YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the Second AFRALO Universal Acceptance training session taking place on Thursday, 17th of November, 2022, at 13:00 UTC. In the interest of time, we will not do a roll call, but all attendees will be noticed on the Wiki agenda page after the session. We have English and French interpretation provided on today's call.

And kind reminder to please speak clearly and slowly to allow for accurate interpretation. And also, please state your name anytime you speak, not only for transcription purposes but also to allow the interpreters to identify you on the other language channel. Thank you all very much for joining. I would like to leave the floor to Seun Ojedeji, the Chair of AFRALO for the opening remarks. Over to you, Seun. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thank you very much, Yeşim. And hello, everyone. Welcome to second on acceptance. We did our first in May 2022 at the earlier in the year. And during the first session, we made it clear that there was still going to be a follow-up session. And I'd first like to thank staff, the GSA team [00:01:55 –inaudible], and of course, the At-Large staff. And then the entire ICANN team who supported AFRALO in organizing this session. I also like to thank NAFRALO the various team that actually participated and watched towards --

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

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Seun, apologies for interrupting. You may wish to -- Sorry. Seun, can you hear me?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: You may wish to actually turn off your video so we can get your audio quality at you own on Zoom. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Is it better? Is it better?

UNKNOWN SEPAKER: Yes, much better.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Oh, all right. Thank you. I thought my face was important. So I switched it off. All right. I mean, like I was saying, it's a good thing that we are able to do this second session during this year. And I'd like to thank all participants who had made it a day to attend this session. The main objective of this session is to build our capacity. Some of us who were on this call, the active participating in AFRALO.

But so long as you're are the end users, we like to create awareness of course, on this capacity on Universal Acceptance. We hope that at the end of this session, you would learn one or two things to actually improve

compliance on Universal Acceptance in your region. Because that is one of the major goal of this training.

We hope that the entire continent, which are AFRALO cover will have an improved experience of Universal Acceptance compliance across the various users, and of course, service providers within the region. So without much ado, we've already spent some time earlier before the start of the call, I would just like to again welcome us all on behalf of myself and [00:04:28 - inaudible] who is the Vice President of the global stakeholder engagement for ICANN, for Africa, who is also going to give the opening remarks. [00:04:48 - inaudible] if you're on this call or if you are represented by Yaovi, you have the floor. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, Seun. Yaovi speaking. I'm the director for Stakeholder Engagement Operation for Africa. I just had a chat with Pierre. He was in another meeting probably he will not be able to join us for now. But he asked me to on the behalf of the team, you have my colleague, Bob Ochieng, also, he's on the call. So he asked me to thank you all who are taking your time to participate in this second session of the webinar. And then what you are expecting is after this, you'll have more information and then to take concrete actions.

So as you can see, we have the key topics that were discussed during the previous one and we noticed from the poll we had at the end that we need to better understand. This is why we have today a 90-minute session, while formally you see that the total of the slot looks like 60 minutes. So we'll take time. Feel free to put your question in the chat,

and we have a Q&A session. With that, I will not too much take time. My colleagues Seda and Pitinan are also going to present. So my first colleague to present is Pitinan. So I'll hand over to Pitinan for her presentation. Pitinan, over to you.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Thank you, Yaovi, and thank you everybody for joining the session today. So I'm Pitinan Kooarmornpatana. I am ICANN staff from IDN program. So I will take you through just some introduction of IDN. And basically, this is like the background of how we enable the multiple languages in domain names, which further on will be the base of the Universal Acceptance as well.

So let me just go through. This is like the skeleton of the domain name. So this is the usual labels that we see almost every day. We call it ASCII domain name, which means it's just the simple A to Z or in "English" as we like. And then there are some rules as well around this to make things be able to use globally.

So the top level, the one that on the righter most, we actually have the rules that it cannot be digits. So it just can be letter A to Z. The intention of this is then is not get confused with the IP address. This is come alone, for example. So by the standard, this is only allowed the letter. For the second level, we allow more, we allow the little digit as well and the hyphen. So this is some rules already there for the usual ASCII domain to make domains work.

Next slide, please. Okay. However, it's not only the ASCII or just the usual A to Z that we use across the world. We have multiple scripts as well as

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you can see here. So this is just to lay out that there's just so many diversity that we would like the internet to be. And this is the objective of the internationalized domain names. Next slide, please. Thank you. And then for the Africa region, if you zoom in, these are some lists of the languages used in the Africa. Of course, many of them actually use English or it's just the usual A to Z and it's over the requirement of the language.

But also, we have quite a number of languages that use the Latin script, which means it's the A to Z plus some of the character with the [00:09:07 - inaudible] or that or extra character. So to be able to accommodate those languages, we need to include more than the usual the A to Z. And then this is the IDN area as well. Also, we have some Ethiopic script and Arabic script as well in the region. So hopefully, when the IDNs got into the use, more broadly, then you can also use the local language to access the Internet too.

Next please. Then let's take a look a little bit on the status of the IDN allowed to grow. So for the top level, we have two main types, right? We have the [00:09:51 - inaudible] TLD, ccTLD on this page. So right now, we already have IDN ccTLDs in many countries. Now we have 62 past the evaluation, but it's delegated 61. So these are already delegated in use. Some of the countries they use it quite heavily. Some of the country, they have it, but they're still picking up the usage.

