
GISELLA GRUBER:

We're going to start the call. We're going to start the recording. Welcome to this AFRALO monthly call for January, 2015. This is our first AFRALO call of the year. There are a lot of participants and we welcome you all. It is Wednesday, January the 7th. It is currently 18:37 UTC.

On the English channel tonight, we have Seun Ojedeji, Barrack Otieno, Gabriel Ramokotjo, Oluwakemi Adeyanju, Chris Mulola, Remmy Nweke, Alan Greenberg, Bhenda Jean, Nkem Nweke, Mohamed El Bashir, and James Ndahayo.

On the French channel, we have Aziz Hilali, Etienne Tshishimbi, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Yaovi Atohoun, Fatimata Seye Sylla, Janvier Ngnoulaye, Michel Tchoung, Hadja Ouattara.

We have no apologies for this call.

From ICANN staff, we have Silvia Vivanco, Yaovi Atohoun; and myself, Gisella Gruber.

The interpreters for the evening will be Claire and Camila.

May I please remind you to start your names at the time of speaking not only for transcript purposes, but for our interpreters to be able to identify you on the other channel as well. It is very important. Otherwise, we will not understand who's speaking. Thank you very much, and Aziz, you have the floor.

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.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Gisella. I am doubly happy to find you once again, to meet with you for yet another monthly AFRALO call and I'm happy to see that we have this many participants. When I think of the time when AFRALO started, there were only a few of us [inaudible] the conferences. So I am very glad to see this current situation.

Now, unless there are any other interventions regarding the agenda, we are going to, as usual, start with open policy issues, open public comments. There are [about ten]. Then I'm going to briefly start with the first [inaudible] comments to be asked. That is the report of the board's working group on the NomCom. This is the third time we've spoken of the matter and I think, if I'm not mistaken, is in three days. That's for the reply period. So we're seeking to get comments on the report that was created by the NomCom board working group.

There are proposals in this report which have been discussed, because they extend from the alternative project proposal. Then there's the ICANN Draft Five-Year Operating plan as well. In this case we seek comments on the next four years [2016-2020]. There are AFRALO members who participate at these projects.

Then the third item is for new gTLDs, and for the new rules actually for the auctions of gTLDs and regarding indirect conflict and direct contention. So ICANN here seeks comments from the community on the methodology on the process used for these gTLDs and their auctions.

Item number four is the proposals to renew the comment with the[.docs] TLD. The result here is that we must comment on ICANN's [decision].

I hear background noise. Gisella, can we please mute that noise? I think there's an open mic somewhere. I'll go on now.

Item number five is the release of country and territory top-level domain names for .BMW and .MINI TLDs. Then we have the initial report on the translation and transliteration. What we see here is to get comments on the proposals made in the initial report that the members of the Translation and Transliteration Working Group members.

Now we have IDN TLD variance. That's Internationalized Domain Names. It has been suggested here to develop a tool that is a [inaudible] project that has been worked on, based on the [inaudible] of label generation rules. There are specifications for these toolsets and people are supposed to suggest rules to be used by each community.

Item number nine is about the report of CROPP. It has been published for public comment and it details the results of the work done by NORC in the Chicago University and methods to be deployed in the [inaudible] system. ICANN [here] once again asks the community for comments on this methodology.

So those are the items we have here. You can always, of course, access ICANN's website and ALAC's Wiki page in order to see which items are currently in their comment period and which comment periods have closed.

Now, in the absence of any [inaudible] or any requests for the floor regarding public comment periods, I would suggest that we move on to the next item of our agenda, namely items for information. Are there any requests to take the floor at this point?

Okay, yes. There's no one on the line. Just background noise. If you agree, we'll move on to item number three, which is items for information. We're going to start with the CROPP Community Working Group to develop an IANA stewardship transition proposal on naming related functions. That is the CWG Working Group. This is an ad hoc working group, which aims at discussing the transition of the oversight of IANA functions regarding the discussions that have been going on within the IAB, the RIR, etc.

Our AFRALO representative in this group in the CWG is Seun. We remind you that we had yesterday a very interesting webinar of which we'll have another, too, in which Yaovi and Pierre Dandjinou were presenters because they are organizing it. I strongly suggest that you attend those webinars, because one learns very much about these matters.

Now, without further ado, I'm going to give the floor to Seun so that he can talk to us about the status or the current situation of the discussions regarding this subject. Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you, Aziz. A couple of things. The [inaudible] which was up for public comment was completed. [inaudible] completed and the numbers from the comment that came out from the – different comments that came out from public comment [inaudible] on what direction [inaudible] in depth. There are different views. Some were in fact agreement with the [inaudible] that needs to be done within this week.

