
MARRAKECH – AFRALO Program for African NGOs
Saturday, March 05, 2016 – 08:00 to 09:30 WET
ICANN55 | Marrakech, Morocco

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, everyone, and hello. Welcome. I am so sorry that we have some issues. It's the first day. Usually at AFRALO we try to have five NGOs. Only two showed up because there were travel issues.

We have a program which Tijani is going to talk about. I remind you that as a RALO, AFRALO always tries at each African meeting of ICANN we always try to do something new. We started in Nairobi and in Dakar. As well, we had 20 ALSes who came. It was also the General Assembly of the ALSes. At the time, it was in 2011, we had 20 ALSes. In Durban, we had professors/students from universities who also attended, and it was a very big success in Durban.

In Marrakech, we thought about the NGOs, and we had a limited budget so we limited to five. We are going to ask those who are here today, those representatives of NGOs, to introduce themselves. I'm going to introduce them, and then I will give the mic to Tijani so he can give you an idea of the program. Please,

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introduce yourself: first name, last name, and name of organization.

THIERRY PIETTE-COUDOL: Hello, everyone. My name is Thierry Piette-Coudol. I represent here an organization, an NGO, which is called African Observatory of Business Practices (OAPA). It's an NGO which takes care of all of the work for the [OAD] regional work organization for harmony of business rights in Africa. This NGO must observe and verify the efficiency of [OADA]. My name is, therefore, Thierry Piette-Coudol. I am the founder, and I am from the Parisian Bar Association of lawyers in Paris.

AICHA ABBAD: Bonjour. Aicha Abbad. I am the chair of the Women's Association of ASKejour for Development and Cooperation. Our association is on the border of Morocco and Algeria in the Southwest. I'm also a professor at the university. Thank you.

THIERRY PIETTE-COUDOL: Mr. President, can I add something?

GISELLA GRUBER: We have interpreters here. You see them. They will be with us all week. They have a very hard job. If I can only ask you to please

turn on the mic when you are going to speak. Please give them your name because they do not know you. Not only they have to identify you, but also the people who are on the remote chat can know who you are and can also listen to you on the chat. Since we are streaming in different languages also, if you can speak in the mic very clearly, therefore we can have a good and exact accurate interpretation.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Gisela, for all these details. Now I'm going to give the microphone to Hajer who just came in.

HAJER ABDELKEFI: I am late. I am really sorry. I am a lawyer, and I'm Hajer Abdelkefi. I am a member of the Association of Tunisian Attorneys. I am very happy to be here with you. I hope that this visit will benefit and me personally, for my country as well, Tunisia. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Hajer. We are so happy to have the NGO which received the Nobel Prize. We are very proud of having her here. Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Aziz. Hello, everybody. I will be speaking French. I apologize for those who do not understand French. The interpreters that will sure make the well interpretation that will be useful for everyone. So I will switch to French.

Okay, so hello, everyone. We prepared for you today a training program to introduce you to the world of ICANN and to give you the necessary information which will help you to navigate this week across all the sessions of this ICANN world. These are not classes. You will not be an expert of ICANN when you leave this meeting. It is not the aim. But you will know the ICANN environment better, and you will know more about At-Large and ALAC.

The program is a four-day program. We have morning meetings. Today will be a general introduction, and we will give you more information on the multi-stakeholder model. We will talk to you about AFRALO and At-Large in general.

Sunday, we will talk about the strategies of ICANN in both regions where we are, Middle East and Africa. We will talk about how AFRALO fits in ALAC.

Monday, there won't be any training because there is an Opening Ceremony where everyone needs to go and it starts at 8:30. On

Tuesday, we will have short sessions which will be 60 minutes. We will have the Vice President of ICANN who is from the Department of [inaudible] and Development and Public Responsibility will come to talk to us.

Wednesday will be the last meeting, and it will be in two parts. The first part will talk about all the elements in the ICANN community. The second part, we will ask you to give us your feedback on this training session. Then we will define what kind of feedback we will have so the work that we put in this week will give us some good results.

We want to welcome you to the world of ICANN and wish you good luck.

Now I am going to ask Aziz to talk to you about the multi-stakeholder model.

AZIZ HILALI:

We're going to wait for a few minutes. But first we would like to introduce you to the functionings of ICANN. First of all, I wanted to give you a few details and talk to you, especially to the newcomers. The global Internet functions with three resources.