Okay, just to lay out some information. Next please. And this is for gTLDs. From the last row, we have multiple application as well in different groups here. So just to lay out that we have 93. Actually now, we have 92. Some error on the slide there on the IDN gTLDs that is delegated.

Next slide, please. Moving forward a little bit for the second level. So right now, we have about 1.6 six million registrations across all the TLDs. And just to lay down that the portion of the registration, mainly such IDs, and some of them, quite a number of them are Latin, and also Japanese, Korean and Cyrillic. So all these are picking up. So this is the current status now.

Next slide, please. So let's take a look, a little bit on how to enable all these multiple scripts into the dominant system. So similarly for IDNs, we want to make the rule consistent with other things, right? So for the top level, it's still only allowed a letter. And then for the second level, we can use the letter, and this is a hyphen. So I guess the first question to ask is in the different scripts, it's actually not easy to identify which one is the letter. Some of the scripts, they might have their own digits as well. Like, this is in Thai script, this is in Latin script, this is in Arabic scripts. So only the script user will be able to identify. And let me just go to next slide, please.

So here is a little game just to see how much you can recognize all these scripts. So what we would do is I have these six IDNs here. So if you see the small dots there, it's like the some second level dot top level. So this is the domain name in different scripts. So I will go from the top. There are the list of scripts, and we will try to match the script with the domain name. So I will go from the left to the right.

So first, I will call out Arabic first, and you can type in the chat just to guess, like, which number one, two, three, four, five, six, which one is Arabic. Just give me. Yes, I see some six. Six, okay. This one will be easy

because it's for your region. Next slide for the answer, please, Yeşim. Yep. Exactly, Arabic. This one is easy.

Next one, Korean thing, I'm not sure if you -- the Korean movies is broadly watched in Africa, but you might see it. It's from [00:13:24 -inaudible] or something. Yes. Exactly. Number four. Thank you. Next slide, please, Yeşim. Oh, sorry. I put the wrong one. Okay. Wrong sequence. The first one is M again. Okay. I'll go from the top. I'm sorry about that. Okay.

Next one, Georgian, if I'm not wrong. Which one is Georgian? Now it's my Capri key. There I see number two. Number two, anything else? Number three. Okay. Anything else? Number two. All right. Let's go through the key. Let's move to the next slide. Yep. Number three is Georgian. So it's quite cozy and quite pretty there. All right. And then I guess the next one is Korean. I guess we already talk about it.

Can you go to the next one Yeşim? All right. And then, Malayalam, this one. I bet many of us never heard about the script name even. This is the script used in South Asia, so in India, for example. I see some number two. I want to guess two or five, five, five, five. Okay. Let's go to the answer. Right. So number five is my Malayalam, and then there is, of course, Oriya is number two. Okay. That makes sense.

All right. So it's just a simple game to make you see that it's actually really hard to understand all the scripts. And of course, ICANN organization alone cannot do this by ourselves. So to enable IDN, actually, we work with community. So each script, we work with each script community to come up with how to use transcripts in the domain name properly.

Let's move on to the next slide. Okay. And then there is also another thing in IDN that make it a little bit more complex than the usual domain names. We have this concept called variants, which it means something that can be conceived as the same, perceived as the same by the end user and it can be in the criteria that defined by the community. So we have two main types. The first one is the security type. So if you see the blue text there, EPIC and EPIC. They actually look the same, right?

But behind the scene is, technically, they are the different points, which means the actual code that the computer can understand. So the one on the top is actually from Latin script like English. And then for the one on the right is from some Cyrillic script. So, like in the Russian or some other language in that area. So basically, it's the same to our eyes. But if this happens in the computer, it can recognize a different thing. So if these two labels exist in the domain name, it can cause some security issue like [00:16:39 - inaudible]. So that's the first thing.

Then the Latin community and Cyrillic community has to come together and identify that's okay, our 0065 and the 0435 are variants. So they define all these variants to prevent a security issues. Another type of variant is defined for the usability. And this is the concept that is quite important for Chinese and Arabic community. For Chinese, they have two version of the same, so they have simplified Chinese and the traditional Chinese like the labels that you see here. The second code point here that highlight yellow it actually means the same thing, pronounced the same thing, but used in different regions.

So if you are domain name owner and you want your website to be accessed by both the customer in China mainland and also in Hong Kong

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and Taiwan for example, then you want to have these two versions active at the same time. So in this case, they would like to define a variant so that both of them can be used all together. And this is the same case for Arabic as well. Arabic script is used in multiple languages.

So over time, some of the same characters being transformed into a slightly different shape, but it can be seen as the same thing. So for a big community, they also have to define a set of code points that can be perceived as the same. So this is a concept of variant, which add another layer of complexity to IDNs.

Next please. All right. So to do all this, so we actually work with community to define the rules. And for the root zone, we call it, root zone LGR, which is instruction from root zone labels generation rule. So we need to know what is the rule that can generate the label properly. And if this rule we installed into the tool, what it can do is first, it can verify or validate whether the label is valid or not.

For example, if you input some labels that have not only the letters or this is like you put a hello and then person sign, then it won't pass the rule and it should be able to identify that this is invalid label. But if it's a valid label, and if that rule define the variant as well, the tool also can generate the variant label of that input. So this is behind the scene of how can we make the ideal labels work?

Next slide, please. For this one, so basically for each script we have something called generation panel, which is the community based multistakeholder panel. We work with them and then come up with all these rules to define what other letters can be used, what are the variants

and some of the scripts also have some rules to follow as well. For this work from the community, once they are done, there's some little integration panel and then integrated into the root zone.