There's going to be an incentive [inaudible] for us [inaudible], especially the [RFP 3]. Over the weekend, the [inaudible] is going to be trying to see how [inaudible] support within the group. [inaudible] for a solution. One of the [inaudible] perhaps help provide some clear direction [inaudible] with the [RFP 3] as prepared. [inaudible]. The deadline for that is [inaudible]. Sorry I lost Internet connection, but I was [inaudible]. I'll post the URLs once I get [inaudible] information. [inaudible] currently on audio only.

The second one [inaudible] going to be on [inaudible] and currently in that discussion, the questions and [inaudible] members of the [inaudible] and I expect that would be finalized very soon. We had a meeting today. The [RFP 3] and [inaudible] on different [inaudible].

So this [inaudible] direction for [inaudible] to try to see [inaudible] clear proposal [inaudible] opportunities. At this juncture, I think I'll pause and ask if there's any questions. Thank you.

INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, can you repeat the last part, but louder? Because it's very hard to hear you. There's background noise.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Can you hear me? Hello?

INTERPRETER: Yes, I hear you. Please try to speak as clearly as you can. I hear you, but it's hard to interpret when there's background.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Okay. [inaudible] better now. I'll try to speak on top of my voice now. Okay. I don't know if you're hearing me well, but I what I was saying is there is no [clear summary] of what I was saying is there's no clear direction on the [inaudible] proposal right now. Most of the work of the [inaudible] right now is in the [RFP 3]. [inaudible] consensus of some direction. [RFP 3] decided to [inaudible] tried to get the [inaudible] members and participant's view on the [MIT and CSE]. [MIT and CSE] are two of the complements of the CWG proposal and the deadline for that was [inaudible] IANA issues [inaudible] other working group for ALAC, for At-Large. It was discussed in that particular [inaudible] so that we can [inaudible].

The second survey [inaudible] within [RFP 3]. Hopefully by tomorrow it should be released for [inaudible] CWG to [inaudible] survey. The [inaudible] of the survey is [intended] to help inform some of the work that we'll be doing over the weekend [inaudible]. So I'll post the [inaudible] if there are any concerns that you need answered. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much. It was very hard to interpret and we haven't been able to follow very well, but before we give the floor to participants I would like us to move on directly to Mohamed, so that we can ask him to speak of the IANA Stewardship Coordination Group (the ICG). That is the group that's in charge of receiving formal and [inaudible] replies by

means of the agreed procedure either from the institutions and the operational communities or the CWG.

So anything regarding IANA operations, regarding numbers, names and protocol parameters, that is a discussion we had yesterday and Tijani gave a presentation on the three functions which are so important, whether it's about names, numbers or protocol parameters. So I'm going to ask Mohamed to take up to ten minutes in order to explain to us the process that the ICG is going to follow. There are a lot of participants here and I'm sure they all want to hear a brief presentation, a summary of this important information. It is very important to us. Mohamed, you have the floor.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, chair. Good evening, everyone. Just to update you about the recent activities of ICG. Recently the ICG has published a document. It's called "Consensus Building Process." That document, which is – I'm also sorry, I'm not online on Adobe Connect, so I can't share with you the link to the document, but if you go to the ICG website, which is www.ianaicg.org, you'll find it or you'll find it on the pages of ICG and ICANN website.

This document describes the process ICG will conduct to produce the final proposal, which is going to be sent to the ICANN board to be delivered to NTIA. Currently ICG is waiting for operational communities to provide their proposals on the deadline that has been provided in the RFP the 15th of January.

So after receiving the proposals from the naming community, which will be coming from CWG and from the numbering community, which will be coming from a committee by RIRs [inaudible] also regionally RIRS. So AfriNIC was working on developing that proposal, and the protocol parameters IETF was working on the proposal.

So the expectation that the final proposals arrived on time and there is no extension for the deadline, then ICG will start its work by reviewing each proposal to ensure that it's complete and it fulfills NTIA requirements. Then it will publish the proposals. Then it will review them internally.