The IP addresses, which everybody knows. Because of these addresses, each computer can be identified on the global network. The second resource, intercommunication protocols so

computers can talk to each other. The third resource is the domain names.

Since we are going to speak about ICANN a lot, we need to tell you that ICANN – so, Fatma just arrived, and we would like to introduce her quickly. Just the name of your organization, and then I will continue with my presentation.

FATMA OUMRANE:

I'm Fatma Oumrane. I am from Mauritania, and I work for an organization which deals with Internet and women and which deals with new technologies in general. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

We are very happy that Mauritania is here with us. It is our wish that you could join AFRALO. Tijani will talk to you about it. He will explain to you what our objectives are and what we do.

I don't know if my presentation is ready to post. We were talking about the IP addresses and the protocols and the domain names. Again, excuse. We apologize. We always have technical issues. Here we go. I will continue with my presentation.

I was just telling you, I was talking to you about ICANN. You are here to discover this organization. ICANN is in charge of domain

resources. IP addresses: ICANN distributes these IPs and the domain names.

So you know what the domain names are used for, we're going to talk to you about this a lot because this is our principle task at ICANN.

In the late '90s, it was invented so the end users of the Internet could memorize addresses that you could find on the network. It's easier to remember Google.com than a numeric address. When you type an address on the Internet, you know that it is actually a numeric address. Such number asks the server for an answer. That server will guide you toward such server. So the main role of ICANN is, therefore, the IP addresses and domain names.

How does ICANN function? I would like to have a slide on the screen, and I'm waiting for that so I can explain better the ICANN functions. I'm waiting for the presentation to be posted on the screen.

ICANN works on a multi-stakeholder model. What is it? It is a system. On the screen, you will see what we call constituencies. Here is the chart, the model by which ICANN functions. You will see at the very bottom that there are two types of constituencies within ICANN. You will see SOs and ACs.

There are two kinds of constituencies within ICANN: the AC (Advisory Committee), a committee which gives support or advice; the SO (Supporting Organization).

There are two types of ACs that are very important. You see on the top right what we call the GAC. The GAC is the government branch. It's a constituency which constitutes government representatives. These members are designated by each of their governments. Their objective is to advise ICANN. Each representative of each country has to be here to anticipate, to intervene, to see when a decision can have a certain consequence on each country – religion, political, [making] of a country. They are here to represent the country.

Then you have ALAC. You are in the room which will have all the meetings of the ALAC. This constituency is an At-Large constituency. It represents the end users worldwide. Tijani will explain that to you further. I'm not going to give you details.

As you know, AFRALO brought you here today for this meeting. This constituency is part of the At-Large constituency.

I know it's complicated, but you see on the chart the ccNSO. These are the people who take care of the country codes. There are two kinds of domain names. There are generic and there are the country code domain names. The generic are the .com, .org. These domain names are open to the world. Now we are talking

about first-level. Then you have country codes. You have top-level domains.

Then you have two constituencies which are responsible to study the Internet politics when it comes to country code, and then you have the GNSO which takes care of all the generic domain names.

All these constituencies are gathered by interests. You will hear the word “community” very often because they are communities that are gathered by interests. That’s why we call them multi-stakeholders.

Then you have the ASO. This is the organization which takes care of all the addressing, the addressing of the IP. You know that IP addresses when the Internet was created, they were [four billions] of IP addresses. At the time, we thought it would be enough for the world. But now with all the new equipment, all the cellular phones and all these things, all these addresses were not enough. So there was also an issue in Africa because there are no more IP addresses anywhere else.

Now we’re going to a new version which we call the IPv6, and now we have many more IP addresses. We have billions of IP addresses.

All the people who are connected today can be objects. Now we're talking about object Internet. Every time an object is connected, we have to find this object an IP address. So you can imagine that addressing is really important.

As you see in the bottom of the slide, you see that all the work of ICANN is done through five regions. I don't have time to explain the details on the regions, but the five regions are defined by American policies. You have Africa, Europe, etc. Each region owns an RIR (Regional Internet Registry). For us in Africa, the RIR is in Mauritius Island. It's the registry who distributes the IP addresses to all the different providers of Internet access.

I hope that you understand the message I'm trying to give you today. IP addresses and domain names are the resources that are the main resources for the Internet. If we took these resources out of the game, the Internet would be blind.

You have also [IETF] which is an organization who has a seat on the Board of Directors.