Next slide, please. So right now, actually, currently the numbers on one, but these are like volunteers into this project. So we have 17 generation panels and cover 26 scripts. This one here across the world. So from 44 countries and all the numbers of the calls from the other working groups already exist in thousand earlier. So for this, we just wanted to point out that the rule that has been defined actually by the community work. And there's a lot of effort put into it.

Next, please. So right now, we are at the root zone LGR version 5, which is if you see the last bullet, is published earlier this year and is integrated 26 scripts. I highlighted that, the one that may relate to the region, so Arabic is there, Ethiopic is there, and the Latin is there. So what is mean is the root zone LGR is now being considered by the policy working group for both GNSO and ccNSO. So they're taking this into account when they develop the policy around IDNs. And also in the subsequent round for the next round, root zone LGR also included in the report that is it will be the mechanism to validate the string that in the application for the SubPro.

Next slide. And I guess the last slide for me. So far we talk about the top level, right? But then once the community develop the rules for script for the top level, that knowledge from the community can also adopt to the second level as well. So we further use the root zone LGR information and develop the reference LGR for the second level. And this will be used by registry operators. So if you are the owner of the TLDs, and you want

to offer the different language and scripts under your TLD, then you know this is the rule that you can used to offer those particular script and languages.

Right now, we published four 46 reference LGRs already, and coming up next soon will be another seven scripts. So when it come out, we will also release it for the public comment. And hopefully, if you could take a look and review the solution as well, that will be very good because we want to have input from the script user if this is something covered requirement in your language. Okay. So I think that's from my end.

Okay. So it's very short time and a lot of information. But hopefully, you have the idea of how to enable IDN. We definitely have to define the rules, and you need to know how to use that script properly. The rule that is different between top level and second level is on the top. We don't allow, we only allow the letter. And for variance, it's a concept that is needed for some script which means something that perceives as the same by the users. And I think for that I pause here, I think we have a small quiz as well just to make sure you guys are happy. Thank you.

So can you go to the quiz session? Okay. Small quiz here. Number one, which of the following is a valid string for the top level. Option A, RUN123, option B, 123, option C, RUN, and then option D of the above. So I think you can click on the Zoom poll to participate in this. Let's see.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Thanks so much, Pitinan. This is Yeşim Sağlam speaking. I will give a actually just a couple of more seconds. As I think the question is very short and straightforward. And I will then end the poll and will hand the

floor back to you to share with us the correct answer. I think it's time right now. If I may, I will end the poll.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Okay. Sure. Oh, I should answer. I'm not sure. Okay. Can you.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Yes. I'm going to share the results. And if you can please let us know which one is the correct answer.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: All right. So actually, okay, not too bad. The correct answer is number one, sorry, number three RUN. Because for the top level, we don't allow digits, only the letter is allowed. So it cannot have the one, two, three there. Okay. Good. Good. At least that was, there was answers. Yes. RUN is the correct one.

All right. Let's go to the next question. We have five questions in total. All right. Then which of the below is or are IDN strings. The first one is the string in Arabic. The second one is the word got Africa, and then the third one is that café, and the last one is both A and C. As well I have to submit mine as well. Okay. I did.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: And once again, I'm waiting for a couple of more seconds. And then I will end the poll. Okay. I'm ending the poll right now. And let me share the results.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: All right. Yeah. This is great. So both A and C is actually the IDNs because for B, we call it ASCII because it doesn't have any extra character more than the usual A and C. And I guess, thank you. Then go to the next question, please. What are the variant labels? First one, variable levels are labels considered the same in some measure by a given community of Internet users. The second choice, variant label and only label considered visually same. The third choice variant labels are only labels considered semantically same. And the last choice none of the above. Right. Do you do, Yeşim?

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: And once again, I'm giving just a couple of more seconds before I end the poll. Okay. Last call ladies and gentlemen. Okay, I am ending the poll right now. And let me share the results.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Thank you. Yes. And this is correct. The first one that is most answered is the correct answer. So variant labels are labels that consider the same by the communities. Thank you. All right. So the question number three number four please. Okay. How to enable IDNs? First, develop the label generation rules for the root zone by various script communities and policy development by ICANN community. Second, implementation of Universal Acceptance, which is coming up in the next section, by technical providers' stakeholders. And then the third choice, adoption by the end users. And the last choice all of the above.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Okay. Waiting for a couple more seconds. And I am ending the poll right now.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Thank you. Yes. And it's all of the above. Thank you. And especially for the Universal Acceptance topic, which is a good segue to the next topic as well. But before we move on, let's have the last question up, which is now in the short answer type. So as you are participating in this seminar, so IDNs or UA would something relevant to you. So we would like to know why do IDN matter to you. So just give us some short answer. And this will be a great input for us to understand the needs of the community.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: We have received five responses and I would like to see more coming through. We're giving a bit more time.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: And as you can see online background, so this is IDN in a different script, which may be for us who use English quite okay, might not feel like this isn't, but actually for the ones who don't really use English in everyday life, actually, this will be a great inclusive of the Internet if these different scripts can be used as well in the ecosystem. All right. I think we can close the poll.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM:　　　　　　Okay. Closing the poll right now. And I wonder if I will be able to actually share the details. I'm just clicking on because it's a short answer, it may be slightly different. Yes.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Maybe we can go through the answer later, and then we will do some summarize in the notes if you have something interesting.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM:　　　　　　Actually, this is what I have. Yep.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Okay. That's great. Thank you. So I'll just read out maybe one or two. The first one is, this impact entirely the domain name as this affect Internet, yes. And then the interesting one for my culture values, of course, very well, and promotion of the diversity. Yes, that will be great. Okay, so let me actually end my session here. I think I spend quite some time already and we have quite a full agenda. So thank you very much for your attention and I'll be around. So if you have any questions related to IDNs or anything later, do let me know. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:　　　　　　Thank you, Pitinan. Yaovi speaking? My suggestion is that we take some question and you answer. We take five minutes to load for that so that we clearly see if we participant we are really making, seeing what is the link between IDN and the UA. So my suggestion is we take, if you have some questions, from participants, we take some questions in five