INTERPRETER:

I'm sorry, Mohamed, I cannot hear you anymore.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Sorry, I was on mute. So [then] ICG will review the proposals and see what are the gaps for let's say the pieces that complement each [other] proposal and then it will come up with new proposal which will be put for public comments before sending that in June for ICANN to be submitted to the NTIA. ICANN will be the post office to deliver the proposal to NTIA, but it will not change the proposal. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Mohamed. Now if you'll allow me, I'm going to open the floor for anyone who might have questions to ask. Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much, Aziz. I have a question for Seun. It is a very specific question. We know that we're ten days away from the closing of the period for the submission of proposals. So the CWG must absolutely make its presentation before January 16th. Now, what I would like to know is whether in one week that they have before the deadline, like one week before, whether they have any visibility as to what they are going to present as to what could be adopted, because I know there are a number of issues within your group and that there are many different views, but have you managed [inaudible] type of institution or the type of structure that is to be implemented.

Have you at least agreed on the fact of whether it should be an inside or an outside structure? What are the possibilities of [inaudible] 15th with a proposal that has everyone's consent?

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Tijani. Now we're going to take note of this so that he'll reply later on. We're going to give the floor to Alan Greenberg now who is with us. You have the floor, Alan.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Thank you very much. I will not try to guess whether this weekend's work will come up with a suitable proposal or not. Certainly different parts of the group are very far apart right now. I don't know how it will turn out.

However, regardless of how it turns out and how well we manage to put together a single proposal, from my point of view, I don't see how we can meet the deadline because I believe there was general agreement in the CWG that any proposal we come out with now will be sufficiently different from the preliminary one that we have to go out for public comment again.

Given that, I don't see how we can meet that deadline. We can certainly try to meet the deadline for coming up with a proposal, but ready to submit is a different issue altogether. It's going to be an interesting few weeks I think is all we can say.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Alan. I consider this to be an answer to Tijani's question. Would Seun like to add anything or are there any other questions before we give the floor to Seun? Would anyone like to ask a question to Seun and to Mohamed?

Now, Seun, you have the floor to see whether you want to add anything to Tijani's question so that you can reply. Please try to speak as loud as you can.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Hello, okay. Is this loud?

INTERPRETER:

Yes.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Okay. I think Alan has kind of [inaudible] to Tijani's question. I would also say it's not going to be [inaudible] directly answer the question on whether it is a decision on internal or external, there's none for now. There are different perspectives at the moment.

One of the things [inaudible] there are different individuals within the [inaudible] a specific and quite a loud voice in this process. While some people are silenced, it does not necessarily mean that they don't have [inaudible]. I think [inaudible] trying to get the consensus of [inaudible] is going to be [inaudible] or not.

So I would agree with Alan that it is not [inaudible] meet the deadline, but I fear that as we try to meet the deadline, the [inaudible] is trying to [inaudible] make positions that are not necessarily effective or efficient and it's [inaudible] back and see what we have done.

So I think we need to be careful [inaudible] the fact that if we don't meet the deadline, then we should just request an extension. I'm thinking that most likely [inaudible] deadline [inaudible] proposal that would be [inaudible]. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

I'm sorry. Yes, thank you very much, Seun. I don't know if Tijani is satisfied with your answer. I think it was okay. There is a question to Mohamed on the chat. Mohamed, if you are with us, Remmy Nweke is asking you . . .

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, I'm here.

AZIZ HILALI: It seems you made an assertion that the report to be submitted will not be further reviewed by ICANN. Can you clear that for us? That is to say the work of the ICG will be filtering the proposal and then this will be submitted and reviewed by ICANN. You said that the board won't have the right to amend this report. Remmy is asking for some more clarification on that issue. Did you understand, Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah.

AZIZ HILALI: Mohamed, you have the floor.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. Thanks very much for the question. Initially, ICG reviewed the request from NTIA indicating that due to the [inaudible] procedures in the U.S. government, they need to receive the proposal from ICANN, because ICANN is the contractual entity with NTIA, so NTIA has a contract with ICANN and ICANN is [inaudible] of this process. So that was the initial request.

Within the ICG members – and I think the majority of has [inaudible] about . . . We all accepted that this is acquired because it's a government [inaudible] procedure, but it's important that ICANN board

should not change the proposal. It should act as a post office. Because this proposal, it will be the result of lots of work, community work, and also ICG work [inaudible] final proposal.

ICANN board has a liaison within ICG and that liaison [could] bring to ICG any issues or concerns from ICANN board regarding any proposals from the [inaudible] communities or the final proposal [inaudible]. So the ICANN board has a voice and has a representative within ICG and the process [inaudible] issues.

Recently, ICANN board has requested that it should review or at least look at – to be given 15 days to look at the report or the proposal to [inaudible]. ICANN board, through their liaison within ICG, has indicated that it's not their interest or willingness to alter and change the proposal, but they will engage with ICG and provide their comments as early as possible.