Now we're going to talk about how ICANN makes decisions. I told you at the beginning that it was a bottom-up system. All the propositions come from the bottom and go up toward the Board of Directors, but the Board of Directors comes back with the decision. As you will see on Thursday, you will go to the public forum and you will see that all the participants of ICANN will be

present in one room and in front of the Board of Directors. Everyone will be able to talk to the Board of Directors, and at the end of the meeting, the Board will vote on the global Internet decisions.

How do we say that in French? How do we say that in French? We do this – how do we say that in French? It's for the conflict – we don't have to time to explain everything, what the conflicts are, but we have [inaudible]. We don't have time for that. It's good that we have NGOs today because we have frequent problems with the NGOs. We have legal issues. We have questions of cybersquatting and things like that, but we don't have time to talk about this today.

These are the servers I was talking about. If you move to the next one, you have 13 servers that you have at the very top of the Internet hierarchy. You have about 10. Next one, please. So 13 at the very top. Let's move to the next one. Here we go.

For these servers, they represent the highest hierarchy in the Internet. It is on those servers that you find all the top-level domain names. Any time that you create a new top-level domain, it is written into that server. Politically what it means is that those servers are amongst the questions in terms of Internet governance. They raise a lot of issues. There is a lot of controversy about them. We won't go into too many details

about it, but if Tijani allows me, I will mention a few things about that.

What we would also like to explain to you is that there are some hot topics that we have been discussing ever since 2014. I will explain what I mean if we can just move to the next slide.

This is to show you the architecture. You enter an Internet address, and this is what happens. It goes through the servers. This is just to show you how the root servers work. But let's move on to the next one. Here we are.

Ever since 2011, ICANN has been working quite a bit on liberalizing those gTLDs, as I was talking about, the generic top-level domain. We opened up the generic top level. Before 2011, you only had 21 top-level domains for the generic side of things. Now we opened up that whole area and there was a call for new top-level domains so what you have nowadays is .paris, .newyork, and so forth.

There was an incredible amount of work that went into it. A lot of money was also invested into it because when you asked for a domain name, you had to pay I think it is \$180,000. So the most optimistic people were thinking we would get about 200 top-level domains. Move to the next one, please.

But at this point, we have 1,930 applications, so we went way beyond the 200. As far as AFRALO, you only had 17 applications from Africa. I will not talk about what is at stake economically, but top-level domains when you choose .paris, .casablanca, or whatever it might be, it is something that applies to a whole city. So whatever you have on the website is related to the city. But there are only 17 in Africa and out of those 17, 16 come from South Africa.

Here are the top-level domains and how they are distributed over the map of the world. As you can see, as far as Africa is concerned, you only have country names really.

How does the ICANN meeting go? You will see that over the week you will have about three different sessions going on at any time. You have meetings everywhere. If you go next to this room, you have the GAC. On the right-hand side, you have the GNSO meeting. So as I was mentioning, all the different constituencies of the multi-stakeholder model gather during the week. There will be decisions that will be taken.

Stop me whenever you want. I am talking a lot here. But anyway, over the whole week you will have meetings with ALAC. You will be with us within ALAC. On Tuesday morning, just to give you an example if I may remind you, there is the traditional meeting that we have for our region, the AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting that

gathers the entire African community. Typically, what we do is we debate on a topic that applies to our continent. What we do is we come out with an official statement that we send to the ICANN Board.

Up until today, I think we've had 15 of those meetings. I think this one will be the 15th. So I would like to invite you to attend this AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting. It will occur on Tuesday from 11:00-12:30 in this room.

I would like to also mention to you that there will be an important moment on the Monday evening. What we always have is we have the Showcase. We actually were the first region, RALO – AFRALO actually stands African Region of At-Large. As far as the Showcase, the Showcase will be a very special moment because what we decided amongst the committee that organized the Marrakech meeting to dedicate the evening, the Showcase, to Fadi. As you all know, Fadi Chehadé is going to be leaving. This will be the last meeting for him. It is the end of his term, and you know that as the CEO of ICANN he did a lot for Africa. So we would like to give him a tribute to thank him for all his work. So it will be a very special moment Monday starting at 7:00 p.m.

The AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting will occur on Tuesday at 11:00. That's the other important moment. Again, as far as our region

AFRALO, we will bring 70 students from the Rabat University. That is also the first time that this will occur. We will have communication students from the university and some other ones who will come from the post office and the communications institute, so it will be a total of 160 students.