minutes slot before moving to Universal Acceptance as a topic. So please feel free. Pitinan is around and if you have a question can you raise your hand and so that you open the microphone and then you ask a question. Please, do you have a question to Pitinan? I see Sarah's hand. So Sarah over to you, Sarah.

SARAH KIDEN: Thank you, Pitinan, and thank you, Yaovi. That was a good presentation. So I wanted to ask about the variant labels and how they are generated. I don't know if I'm overthinking this, but I've not seen a lot of language communities within ICANN, for example, the Ethiopic languages. So how does ICANN work with the language communities, especially to generate these variant labels? Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Pitinan, over to you?

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Thank you, Sarah. Very good question. So we actually have Ethiopic generation panel as well. And so we work with, let me see. I will share the more information of the Ethiopic level generation rule. And they do define quite a number of variants in there as well because sometimes the two different sequences of letters can produce the thing that look the same. So they define quite a certain number of variants to prevent the security issue as well. I will share the link in the chat in a while. Let me search for it, but in the meantime, I can take other question as well. Thank you for the questions, Sarah.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: So please, another question. I cannot see another hand, but I want to add that Ethiopic script was in the root zone, I think, in 2019. And the GSE team and technical engaged team are planning again to have more engagement with the Ethiopic script community. So that is an achievement for this particular script in Africa. And this is happening in a few days. Engagement team from ICANN will be also working, collaborating with the community from Ethiopia especially on the achievement and what is the next step after having the Ethiopic script in the root zone. That is for your information.

Any other question in the chat or you want to ask a question, you can raise your hand. So we have the answer from Pitinan. There are 30 variant set of Ethiopic scripts. So you have the answer, Sarah. Thank you, Sarah, for your question. So let's hand over to Seda our colleague to have the introduction to Universal Acceptance of domain name and email addresses. Seda, over to you.

SEDA AKBULUT: Thank you, Yaovi, and hello, everyone. My name is Seda Akbulut. I work also with Pitinan at ICANN under IDN and UA programs team. First of all, I'd like to thank you everyone for your interest in IDNs and Universal Acceptance. We are really happy to see you because this is what UA needs, what Universal Acceptance needs, which is the cooperation and contribution of people like you who understand and desire UA well.

So in our agenda, next slide, please. Today, we have several topics, and we will start with the Universal Acceptance definition, it's scope, why is it

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important, and how we can start making our systems UA ready, and our role in achieving UA, and then continue with UA training, outreach, and finally, you will end with the UA Day updates.

Next slide. So to explain the importance of languages in our lives, I'd like start with the beautiful quote by Nelson Mandela. If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head, if you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart. So I really like these quotes and imagine the people who speaks and reads in languages other than English, how will they type or read their email addresses in English characters. Even if they have Internet access, are they experiencing the Internet the same way as the English-speaking people? No, unfortunately. So with UA, we aimed at everyone in this would should be able to access and communicate on the Internet using their own email addresses and domain names in their languages or whatever their choices are.

And next slide. So what is the Universal Acceptance? Let's define it. So Universal Acceptance is basically the concept that all domain names and email addresses are treated equally. Meaning all domain names and email addresses should be accepted, validated, processed, displayed and stored equally by all Internet enabled applications, devices, and systems, regardless of their scripts, languages or character lines. So we categorize the domain names and email addresses, basically, in three groups. As you can see here, IDNs, new gTLDs, and email address internationalization, as we call them EAI.

And basically, we will actually, Pitinan mention about what the IDNs are, and also new gTLDs are that also includes long and short top level domain

names that are different than the traditional top level domains like .com, .net. It's related more about the geographic interest and many other things like brands as such. So we will see some examples on this. And when it comes to EAI, the email addresses that includes non-English characters or that includes, like, IDNs or new gTLDs as such.

So in the next slides, please. So you can see that there's a quite big expansion in the domain name system because there are now more than 1200 active generic top level domain names, as well as the country code top level domain names in IDNs. And those are now available in the different scripts. Those are now available for registration. And they may be longer than three characters, and they represent special interest like .Africa, .sports, .sky, and in different scripts.

So UA is the key achieving the digitally inclusive Internet by ensuring that all domain names and email addresses are accepted equally. And when we achieve UA in all software applications, then we will have a big impact in promoting the consumer choice, improving the competition, and obviously providing a broader access to the end use and for the end users, we mean, for today, we have five billion Internet users around the worlds. And by 2023, we expect at least one more billion users will come online, which we expect them to experience the Internet fully like all the other people around the world.