If there is any issue they see, maybe [inaudible] an important issue from ICANN perspective. I hope that answers your question.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Mohamed. There are two comments. Alan is supporting what you said. Alan Greenberg said, "I presume that the ICANN board is able to comment and review the ICG submission, but the submission needs to be sent on to the NTIA without change." So the ICANN board can't delay the proposal.

So if there are no other comments, we are going to move to the next item. We must go on. We must move on, except if you have a question. Okay, we are going to move to the next item. That is the Taskforce outreach for more African representation in ICANN leadership positions. This is a working group that has made very good work. Fatimata is chairing this working group. So, Fatimata, you have the floor. Fatimata is going to tell us where we are and she's going to speak about the action of this working group. Fatimata, you have the floor.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you very much, Aziz. Regarding the activities of outreach I'd like to stress the fact that the strategy document that we have submitted to the AFRALO leaders has been admitted some time ago last week, and we have asked AFRALO to facilitate the implementation of the strategy document with the list of the people who are going to implement this list and to know how we are going to implement it. This document, before it was adopted by AFRALO, we had some activities that had been implemented already.

We are posting documents that have been prepared. Tijani, we are showing you those documents. Tijani, Barrack, Seun, etc. During the meeting through AfriNIC made some outreach activities and they distributed a flyer. We sent it to Facebook and Twitter and there were lots of [inaudible] after the flyer was posted today. They are from Africans asking questions and I think we will see at the end what happens. We wanted some candidates and some applications and we have some.

What is important is that we still have a lot of work to do. We still have time, so we can receive more applications until the 15th of March, and as a working group, we have the support and we have the request of AFRALO to continue our work.

It was also decided in the strategy document, there are some sections that we have to implement, so we need to do that. We are still waiting for the AFRALO instructions. Formal instructions from AFRALO, we are waiting for them.

Maybe if I forget something, the other members of this working group can complete what I said. Thank you very much. I'm finished.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Fatimata. Yes, I think you have made a very good job. We have posted on the site the flyer and the draft strategy document. Please send it to all the people you know in your country. This work was very well done. We need to go on and we need to see [inaudible] and in AFRALO members, Pierre Danjinou, etc. We need to see how we can follow up. I'd like to ask you, Fatimata, if you can do some proposals. We have discussed that issue, but if we can create a website to work on that to post all the important information, the leadership positions in ICANN, information needed so as all those who are interested can come and see in that website what is needed in ICANN. Are there any proposals? Are there any comments about the way to follow up with this taskforce with this working group? Because I'd like this work to continue. Do you have some proposal to make, please?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Can I have the floor?

AZIZ HILALI: Yes.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: As a proposal, I think that, as you said, there is a strategy document and there are some new activities that are organized. For example, how to mobilize people in our region and we think that some African people can be potential candidates for these positions and we can see how we can use the media – the social media. We use them already, but we know that in our country, if we want to aim to a certain [inaudible], we need to use some more of those medias and we need to do some information campaign, for example.

Now we have the CROPP and it's still working until March. We still have until March. We are on the 7th of January, so we need to see how we can have the means to do something else. I'm finished.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you. I want to listen to the other point of views. Thank you very much, Fatimata. Are there any comments about that issue? [Janvier and Remmy] are supporting the idea of continuing the work of this working group. I think people are encouraging you, but as Fatimata said, we need to find the means to organize all that and to implement all that, so I recommend to the taskforce to draft something with numbers and

[names] and we'll see the output we can receive from ICANN or from something else from the government, for example, to see how we can manage to implement the proposals from that taskforce. Do you have any comment?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

I can also work with the other NomCom members. Yes. Every time we have a meeting somewhere, even though there is no support from ICANN, the NomCom group tries to speak with the organizers to present the position and to say that there are some open positions, so people will know.

For example, it will be very interesting because you will earn a salary in some cases. People are looking for positions. They are interested by the Internet governance and by ICANN, so we can try to take advantage of that in each country and this will be linked to Internet, etc.

So there are examples in the other regions which use these techniques to make them heard because sometimes all the means cannot be used here in our region. So CROPP is contributing with some strategies.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Fatimata. I see that there are a lot of comments in the chatroom. Barrack, can you speak? Are you able to speak? Do you want to have the floor, Barrack? Gabriel also is asking how [inaudible] is working. Maybe Fatimata, as you are in the CROPP with Tijani, please can you explain how the CROPP is working?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Okay. The CROPP is a program with a budget to facilitate the outreach with the [RALOs]. So it is to budget [inaudible] in the region [inaudible]. You have two nights and three days of work in that place, and when you ask, when you do the requests, for the people who do the requests, you have to explain the objective and you have to ask it eight weeks before the event. So we are in the deadline, for example, if there is something – if you need to use the CROPP budget to do some outreach for the NomCom work.

