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DUBLIN – Joint AFRALO-AfriCANN Meeting  
Wednesday, October 21, 2015 – 14:00 to 15:30 IST  
ICANN54 | Dublin, Ireland

GISELLA GRUBER: Hello, we're going to start the AFRALO AfriCANN meeting. And I would like to remind you that we have interpretation into French, into English, so please use your headphones unless you are bilingual. And also, please speak slowly and clearly so that we can have the interpretation. It's very important to give your names for your transcript.

We have Jacques in the interpretation booth and Camilla. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you Gisella. Hello everyone. Thank you for coming. Many of us today, this is great. We're going to start our traditional meeting. AFRALO-AfriCANN, we do that every time we meet at ICANN, we started in Brussels. And our topic today will be, of course, the IANA transition. And ICANN responsibility with an African perspective.

It has been more than a year that we heard from the US government who told ICANN to start an inclusive debate about

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the ICANN responsibility and the transfer of the supervision of the IANA functions. Instead, the world community works very hard on that topic, and very tenacious. We have two processes, I'm sure you know, most of you, about it.

I need to remind you of the IANA supervision, the transition, and the different proposal to transfer the IANA functions to a multistakeholder model, and the rest, accountability of ICANN. This is a difficult time to transit into French, and we have to make sure that ICANN keeps being accountable once we go through the transition and once there is no more relationship with the US government.

AFRALO was very active in those debates, and we did participate a lot. We did have three members, and I would like to let you know about them. I would like to thank them deeply, we're going to have to, Mohamed El Bashir, Seun Ojedeji, and Tijani Ben Jemaa. Thank you very much. A round of applause please for those gentlemen. They did a great work and they work for hours on those topics.

And it's very difficult to grasp all of the aspects. It changes every hour or so between the morning and the afternoon, many changes. So you need to work constantly on those topics, and really I thank them very much because the three of them did

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work a lot on those groups, the ICG with Mohamed, the CWG with Seun, and CCWG with our friend Tijani.

Thanks to that work, thanks to what they did. They gave us some reports and we know what's going on during our monthly meetings and conference calls. And to inform us of everything that happens. We want to thank them and thanks to them and their work, AFRALO was able to contribute with two phases of public comments, and we are the only RALO that came up with public comment for the two faces in May, for the two periods in May, and the period of September, October, where we did another public comments, the second CWG, CCWG report.

So two public comments, not only in the name of AFRALO, in the name of AFRALO, because there was an online consultation before we sent, and it was very dated online, and it was sent as a public comment. Go Gisella, if you can show us a map before I give you the floor, I would like to show you the public comments to give you an idea of what we obtained regarding the different regions.

And you're going to see that only two comments from African, there are very few public comments, compared to the other regions. And AFRALO made one of those comments, maybe South Africa did comment as well. So I would like to thank as

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well our guests, Alan Greenberg is with us. He is ALAC president, chair. I would like to thank him very much.

Look at this map. You see 29 from North America, about 100 comments, only two coming from Africa. So thank you Alan to be with us. You have the floor.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Thank you very much Aziz. It's a pleasure to be here. And for those of you at the last meeting a few months ago, you will remember I had to run out after five minutes. This time I made sure my schedule is clear so I can be here for the whole meeting, so I'm very happy about that. It's always a pleasure to talk to this group because, Aziz stole some of my lines already.

He's correct. There are very few comments from Africa, true, but there are very few comments from RALOs. And the fact that parts of At-Large are actively participating is a real measure of the maturity of the group. And I can't overestimate that, it really is important, and I encourage you to keep on doing it. I of course encourage you, we named the people who were active in the process, and I encourage you to find more.

It's really important. Just like you have, sorry. You might have a different perspective from people in more developed parts of the world, there are also likely to be different perspectives in

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different parts of Africa. Not so much because they come from a different part, but the more people you get involved, the more differences they have in how they view things.

And the whole, the concept of the multistakeholder model is we somehow come together. And although we differ on a lot of things, we can find closure and come together. It's hard. You know, as your statement indicates, there are parts in the current versions of these documents that you don't agree with. There are parts that I don't agree with.