So next slide. So let's look more closely to the scope of the UA. So here are more examples about explaining the UA scope. And the domain names are categorized in three groups, new short, top level domains, like, .sky, and new long top level domains, like, .engineering, and internationalized domain names, like here in Thai domain name. And for

the email addresses, we have several kinds of examples. So the ones that are in ASCII, but using the new gTLDs, like, .stumble or .sky. Those are all ASCII, but using a new gTLD at the part after the S sign. But we may have email addresses that includes non-English characters like society.org, or we may have different scripts in the email addresses, like, from right to left.

So for us to say a system is UA ready, you see five orange boxes those are the five key principles of UA readiness. So if a system is UA ready, that must accept, validate, process, store, and display all these type of domain names you see and all these type of email addresses correctly and consistently. This for example, if you register an account on a website using one of these email addresses, you should be able to register it and that website should store your email address and it should display just like you type it in your language.

Next slide. So the UA program of ICANN has basically three dimensions. First and foremost is actually the UASG, as we call them, Universal Acceptance Steering Group. The group is a community initiative. They develop UA resources for the developers, for organizations to become UA ready, for all type of stakeholders that we defined and we provide training as well. And the group consists of volunteers from all around the world from several organizations.

And they have also established several working groups who are working centrally like tech, on technological side, on the email address internationalization side, on the measurement side where they analyze the gaps, and on the communications side to distribute and disseminate all the messages that those working groups are developing. And they're

also working locally through the help of UA local initiatives and UA ambassadors. Which we will also talk about later.

And the second dimension is outreach remediation and training, which are done in collaboration with ICANN and SO/ACs and UASG, where we use the resources that we develop with the relevant stakeholders and develop case that this is one of the examples here that one of the part of the remediation efforts and trainings.

So on the third dimension, we also do our part at ICANN working cross functionally with different teams under the IDN and UA Steering Committee of ICANN. And to that extent, we engage with the ICANN community and the contracted parties and also do something for ICANN org as well. So before we move on, shall we do some poll questions? Yeşim, can we start? Maybe read the first question.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Read the first question, right? Let me display it.

SEDA AKBULUT: Okay. It's appeared on my screen. So, yes, is these statements, what do you think? They are true statements or false statements. Universe acceptance is the states in which all valid domain names and email addresses are accepted, validated, stored, process, and displayed correctly and consistently. Let's give it a few seconds.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Yes. Just waiting for a couple of more seconds, ladies and gentlemen. I will then end the poll, and I think I'm good to end it right now. Okay. And let me share the results.

SEDA AKBULUT: Yeah, these results are fantastic. Yes, exactly. This is a true statement and it's a very good definition of Universal Acceptance. So the correct answer is it's a true statement. We can move on to the next question? How would you define .engineering? Is it an IDN? Is it an EAI? Is it a new short tap level domain?   Or new long top level domain name, .engineering?

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Thank you so much for that. Just giving a couple of more seconds, and I will end the poll very shortly. Last call. Okay. I'm ending the poll right now. Let me share it to you.

SEDA AKBULUT: Yes, new long top-level domain name. So it's a new generic top level domain name and it's a long version. So the correct answer is the last one, 84% have responded correctly. Thank you. And next question is also similar one. Please go ahead. So how will you define this thing? I cannot read. Let's see. Is it an IDN? Is it an EAI? New short top level domain name? Or new long top-level domain? Good look inside. Right?

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Okay. Just giving couple of more seconds. Okay. Looks like we're good to end the poll. And let me share the results.

SEDA AKBULUT: This is EAI. Because, first of all, there's an H sign in the very middle. And there's a domain name at the right side and mailbox on the left side. And it includes non-English characters. So it's definitely an email address internationalization. So correct answer is the second one, EAI. Thank you. And do we have, yeah, one more question left. Go ahead with that one. So what does UA address technically? Does it support all the various domain names and email addresses, or does it support the website content in all languages, or both?

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: And once again, giving a couple more seconds before I end the poll. Last call, ladies and gentlemen. Okay. I'm ending the poll right now.

SEDA AKBULUT: It was a tricky question. So correct answer is the first one actually. Supporting all valid domain names and email addresses. UA has nothing to do with the website content. We aim that all domain names and email addresses work in all software applications. So which means that you can use your email addresses when registering a domain name, or you can send an email address to someone else and receive the email address from another person with EAI. But whatever the content on the website or on the platform, this has nothing to do with the Universal Acceptance. The text, the body of the content is not related to Universal Acceptance.

It's all about the domain names, email addresses, and using them in software applications. So the first answer is the correct one. Thank you.

And so we can move on to the next slides, in the interest of time. So why is UA important? And why does it matter? So next slide. So do you know that many businesses are leaving actually money on the table by not updating their systems to be UA ready? So UA is, you know, that started with the DNS extension. And we have now over 1200 new gTLDs that reflects the sense of identity of people, their interests. But while this is a critical expansion in bringing the next billion people online and growing the Internet economy, usage of these in the global Internet is not an automatic process.

So chief information officers, rep administrators, ISPs, hosting providers all have an important role to make their systems applications are compatible with UA. So they should no longer assume that there are only a few traditional domain names and email addresses that use those traditional domain names. No. There is a potential in making more interest on the Internet by implementing and upgrading our systems to become UA ready.

And we did a study in 2017 where we reveal that there's a 9.8 billion US dollars opportunity for a UA ready organization, which is a conservative estimate, but we believe that there is higher opportunity for the organizations that become UA ready. And businesses that start supporting customers with UA ready applications will have a first mover advantage and their potential to capture the new increasing revenue streams. So UA provides good business opportunities. And also, it provides carrier opportunities.