We have five possibilities. We have five [inaudible] for each [year] and we have already used four. Tijani, if I am wrong, you can correct me.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Fatimata. I think Fatimata’s answer was okay. Fatimata told you that you need eight weeks to present your request. Every AFRALO member has the right to take advantage of this CROPP budget. You have to make your request eight weeks before the event. That is very important.

About the outreach, about the community mobilization, the participants have the right to present their request. We still have one possibility for a [journey] in our budget, so somebody can take advantage of this possibility. Now I think we are finished. If there are no other comments, we are going to move to the next item, and that is the items for discussion and we are going to speak about the review of the [inaudible] operating principle. Tijani is the chair of this working group, and Tijani, you have the floor to explain us what this working group has been doing. We are the RALO that is the first regarding the other RALOs

about the operating principles and the review of the operating principles.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Aziz. You forgot the [inaudible] cross-community working group on ICANN accountability. You forget that. You skipped that item that I had to present, so I'm going to speak about the CROPP first. We still have two budget possibilities because we used only three. I think we have two possibilities left.

For the general discussion, I'd like to add that our work is not finished. Even though the community is agreeing on the project, we need then to coordinate that with the other functions and there can be something very long. I have some [inaudible] about other coordination. I know that for CWG, there were not a lot of coordination because the problems are so diverse and the community is so diverse, so I think there were no coordination with the other, but I wanted to tell you that it was not finished.

Now, about accountability. Accountability, we have translated it in French by [inaudible]. This working group, cross-community working group, has been created later than the other working group. I am a member of this group and Alan Greenberg is also a member of this group. This working group began working on this charter. The charter [inaudible] that the work is going to have two streams. The first one is going to [inaudible] on the mechanisms to improve the ICANN accountability that should be implemented at the transition of the IANA function, and the second stream, the second work stream will address

accountability [subjects] for which the deadline necessary to develop solutions and implement solutions can exceed the deadline of the transition period.

So those are the first definitions made by our charter. It was said that we needed to work on those two work streams. Our group made some definitions about the accountability. We wanted to have a definition of the accountability. What is accountability? It is the mechanism, the way to check the check and balances, etc. Then, what is the aim? What is the objective of the accountability? It is to respect its own procedure rules, the bylaws, etc., to respect the ICANN jurisdiction to reach some performance level and security level and I'd like to add that there was some controversy because people are afraid that the public interest – when we spoke about public interest, people are afraid about is public interest because they can have different visions of the public interest.

So this was two definition elements, and the third one, who ICANN is going to be accountable to, and to all the stakeholders, that is the answer. All the parties are accepted by ICANN and those who are affecting directly or indirectly ICANN's work. And we have made a list with examples. Afterwards, we have tried to think about the existing mechanism of accountability and we have tried to see the comments we have received about accountability and we have also tried to put them in work stream one or two during transition or after transition. That was the idea.

We also analyze all the [inaudible] cases possible and we are going to work next week on the elements of the work stream one and two. This is what we made in our working group on ICANN accountability. If you

have questions, please ask them and then we will move to the next item.

Okay, there are no hands raised, so with are going to move to the item four, items review of the AFRALO operating principles. We have worked in this working group in a regular way and we have addressed three items. The first one, the individual membership; the second one is the [weighted] vote; and the third one is the [governments] of the members. And for these three items, we have reached a consensus in the group with a draft that will be used to amend the operating principles of AFRALO.

So the next item on which we have begun to work is the [government] metrics. We have a proposal on which we are waiting for comments and next week we will have a conference call during which we are going to work on that issue. So this is the work made by this group on operating principles. If you have questions, I am ready to answer them.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani. You have been briefed. Now, if AFRALO members and ALS wants to work with this working group, it is very important we are working on the rules with which AFRALO is going to operate, so it is very important for us to have a lot of opinions, so please try to coordinate with this working group.

At the beginning, there were a lot of people, but now we are less and less members in this working group, so please, if you want to intervene, there is a Wiki page. Tijani, please, can you put the link of the Wiki page in the chat, so people can give their opinion if they want to participate,

or if they can't participate to the meetings, so they can give their opinion.