First, they will attend all the sessions on Monday. After that on Tuesday, we will take them to the local university in Marrakech. You might know that the university in Marrakech is one of the best in Morocco. It is a very large university. I can't remember exactly, but there are thousands of students. But it is amongst the best in the Arab world as well. So we will all gather on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

I can tell that Tijani is going to kill me if I keep speaking, so I will stop here and I will now give the floor to Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much, Aziz. I will not kill you, but I think that next time I will use a timer.

Aziz talked about what I wanted to talk about, and I'm not going to follow the presentation because we are a little bit late. But I will give you the floor so that you can ask your questions. I think what is most important during these types of sessions is that you are able to ask your questions. As far as what Aziz just said as far

as what we had presented in the very beginning, please go ahead and ask whatever questions you might have. We are here to listen to you. But first, I would like to give the floor to Moataz because he has just come in. He will introduce himself and give the name of his organization as well. Moataz, you have the floor.

MOATAZ SHAARAWY: Good morning, everyone. Do you want me to use this?

GISELLA GRUBER: Sorry. Just to say that we have French, Spanish, English, and Arabic here throughout the week, so please do feel free to use them. Please make sure that every time you come into the room, you take a headset. We will be speaking in all the different languages. Thank you.

MOATAZ SHAARAWY: Good morning. I would like to extend to all of you my thanks to attend this meeting and AFRALO. I would like to remind you all of all what we have talked about. I have wanted to say that Egypt had a [wall] in the At-Large community, and we'd like to have our presence in the coming sessions as well. Thank you very much. I am here representing Shaarawy Foundation for Development, and it's called ICT for Technological Development. Thank you very much.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Now you will have the floor in order to ask your questions. Go ahead.

FIONA ASONGA: I am happy that we are able to meet the African NGOs here. Thanks, Tijani and Aziz, for coordinating this for us. There is an opportunity that I think the African NGOs can benefit from. I happen to be on the Public Interest Registry as an advisor on behalf of the African continent, and we do have the .ngo gTLD program that we are running at PIR. As part of that, there is a platform called [NSET] which I'll encourage the NGOs to go and visit because on that platform we are trying to link NGOs in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres for purposes of support, assistance, and visibility, and it will be a nice opportunity for that to happen. If anyone has any queries on that, I will be happy to help them answer and also PIR staff who are attending this meeting will be more than happy to assist to answer any questions. We are happy to help our African NGOs be more visible online. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else who has a question? Especially if you are new, if you've just arrived in the room, I am sure that you have many questions to ask.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: As you were mentioning, we are new, however, we've always paid attention to activities within AFRALO. What I would like to know is how do we become members? Because I think it is important for us in Africa. We would like to keep working on it and we would like to contribute to the advocacy work that you do. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI: Tijani will actually give a presentation. I'm not quite sure when exactly, but he will talk about the role of ALAC, the role of AFRALO within ALAC, and so you will have an opportunity to understand all of this. The idea is to bring NGOs in and to explain to them how they can be involved in ICANN, how they can be a member of ALAC because of course it will need to be approved by ALAC. But we will have a presentation about that.

There is somebody else who would like to speak. Go ahead. Please give your name before you speak. You have the floor.

[HADIA EL-MINIAWI]: I'm Egyptian. I can speak in Arabic, but I'll speak in English. I'm the director of a new center called the Domain Name System Entrepreneurship Center. It's in Cairo, Egypt. Our main target here, we're looking to be a repository for the industry in the region. right now, we are working on building capacities and expertise. Right now, we are under the umbrella of the NTRA, which is the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Egypt. What we look ahead for is to become actually independent and to have the sustainability to be independent. Actually, one of the things we are thinking about is to at some point become an NGO. I don't know how can we benefit from any programs that are run through the At-Large committee. Of course, we are looking to participate and also do work together.

[TIJANI BEN JEMAA]: Thank you very much for this intervention. This center is the result of the ICANN Middle East strategy. Thank you very much. It is done to facilitate or to enhance the DNS industry in our region. Of course, if there is any NGO who is interested in entering this industry, this center will be the best place to go to have information, to have knowledge about how to become a registrar or registry or how to participate in this effort.

Here we are speaking about our NGOs. NGOs normally they are not for profit. Normally they are nongovernmental. But we may have some NGOs who want to do that. That's all. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If you could please use the microphone and give your name, this is important for the record.