Next slide. So students, developers who don't know Universal Acceptance, they don't know how to make an application actually globally competitive. So if you want to be competitive, UA is one of the think that you need to consider in making your software application to become a UA ready. And every developer should have this in their skill sets, and it doesn't require actually to learn a new category of coding, or something else. So just you need to build upon your existing skill sets to expand your systems to recognize and support all type of URLs and email addresses. And we have actually quite wide resources on UASG both tech, under the documents hub, you can find the guides, training documents and all sorts of materials that can help you start with becoming UA ready.

Next slide. So why is it important for Africa? We mentioned that there are five billion Internet users around the world, and just Africa's population is 1.2 billion people. And amongst them about 77% of them do not use Internet. And surveys say that there's a potential of over hundreds of million people to come online just from Africa. And English may not be their first of choice. Maybe French, Ethiopic, Arabic. And so imagine all the unconnected people and how much we are missing at this moment and how much big opportunities we can get if you become UA already.

Next slide. So Africa is vast. So the world population is eight billion. And UN study says that the next billion people will come from just eight countries, and most of them are from Africa. In 30 years of time, just Nigeria itself their population is expected to double, overtaking the United States of America. So there is a potential growth in Africa and the true size of the Africa is also huge as well. So there's a big opportunity

for Africa to become UA ready. And how and where we can start to make our systems UA ready?

So next slide, obviously, we have this opportunity. We need to do something, but we don't know where to start. So next slide, we can show how and where we can start. By testing our software applications to see if we have any UA gaps. And we have actually two documents to help you start testing your system. One of them is UASG 004. This slide will be available, I think, on the wiki page of AFRALO.

So you can click on these links to find out those documents, UASG 004, have test cases for making UA readiness evaluations in which you can find various scripts and languages for domain names and email addresses, all of them are valid and registered. And if you send an email to the email addresses that you have on these documents, you will also receive an automated email. And if you receive it, it's a good sign. Because it means that you can send it and also receive it from end to email address internationalization.

And second documents is the UASG 026, which is based on the five key principles to give you a sort of roadmap on how to conduct the testing. And those two documents can be your reference to test any software applications. And there is another tool that UASG develops to quickly test your email server actually. So if you go to uasg.text/eai-check, then you can type in your email address on the engine and check the address. And then it will show you whether or not your email server supports the EAI.

This is a very quick tool that you can benefit from. But for all the rest of the systems platforms, you can also benefit above the documents. And

we would advise you to test your email addresses that are, like, corporate email addresses is better to test because the other generic ones like Gmail.com addresses are not managed by ourselves. So just test the ones that you can control and make them UA ready. All right. So what else can we do?

Next slide. There is another resource we are proud to present. This is a new resource called samples in three programming languages, Java, Java script and python. Developers, software developers can use these code samples that we have developed and put it on ICANN's GitHub repository for them to download freely to use in their systems, to upgrade their systems so that their systems become UA ready.

So if you want to make your software applications UA ready, there's the link you can see on this page. You can get the codes from there, which have BSDT license. And it's free for usage. So you can benefit from these minimal running prototypes, like peeled formula for UA readiness. So you can use those sample codes in three languages and in several libraries. And moving on to the next one, showing you just a quick status of the global website.

Next slide, please. So UASG conducts on an annual basis a regular study to check the UA readiness of top websites over the past five years. And this chart evaluates the ratio of the websites of to what extent they accept registering email addresses in different categories. We have tested several categories of email addresses over the past year. And we have on 2022, we have tested largely 2000 websites and show that there is not so much difference not for significant progress over the year.

This is something that we need to deal with and that's why we have also started the remediation action by reaching out to the website developers to make them show that they have the relevant resources, and they should be aware of what the UA is, what the requirements are. And so we started the remediation process by contacting the website developers and owners for this purpose.

And on the next slide, we also share the status of the EAI readiness of emails service. So we surveyed 1172 top level domain name zones powering 210 million second level domains, and in which we found 35 million unique main servers with 2.5 million unique IP addresses. So after beginning those details, so we pinged all the IP addresses that we found and to check the EAI readiness of those email servers and found out that 7.32% of them can accept internationalized email addresses. Meaning, they passed all tests. They are good. But about 60% didn't pass the EAI test. And for the rest, 33% didn't respond. So we could not establish a connection. But this shows generally the EAI readiness support of the main service or the generic top level domain name related to main servers.

Next slide. So what's next? So we are coming to the end of my slides. So it's ICANN and UASG. We do our parts in terms of raising awareness, getting UA ready, sharing our best practices, provide remediation. But this is not something one person or one organization can do by its own. Just like for the IDN part, the UA readiness requires a considerable effort by all of us. And while we emphasized the need for everyone to contribute to the UA, let's be a little clear about what roles the community can actually play. So if there is no demand, for example, for UA ready systems, then this doesn't become a prior issue to resolve for

organizations. So we want to break the supply and demand products. And as you can see, even end users have also [01:06:02 –inaudible].

So when you are having any difficulty in using your domain names and email addresses in different scripts or languages, then you need to report this issue to the to the website or platform owners or the developers so that's your demand for it and then they take it into consideration and the more demand they get, the more supply they will make it for available. And one of the ways to report those issues is through the uasg.tech issue log menu, which you can see at the end of the page. And other roles are also defined here.

