don't know, 2020 or 2022 to have participated in the domain name business. You talked about the regulators in our countries. I think it'll be great if ICANN would interface directly with them. I know there's a [inaudible] presentation of GAC members at the ICANN meetings. And so maybe if the ICANN Africa jobs could be touching base directly with the registrars of the regulation authorities so that it makes it easy for the ALSes when they approach the regulator to say we would like to request for funding. They appreciate the importance of the Internet governance issues from the point of interfacing with ICANN directly before the actual ALSes interface with them. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much. These Are interesting questions. Specific plans for engagements. Yes, we do have in terms of the way we make sure that we spreading the word, we're also encouraging Africa to participate into ICANN.

What we do normally is we actually piggyback on ongoing events in Africa because, let's face it, Africa is about 54 countries. And we are only three staff members. And we decided we cannot be everywhere.

So, what we managed to do is piggyback on mostly regional activities and maybe very specific national activities or local activities.

A good point you made is our interfacing with the regulators definitely. We've launched now five month ago a series of workshop with the regulators in Africa. We already conducted one with Sierra Leone or Libera, I think Liberia, with African regulators. We have plan to do this in East Africa and then Southern Africa as well.

Definitely, what we do – and in fact, the request came from them. They really wanted us to educate them on Internet governance issues, and of course ICANN and remit. So now, we have our program that is there that we use. So, we'll be trying to build capacity with them.

But one of the message we are also putting there is that there needs to assist the consumer in such a way that they also understand what all of this is about and how they could also contribute.

So yes, definitely, your message is clear. We'll manage to be in touch with you guys in the different countries whenever we have – we do have this events or workshops. I promise you that we'll be doing this and my colleagues sitting in the room and are

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taking note of this. And definitely, we would be making sure that you are in their focus.

I think apart from that, your question, we do understand that this is a massive thing to do in Africa in terms of capacity building. And I come back to where I'm saying, I'm certain that regulators has a key role to play here. And let's work together to that. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Next question, please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]. I'm from [inaudible] Africa. Thanks for all the comments we have had but I think it is important also to draw attention to the auction process by ICANN.

I know that the ICANN currently is trying to find a way of optimizing that auction process. And it is important considering that we have a lot of challenges in Africa especially when it comes to funding for ALSes in reaching out that since we have the ICANN Board member here also and with the support of Africa Office, it's important to draw the attention there that we need to also find the way of optimizing that and so as to encourage ALSes and AFRALO as a body. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. I would like to give the floor to Cherine.

CHERINE CHALABY: Thank you very much for bringing this point to our attention. Let me tell you that the Board of ICANN made a commitment to let the decision on the auction proceed to be made by the community, not by the Board itself.

And you may have noticed that yesterday, there was a working group on this issue and they were talking about all the various categories of opportunities, where to invest and put this auction proceed money into it.

I think, Alan, you're on that working group. So maybe Alan is much closer to it than I am and maybe he would comment on that. Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG: Yes. Thank you. Seun is also one of the members of that working group. The ICANN Bylaws in defining At-Large are perhaps sadly pretty clear saying that ALSes must be self-funding and that ICANN will not fund ALSes as such.

However, once we come to the closure on how these auction funds will be distributed and it will likely be a project oriented thing. I can think of no better opportunities than for ALSes that have specific projects to accomplish to apply for those funds, not for the operation of the ALS itself but to achieve specific ends.

So, I personally think there's going to be lots of opportunity. It remains to be seen how we write the rules and exactly what is allowed and what is not allowed. But I'm very optimistic that ALSes are going to be one of the categories or groups that could apply for funds for specific projects. So, I'm certainly working towards that end and I know Seun is also. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Alan. Folayan comes on time. He is our guest speaker, one of the guest speakers that we are welcoming to our General Assembly. For those of you who don't know Khaled Koubaa is a previous ALS from Tunisia. She recently was elected at the ICANN Board and so we are very glad to have her here. We will give her four minutes.

Do not leave before the break. There will be a presentation of the different activities within AFRALO. There will be a photograph with the official photograph of ICANN.

Khaled Koubaa, you have the floor.

KHALED KOUBAA: Thank you, Aziz. Thank you, everyone. I hesitate between French and English. Arabic would be quite a challenge for me actually. So, I will speak French then.

Thank you, everyone. It is a great pleasure to be present with you today because as Aziz mentioned, I come from At-Large. I founded the ISOC Chapter in Tunisia. And it is a great honor to have signed the MoU in Lisbon in 2007. It was a great meeting. And ever since then, I had the pleasure to serve at the NomCom for AFRALO. So, I am a member of this family. So, it is a great pleasure to be here.

I will be brief. I imagine that my colleague Cherine explained the position of the Board. As far as Africa, I assume that he explained how we see diversity and how much diversity is important for us.

I will be very direct and talk about the work of ICANN, talk about the importance of At-Large in general and the importance of AFRALO specifically, as far as policy development is concerned specifically.

I really would like to encourage AFRALO to be a leader and to keep taking very clear positions on policy development issues.

The type of feedback that I have, the feedback that we all have as far as AFRALO leadership is that it is a great honor, it is a great pleasure to have you. Please do continue to be one of the leaders of the RALOs. It is a great thing.

As members of the At-Large family, as members of the AFRALO family, we are at your disposal. If we can help you in any way directly or indirectly, let us know.

I also imagine that the outreach activities that AFRALO is organizing currently on the continent or during other meetings outside of Africa will continue. AFRALO seems to always be very present. That is a great thing and it needs to be continued.

Beyond that, I really don't have much to add other than the fact that we are here on the African continent. This is a family. I am so glad to see so many people here to see that your participation is great. So, now, if you have any questions, I am available to answer your questions.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Khaled. If there are questions, we will have them after the break actually because right now, we need to meet in the hall for our family picture, AFRALO family picture.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]