The challenge is to find things that, number one, we can all live with, even if it's not the way that we would have decided it if we were the boss. But at the same time, serves the overall Internet well. And that's a very difficult thing to do. And I'm just delighted that you're actively participating. Any people around the table that, you know, have not been active in this, there is no reason not to be other than time availability, and that's a really big issue.

The amount of time that some of us put into this is a large, it's a large effort, a large commitment, and not everyone can do it all of the time. But to the extent that you can put time into it, pick a subject. Accountability may not be your favorite one, but we keep on looking at different, at new and different things as we progress in At-Large.

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And I encourage everyone to dig in more and get more actively involved, and that makes the results of all of our efforts much richer, and much more balanced. So I thank you for the work you're doing, and I encourage you to keep on doing it and do more. And I guess it goes without saying, if there is anything I as ALAC chair can do, or I as Alan Greenberg can personally do, you know where to find me. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much Alan. Thank you for encouraging us. This is what ALAC is all about. We work together, we don't always agree but that's why we have a very good team. I'm going to give the floor to Pierre Dandjinou, vice-president for participant and engagement in Africa, for the GSE.

He must be tired. He has worked a lot. He has a lot to do during the day. Thank you for being here Pierre, and thank you. We can bring you some coffee.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Yes, I know that you can find coffee here. And we should have some coffee on that floor. We could work harder with coffee. And maybe some tea. It's my pleasure to be here. And I have to say that, to come back to discuss those topics is always, for me, going back to the sources, coming home. And I would like to

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thank you for all of this work, because I had a question a year ago.

In one African government, I was asked, “What about this transition? Do you really think that Africa is interested in the transition? Access is the big issue for us. We don’t have access to Internet, and now you want to talk about governance?” And that was a high level in the government I was told.

So how can you think that the Africans are interested in governance? And when you look at the figures, you can ask that question. It’s true that when we’re looking at the numbers at the African level, and I always say that, the industry is not there. And of course, when the industry is not there, people do not see the impact of those decisions, and that’s why we have some businesses or governments to not care too much about it.

This is very important that we do our work. You play a very important role. That’s what I said last year. I congratulate you, but I also think there is more work to be done in other topics, regarding other topics, because if we do not have a message, if we don’t hear our voices, if we don’t go further than this small circle, we don’t have enough impact.

You can have a stronger impact coming from Africa. We have to find a way of doing it. Secondly, so I look at those documents that are sometimes people do criticize you. Well, when you say

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something, you're going to be criticized. We have to deal with them. And we have to find a way to multiply, you know, the list, you know the list. We're talking about AFRALO list, African, maybe find another mechanism so that the people who are already present that come to those meetings, and those who cannot come, do contribute.

They all contribute. You already are doing much better. I think we have to improve our listening. Be more inclusive, I would believe, regarding the content. I looked at your statement. This is a very good idea in concept. I'm not going to go into detail. It's important that you have those statements. And I looked at the map on the screen, and a few contributions for the public comments, but I don't know if you're surprised by that.

I was in another meeting, we talked about DNSSEC, security, stability and root zone. When you look at the map, it's the same thing. Most countries, which blue collar, they signed, the zone in Africa is still gray. For 54 countries, only five or six did sign the document, so lots of work to be done, but do not be discouraged, keep working at it, and working even more.

And At-Large can really help you out, can be the spear heading those efforts. And I started working for and with At-Large, and you made so many inroads that's quite amazing, and I would like to really congratulate you. We have our new



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communications strategy when we started to go into our countries. This is excellent, with Tijani, with Aziz, you were there, and we enjoyed it.

So let's keep working, let's keep at it. We are ready to support you. We are behind you. We already do support you, and we always will. So kudos, and let's go even further with our work. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much Pierre. I agree with what you said. But when we look at, Aziz at the mic, when you looked at the penetration rate, it's moving very quickly. And I think that in the next users of the Internet in Africa, and in the Middle East, I think they can go as fast as Asia. And this is a difficult topic to participate here. We do not know the entire situation, but I think that Africa is going forward.