Actually, I just would like to mention that we have a new IGF meeting coming along in about two weeks in this Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. So it's in Africa, where we will also touch base on this specifically, what is the role of the community in achieving the Universal Acceptance? What each stakeholder can do to help adopting the Universal Acceptance?   And from, for example, we have added a few options for LCs. For you, you can, for example, work with our team, with UA ambassadors or GSE team, to ensure that your domain names and online platforms are compliant with Universal acceptance. So you can start from your own systems to make sure that you test and see what the gaps are and then start upgrading from there.

And secondly, you can also conduct awareness activities at the local level in your region with your connection. So that's you spread the UA board. And on the government's academia and domain name, industry, technology organizations UA reforms are needed. Also, for example, for governments, they may need to incentivize the adoption of the UA ready

tools and they may include the UA readiness requirements in their procurement policies.

So there's a top down approach from governments that can initiate the UA readiness approach. And on the other side from the bottom up, maybe the academia should include the UA in their research, study or curriculum for subjects like computer science or software engineering. So those are some examples for the community.

And next slides. And for this one, I actually would like to just highlight that we have local initiatives that work with UASG and UA ambassadors as well that work in the local communities who are, like, kind of, branch of UASG in around world. So as you can see, we have several UA ambassadors in Africa region, and those are ready to help to answer your questions on technical way or maybe they can help you to give you more training. But we need definitely more UA ambassadors in Africa in a very big continent where more interaction is needed.

And as you can see, we have several local initiatives who work with stakeholders in their continents in China, the governments of independent states and Eastern Europe, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. But we don't have any UA local initiatives in Africa. So we really would like to see new local initiatives in Africa where you can combine stakeholders and relevant parties to establish a good team to spread the UA work training and raise awareness in your local community team. So if you are interested in either becoming a UA ambassador or setting up a local initiative, just feel free to contact us at info@usg.tag email address.

Finally, we are moving on to the UA training programs. So if you would like to, next slide, please, get more training on Universal Acceptance, we have a dedicated page on ICANN org/ UA training, where you can access to all sorts of training programs.

The first one is ICANN learn, which is web-based stuff based learning platform that includes the basics of UA. And the second one, you will also find it on the same page, which is about the technical training programs, especially for those who are interested in Java, python and email server for EAI support.   They can also see the recordings of the previous trainings. And finally, we had regional training program, which we have initiated with FTLD and before. You can also see those recordings on our page as well.

Last slide, please. And apart from the training programs we have, we are all saw conducting some technical engagement on several developers' forums like tech overflow, Reddit and server fold and hash knobs. The aim is here to interact with the software developers on popular networks and discussion forums.   And so we actually found out where the questions are related to UA and EAI and provide the answers to those developers so that we kind of educate them.

And you can visit those links when you get the slides to see what kind of interactions that we have made and to see if those are also helpful to you. And we will have a broader report to be published on uasg.tech soon. That's all from me, and you can move on to the next agenda topic if we have still time. Thank you for listening. And I'm more than happy to take the questions.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, Seda. We would just take one question from Mutegeki. We take the question from Mutegeki and then we'll move to the net item on the agenda. Mutegeki, you can speak.

MUTEGEKI CLIFF AGABA: Thank you, Seda, for the presentation. My question is when it comes to registering local initiatives, are they registered under an existing organization or they need to be registered as a separate entity.

SEDA AKBULUT: It could. Thank you first of all, Mutegeki. It's a very good question. Yeah. It could be both. So it could be an existing organization. This can also handle the UA locally issued keywords. We have some examples, actually, like, for Thailand, we have TH niche who is also in charge of .th ccTLD. And for China, it's the Internet society of China who has already established organization. So you can have an existing organization to start the UA local initiative. But could be also a new organization just being established for doing the UA local initiative as well. So I hope that answers.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you very much, Seda. In terms of time, we'll have the poll on the screen. We can just take a four to participate in that. For people speaking French, we have the interpretation that we provided by the language team on this call. So please, we can take four minutes for that maximum.

EN

The first one, did you also attend the webinar on May 10, 2022? That is the first one you said yes or no.

The second one did you take the Universal Acceptance course on the ICANN learn platform? Yes or no. The third one, please rate your understanding of the concept of Universal Acceptance of domain name. Five is the higher. Five means that you really understand very, very well. And then one is you have a very low understanding of the concept of Universal Acceptance. So this is a tree.

Then we have the last two questions in the poll. The last question in the pool. So the last one-- no we have two. Number four, do you know if your email server support email address internationalization? Yes, it does. No, it doesn't. Or you don't know. That is number four. Number five. You remember our product team was requesting participants to share the information with members in the same organization or in the country or in the local environment. So the question number five, how many people did you share the email test URL. You remember we had it email uasg.chat. We have a URL on that website to test the email.

So are you able to share with some people this URL so that they can test? So how many people if yes? So one to five, or more than that. I think there was something missing, maybe I didn't share. If didn't share, normally, it should be zero. So that is the poll. So because of time, we can ask to have the result displayed. Then Seun also, I will invite the chair of AFRALO to make some comments on the poll. So we you can have the results on the screen. I will invite the AFRALO chair to make some comments about the results. Staff, can we have the results?