Tijani, we are going to move to the next item: joint meeting AFRALO/AfrICANN at ICANN 52. We have still one month before the Singapore meeting. We asked Barrack to send mail to all the community to propose some subjects. We have received some answers, but they are not answers with themes or subjects. There is a proposal from Tijani. I'm going to give him the floor, and then we need to create a trusting committee and I'm going to give the floor to Barrack or Tijani, so they can tell us what are the subjects that have been proposed. Barrack, you have the floor.

BARRACK OTIENO: Hello? Am I audible?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible]

BARRACK OTIENO: Okay. Thank you very much. So as Aziz has said, we sent out a call for topics and there were a lot of proposals from the members who responded to the call, but we continue with the subject of the IANA transition.

Basically, the subject that we were discussing in the last meeting that we had in the U.S. We also had a proposal on accountability from Tijani. So these are the two main issues. The first issue is the issue of the IANA

transition and how it affects the African community. And the second one is a proposal to focus our team on accountability proposed by Tijani.

Probably it would be good if Tijani can make a few comments on this before we proceed. Thank you, Aziz.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much. I see that Seun raised his hand. Do you think, Tijani, he should speak before you? Seun, you have the floor, please. Speak up as much as you can.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Hello? I think Tijani should go ahead and speak.

AZIZ HILALI:

Wonderful. Then, Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Aziz. I suggest that we speak of accountability because this is a very important subject for the future of ICANN. I think it is going to determine the future of ICANN. And of course we could've spoken [inaudible] because there are so many things going on right now. We could've spoken on transition, but we only had ICG last [time], so we spoke of ICG and we made some recommendations. So now I think we should speak of accountability and provide the African people on the matter. I think that is very important.

Maybe, I think at least, our next meeting should revolve around this subject. This will allow us to give our point of view on the accountability process that is being reviewed right now. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Tijani. I ask now the rest of the participants to intervene regarding what Tijani said. Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you. I think one of the things I wanted to say, I agree with Tijani. Accountability [inaudible] should be discussed face to face. One other reason is also because the 15th is the deadline for submitting the proposal for the transition. Although one may argue that is not sure will meet that deadline, but for now it is 15. There is really [inaudible]. If we finally have a consensus, most of what should be discussed in that – [inaudible] comment on the proposal, we have to deal with the ICANN accountability. So I think it's good to discuss ICANN accountability post IANA transition.

So not just [inaudible] ICANN accountability, but [inaudible] ICANN accountability post IANA transition. That kind of gives us [inaudible]. We're looking at how ICANN is going to be more accountable, as we understand it in Africa region after the transition is done.

So I think I support Tijani on that particular thing. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Seun. Now, does everyone else agree with what Tijani suggested? I see a number of comments on the chat. I remind you that the transition has already been discussed at AFRALO/AfrICANN's joint meeting in Los Angeles.

Still, the two subjects are related, which Tijani can confirm. But we're going to ask Tijani to speak of accountability, which is a tough nut to crack. I think there are many people who really understand the point of the discussion, because a while ago, we started asking questions as to what is the institution that's going to be created after the transition is going to be an organ or a body of control to ICANN, whether ICANN will be accountable with the new institution.

So if you agree with Tijani's proposal, I suggest that we create a draft team right away. Either you can take the floor very briefly, either you can write that down on the chat, on Adobe Connect, if you are interested in participating in this draft committee or draft team.

Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Can I go?

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I just wanted to ask that this be done on the discussion list, on the mailing list, because I'm sure there's people who aren't here today but who would still like to participate on the draft team. So for those who are ready now to volunteer, of course you can say so now, but I think we should also have a request for volunteers on the mailing list. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you. So I suggest that the new or the next AFRALO/AfrICANN joint meeting address accountability. So I'm going to ask Silvia to write that down as an action item, but if you agree, we can discuss this on the AFRALO/AfrICANN mailing list for the African community to make suggestions [inaudible] establishment of the drafting for the [inaudible] statement to be [read] and validated at Singapore.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: So you're asking for volunteers?

AZIZ HILALI: Barrack, do you agree? Silvia just said that she wrote down five proposals on the action item [inaudible]. I suggest we all agree on a single proposal on a single subject, so that the draft team or committee can discuss a single subject for the drafting of our statement, so we will only address accountability. I think this is a project that's going to be submitted to the committee for discussion, so that we see whether everyone agrees.

I see a number of comments on the chat. Would anyone like to take the floor at this point? Because we still have one more item. We have Barrack, Janvier.

Please send an e-mail if you're interested. Please send an e-mail to Barrack so that you can become a part of the draft team. I am going to ask the interpreters since we have two more items left, new ALS requests, new applications. Barrack, try to be brief on these two applications. Barrack, you have the floor.