FATMA OUMRANE: The question I had is the following: what I want to know is what AFRALO does as far as Internet governance in general. I know that we had talked about that a little bit at the NETmundial summit. The question has to do with English, the use of language because really English is the main language on the Internet. As an African organization, what do you do for African languages to give them a higher standard on the Internet? I don't know if this is something that you discuss. This is something that I'm very interested in because, you know, you feel excluded because English is really everywhere and that's all we have.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much for the question. I think that I have been here for a long time at ICANN and back when I started there was no translation. The ICANN has really worked a lot, has done a lot

because, as you can see, we used to only have two languages and ALAC and right now, as you can see, we have three languages. This is something that we are still working on to improve things. A lot of efforts were done, but I do agree with you as far as multi-language issues we are not quite there.

What time do we need to end? At half past? Okay, half past nine. So to answer your question, I understand. However, I personally am very much for defending my language, Arabic as well as French, and I really do try to promote that. And as you can see, we now have three languages available right here in this room. So there are some improvements.

HAJER ABDELKEFI:

As I said, we are proud of other languages. I apologize. I have a very loud voice because work as an attorney, and also I'm a speedy person when I'm talking so thank you for letting me speak in my mother language, which is Arabic. I would like to thank ICANN for the translation services. When we are in ICANN, it's headquartered in the United States. We would like to have a close relationship between and we have to reduce the gap between the two cultures.

Also, ICANN has invited me because I am a member in a bar association. Also, I am nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize

[inaudible]. This is an occasion which will give me an opportunity to see this big organization.

While I'm watching this presentation by Mr. Aziz, there is [an imbalance to distribute] between [speaking in foreign language] and the whole world has a share in this effect. This kind of balance is quite visible and transparent in addition to the fact that it's quite visible to the whole domain in the whole world.

I have no idea about this kind of demands, but there are no kind of balance in this respect. There are 17 applications only in Africa as a whole, but in America there are only 600. Also in Europe, 300 applications in Asia. It is obvious that in Africa, there is also as we say in French it is a kind of ground basis. Yet we should act accordingly so this will happen. This kind of balance should be targeted and happen in the domain names.

As I said, we say always that within ICANN as we say since it is a nonprofit organization as I have heard, there's also something that I'd like to add. Indeed, there are two kinds of benefits. The first one that has to do with the diversification of continents. And also, we have to admit that there is a kind of benefit, an indirect benefit, that benefits us all. Actually, I would like to conclude here by saying today that the humanitarian concept we are concentrating on in Egypt is the legislation in the domain

names. I'm so sorry to dwell on all of that, and I'd like to continue our excellent diverse actions today. Thank you.

[TIJANI BEN JEMAA]:

You mentioned two points. You are talking about [inaudible], we should not forget the Internet originated in the United States. This is something normal. This is not abnormal, actually. But we are your demands for domains and requesting for domains, your observation is right and we worked on it and we are still working on it. This indicated that within the industry of the domains [speaking in foreign language] we are working on this aspect. But in the future, we would like to concentrate more in this within the strategy of ICANN in the Middle East. We have created this in Egypt and so many other regions, and what we are trying to aspire here is to develop all these aspects and have all the African organizations get involved in this respect that has to do with the domain names. We have to render all our efforts to give support in this respect, and thank you. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

The members of ALAC are here. You will have time to talk. This is the first meeting we had for the NGOs. We are really sorry. The members of ALAC are already here, so we don't have enough time. I'm going to give the floor to Tijani. I'm sorry about the African. I'm sorry for the interpreters because, as you will see,

Africans we switch from French to Arabic all the time, so we are apologetic.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I just wanted to tell you that we have a mentoring program for these five NGOs. Aziz will be the mentor for Madame Abdelkafi. I will be the mentor for Aicha and Fatma. And Wafa will be the mentor for Mr. Thierry Piette-Coudol. Wafa is not here yet. Beran will be the mentor for Moataz. Moataz, here is your mentor. Beran is your mentor. This one over there.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. We will leave the floor.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thierry, Wafa will be here today [inaudible], and I will make sure I'll introduce her to you.

AZIZ HILALI: It's a very nice way to tell you. Thank you very much to all. I'll say goodbye and see you tomorrow. But in the meantime, you can stay with us here in this meeting, and you can stay with us all day long.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thank you very much. This session is adjourned.

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