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Sure, Yaovi. I'm ending the poll right now, and let me share the results.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: So number one, we have 40% who attended the first one. Okay. So like a half. You attended the second one more than a half. The second did you take Universal Acceptance course on ICANN learning platform? We see more than the half of people attending these calls, they have attended participating in the learning online course. Number three, to rate the understanding. So we say 45% did four. Yes. Okay.

And then for question number four, we see 50% who have the email address. When did test, they have the claim response. EAI supported. People are not supportive we have 15%. I hope that the 50% are not the Gmail addresses. I don't know a technical person. So a number five. Oh, we see many people they did try to share with at least one person. So Seun, I will leave that to you, if you have any comments, before we move to the next agenda item.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. Seun for the record. Thanks, Yaovi, and thanks to all our presenters so far. I think this last aspect is very important in terms of that quiz question, which was where you were asked, how many people did you share the email that we are with? We want to, apart from the fact that we are building our own capacity, we also want to share the awareness and of course help other internet users

who are not aware about this to also be aware. And also, challenges their service providers to actually do accordingly.

So we hope that the after this session. You got to share in the chat again. We hope that you'll be able to actually share more with people who can also benefit from this information and, of course, be better informed at that level. I don't know. Is there another information that needs to be passed?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Okay. Yaovi speaking, Seun. I think that we will the next step, but before you share the panel or you close the receive webinar, we could have Seda in one minute, maybe share, give the update about the-- because you are hearing about the universal accept day in 2023. So Seda, if you have information about, if you can share what we can take away regarding when we talk about UA Day, which is planned for next year. So Seda, maybe I don't know if in one minute, we can do that. Over to you Seda.

SEDA AKBULUT: Sure. Thank you, Yaovi. Yes. There will be a UA Day that we are planning to have it in 2023. And today, and the day and the place have not been officially announced yet, but we will soon update the community about this. And the aim for the UA Day is to mobilize the technical community to come UA ready and celebrate the achievements UA so far. And to that extent, we are planning to collaborate with several organizations, including SO/ACs, GAC members and global organizations like LCs, iStoke chapters, where we seek their support and collaboration and to hold the UA Day events.

And for the UA events, we mean that they could be on raising awareness in your local, regional, national, or even global community. And also, it could be at regional level with RALOS, for example, or with business associations. The UA event could be also on the training to give some UA training and then celebrate the participants for the completion on the UA day or it could be a hackathon, or it could be strategic meeting with global stakeholders or the regional stakeholders who are based in, for example, in Africa. And for those, we are also developing some outreach materials for those organizations who are planning to support and collaborate and hold UA Day events so that we make sure that all these events have a shared purpose and kind of standard approach.

So we will provide them with some outreach materials or technical training materials so that they will have all the things that they have, and just to find the relevant panelists and the audience to conduct those events. And we will share more updates on both ICANN and uasg.tech page. And we would like you to consider this as a good step to also collaborate on the UA activities. So you can share your proposals with us on UA on the form that we will publish on uasg.tech. So please think about it and plan ahead for the activity that is coming probably in the first quarter of 2023.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you so much, Seda. Thank you very much. Thank you all the participants. Before we ask the Chair of AFRALO to close this webinar, we want to thank again on behalf of the GSE team and the all ICANN stuff. We hope that we can have this item on the next AFRALO monthly call. So that if there is something we cannot do today, we can maybe have some

meetings during the next AFRALO call. So with that, we want to invite Seun to have a final word for this webinar. Thank you so much.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Yaovi, if I may. This is Yeşim speaking. Seda, have one more question that was supposed to be displayed after this agenda item, would you like to cover that or are you okay with skipping?

SEDA AKBULUT: Well, if we have time, I will be really pleased to see the answers. Just maybe in one minute if I can get your feedback on how would you get involved in UA efforts? We would like to see your interest in what role you would like to take. Thank you for your time, by the way.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: So let's participate in this poll before and Seda will comment before we have the AFRALO chair end this webinar.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: And also just to mention that this is a multiple choice question. So you're more than welcome to choose more than one answer. I'm just giving a couple more seconds. I will be closing to poll very shortly in the interest of time. And last call, ladies and gentlemen, Okay. I'm closing the poll right now. And let me share the results as well.

SEDA AKBULUT: Great to see all interested parties in different areas that give us quite good opportunity to make progress in several areas. Thank you everyone for your interest and hope you will get connected not only for UA Day, but for all the UA activities. Thank you for listening.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you very much, Seun, over to you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thank you very much, and that was a very good survey to end this call, and it's good to see that the diverse volunteers to do one or two things on Universal Acceptance Day. And I'd just like to use this opportunity to thank our speakers, Seda, Pitinan, and of course, our own Yaovi for this session, for their contribution, and of course, for the resources, which they have shared with us during this session. Appreciation also to the staff and, of course, translator for also staying in put. We already passed the hour and they have actually been able to give us a few minutes more, which we are also already going outside of. So thank you very much for accommodating us.

And to all participants who attended this call, the action should happen thereafter. And as Yaovi has said, we will put it on agenda item for the next AFRALO call. If anyone wants to share their experiences, we'll be happy to share them. And of course, the Universal Acceptance activity continues. This is not the end of it. Even though we've done this complete session, but we'll continue to now do implementation. And let us act as much as possible. And let us, of course, the participation in the

Universal Acceptance Day when it finally happens. Thank you to everybody. And for me in Nigeria, I say bye for now.

YEŞIM SAĞLAM: Thank you all very much for joining this session. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]