BARRACK OTIENO: Hello, thank you. Can I be heard?

INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. I didn't understand. What was that?

BARRACK OTIENO: Hello, this is Barrack. Just to stress on what Aziz has said, I think for those who are interested in being part of the drafting team, kindly just send your name to me or to the mailing list, and then from there we will focus on the topic of discussion. [inaudible] from this meeting we've agreed on accountability, although I can see some members are still reporting that we consider the previous topic that we discussed in Los Angeles.

We probably will need the direction of the chair, Aziz, on this. I noted that we seem to have agreed on the [second] topics. Is this the case, Aziz?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry, Barrack. He was asking you to speak of the new ALS applications.

BARRACK OTIENO: Okay, thank you very much. On the new ALS applications, we basically still have two items. That is ISOC Gambia in which we are still waiting further direction from the Internet Society. Then on the Cameroon League for Development, we have not been able to make any progress on this application because we have not received [clear] information that pertains to the activities of the group in Cameroon. So we haven't made any progress insofar as that is concerned. Those are the two areas in which [I can report].

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Barrack. I should say for ISOC Gambia we have lately rewritten to them and contacted ISOC once again to see whether or not they have any news on the renewal for the board of ISOC Gambia. We haven't received an answer yet.

As regard to the application of the Cameroon League for Development, this application had a number of comments by many members of AFRALO because this association, as I saw in most of the comments I received, which isn't directly related to Internet and there was a problem at the level of the board of this association because it was contradictory in a number of aspects.

On the one hand, on the website of the association; and then on the other hand, on the application, the one they sent to ICANN. So we're still waiting to hear from them to see what their main activity is. So please, if we cannot reach a decision, at least we'll decide to re-contact them to ask them to clarify. If you would like to take the floor, please go ahead. Would anyone like to take the floor?

What I'm asking you is to give your opinion as to these applications. Do we accept these applications or not? If we don't accept them, do we want to ask for further clarification from these ALSes? What is the decision? I'm waiting for your comments. Would anyone like to take the floor as to these applications? Yes, Tijani, thank you. You have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, Aziz. Can you hear me?

AZIZ HILALI: I hear you loud and clear.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: If you have a comment regarding these applications, I suggest we take more time to find out better what we want to know and to have further contact with this association to understand a bit better what it's all about, because there are ambiguities and there are grey areas where we're not really clear.

I know we have taken quite some time already, but that's precisely because we wanted to have more information, and so far we haven't

been able to clarify what doubts we have. In fact, it's the contrary. We have more doubts than before, but maybe if we have a bit more time for the certification, we can check again.

AZIZ HILALI:

[Janvier] says he agrees with what you just said. So Silvia and Barrack, please take this down as an action item. We're going to take more time to find out more [specifics] about this application. Fatimata agrees. Seun agrees and [inaudible]. That's good. Now Silvia, have you managed to write this down? Great.

We're a bit late, so do you have anything that is really important as regards to recent and upcoming activities of ALAC and of AFRALO members? I think for ALAC recent and upcoming activities, we've already dealt with this. Would anyone like to add anything? No? No one raising their hands. Yes, Tijani, you raised your hand. You have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

I just wanted to tell you that we've been working very hard on the transition on the accountability and now we're working on the budget. We're also working on [inaudible] next revision and we're working on ICANN 52 Singapore. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you properly, Tijani. Working on the accountability and the [subject] for At-Large and the At-Large meeting and what we are going to do for ICANN 52 in Singapore. Great.

I'm receiving messages from Silvia and from Barrack. If you're here, please try and follow what we have agreed upon for the AFRALO/AfrICANN joint meeting. Tijani, you have the floor. Silvia says there are four proposals – five proposals, actually. I didn't hear five proposals. Silvia, if you want to take the floor, please go ahead. Otherwise, all I understood was that there was one proposal. Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: There might be five, six. Never mind we have already decided on the subject. So if we have decided on the subject, we are all to vote in the affirmative on the chat, so Silvia, please take note of our decision. We have decided to discuss ICANN accountability. That is the decision of the group and we're not going to discuss that any further.

AZIZ HILALI: That is perfectly clear. Silvia, have you taken note of this? There is only one proposal.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: It's a decision. It's not a proposal. It is a decision.

AZIZ HILALI: Right. The decision is accountability. We've decided on a single subject. Silvia, please, if you can write down on the chat, go ahead. I know Seun is asking for the floor, so go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Sorry, I'm not sure I get what Tijani just mentioned.

INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. Aziz interrupted you. Can you start over?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yeah. Tijani just mentioned that we have decided that the word accountability is the theme that is going to be used. I'm not sure we've agreed on that. I think we should – people have suggested five themes. Most of them are [inaudible] around accountability. I think it's important to determine and agree on which one of the five we are going to push forward. We have not decided. Yes, we have agreed that what we're going to be doing is going to be around accountability, but we have not agreed as a team [inaudible] write-up is going to look like. So I think we should decide on that. It is not enough to say that we have decided that [inaudible] accountability. I suggest we discuss this and agree.

If we need to discuss that on the mailing list, fine, but we haven't agreed that it's going to be just one word, accountability. Thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Can I speak?

AZIZ HILALI: Yes, Tijani. I was going to answer, but I know you have an answer already, so go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, and thank you, Seun. The proposals were made a while ago, if you will. The request for proposal was sent out a while ago and there were a number of suggestions, as Silvia is saying. I don't know how many proposals were made. Different proposals [inaudible].

Now, today we said these are the proposals that we received. This is what we received for accountability. Do you all agree? We gave everyone the time to express themselves, and you yourself, Seun, said it was a good subject. So if you think it's not a good subject, we'll take it out. There is no problem. But it's paramount that we decide on a single subject, because at the last ICANN joint meeting, only dealt with one subject at a time. We cannot discuss anything else at this meeting. We have to make recommendations for ICANN's board particularly, so we can only deal with one subject, as we have always done. Our subjects have always dealt with a single subject at a time.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Tijani. I just want us to move on quickly. I know Seun is asking for the floor. I've seen the proposals and they're all related. We're just going on with a discussion that's already taken place among the members of the transition. I know we're all interested in transition within the framework of accountability, so we merely decided on a subject. We haven't decided on the contents that it will include.

As soon as the draft team starts to work, of course they are free to decide to include other aspects within this subject. Seun, please, go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you very much, Tijani, for that clarification. Just to make myself clear, yes, I said we should disclose ICANN accountability, but my intention was that we should discuss it in relation to the transition. That is [inaudible] because by that time, the proposal [inaudible] will have been submitted, at least to the ICG. So [inaudible] ICANN accountability, put in the mind that the transition is still ongoing. That is the perspective. I will strive to [inaudible]. That was actually why I suggested that particular number four of [inaudible].

However, I understand that if [inaudible] is not the rule, if you have actually made the room to actually propose [inaudible], then there is nothing [inaudible], so just stick with the accountability. But if we are allowed to propose a [team] here, then I will suggest that we have not agreed, unless – we just said that we have missed that [inaudible].

So that's just what I wanted to say, Tijani. I agree with accountability, but I was agreeing in the [inaudible] that we were going to discuss it on the perspective of the transition. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, Seun. Tijani, you have the floor. I'm also going to ask you to reply to Beran who is asking: "When did we decide and how did we decide who made this decision?" I think there's a problem with our

communication here, so Tijani, you have the floor. Please reply to Seun and to Beran.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

I'm going to give you a solution. It's very simple. Accountability isn't a [wholly] subject and it's not something we hold on to firmly. It's merely a subject that was proposed and that was supported by a number of the people who were present here and on the list of the people who supported me.

If this subject doesn't have our consent, we're going to give ourselves a week to discuss on the mailing list, and [inaudible], we're going to see whether or not this is the subject we should discuss.

I have no problem with changing the subject. Let that be clear. I mean, this isn't a [wholly] subject to me. I just want us to make a decision so that staff can go on working. Staff is going to work, but it's not going to decide on the subject.

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, I completely agree. I suggest that Barrack send out on the list on the joint AFRALO/AfrICANN mailing list a summary of what we discussed, a summary of the proposal, and establish that [inaudible] which people must discuss. Is that still with us? I think we should give people a week to discuss it. At the end of the week, we're going to decide on the subject that has had the most support. Barrack says, "Okay, good." Tijani, do you agree with this solution?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Yes, I do.

AZIZ HILALI:

Very well. So if there aren't any other requests to take the floor, I'm going to adjourn the meeting and apologize to the interpreters, Claire and Camila, and thank you [inaudible] Silvia and everyone else for having attended our meeting. Thank you, Yaovi. Thank you, Alan, for having stayed with us until the end. Thank you all. I hope to talk to you again soon, and have a great evening.

GISELLA GRUBER:

Thank you, everyone. Now the meeting has been adjourned and we're going to disconnect the audio. Thank you, and have a great rest of the evening.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]