Thank you Pierre. Rinalia hasn't arrived yet. I'm going to give the floor to, if you will, do you have any questions before we proceed? So let me...

Yes, if you have questions on the two topics we covered. So I'm going to give the floor to our topic before we go to debating the statement. And I give the floor to Mohamed El Bashir, vice

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president for AFRALO, vice chair of AFRALO and ICG, and I would like to thank him very much.

ANDREW [MAC]:

...faster for me. But I just wanted to pick up on something that Pierre said. My name is Andrew [Mac]. And I know most of you. I just came from a meeting of the business constituency. Sorry. I just came from a meeting of the business constituency, and I wanted to pick up on something that Pierre mentioned, which was that we are similarly aware of the lack of business representation from the continent in these discussions.

We know how important it is to bring business together from the outside of Africa, to you and from you to be seen outside and to participate. And we want you to know that the BC is very much aware that this is important. We are lobbying on this issue, and very much hopeful to coordinate with you more, to try to bring more business voices from Africa to these discussions, and would very much support if AFRALO and AfriCANN is going to push for that, we would very much be on your team. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, I know we might have some questions. Rinalia has arrived. She doesn't have much time, so I think we should give her the floor, Rinalia Abdul Rahim. She was going to speak after Pierre.

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I'm going to give Rinalia the floor. Rinalia is a Board member, ICANN Board member, and she's an ALAC person.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you Aziz. Good afternoon. Bonjour. It's a pleasure to be here. [Foreign language]

It is a pleasure to be here and thank you for the invitation. I apologize for being a little late. We have many meetings happening in parallel and sticky issues in almost every room. I just have a few thoughts that I wanted to share with you, and I know I have three minutes, and I will be succinct.

In terms of the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability, I have to say that I've been very impressed with the African leadership demonstrated in terms of providing African input and perspective into the process, both with regards to the work of the CWG as well as the CCWG on accountability.

And I think that the perspective is valuable, and also it made me quite proud, when I see that coming from a developing region. And I was so proud of it that I was happy to share it with members of the Board, whenever AFRALO provides a statement on these topics. And it is very much welcomed by my Board colleagues.

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And I think that AFRALO has given, has played an exemplary role, I think, in showing the way for the other RALOs in the At-Large system in terms of what a regional community can do in contributing to discussions of significance in the ICANN world. And I would like to encourage you to continue doing that, even beyond this transition.

And where I would encourage you to focus in terms of channeling your contribution is on the policy development processes that ICANN has, because one of the challenges within the policy making process in ICANN is that it is severely challenged in terms of diversity of perspective, especially from the developing world.

And if you are able to channel that, it would be not only welcomed, but it would be representative of the needs and concerns of your region. I would also like to put an item on your agenda, if it is not already there, and it pertains to the problem of universal acceptance. And it is the problem where systems, and software programs, and applications do not accept top level domains, whether they are new gTLDs in Latin Script, that go beyond three Latin words.

So you know that ICANN has this new gTLD program that has allowed applications with very interesting names and strings to come up. But the problem is that the Internet based services

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and applications are not able to process these names. So at one level, the problem is on Latin script. But on another level, is it on all the other scripts that are relevant for people of the world.

And in Africa you use different scripts for writing. And if you think that no, no, I write in English or I write in French, you know, this is not a problem for me. But even for Latin based languages such as French, you have accent that you write on vowels. In German, for example, you have the umlaut on the vowels, and the systems are not accepting it, and it is a real problem.

And if people say, okay, it's okay, we can handle that problem, and we can still use the Roman alphabet, it is still a problem because Internet based application and services actually use domain names to make their services available to users. So even if you're not typing the domain names in yourself, the providers are using it. And if they cannot make that available in your languages and scripts, think about what that implication is for your community and your region.

So I don't think that we have enough strength and support on advocacy on this, across the developing regions. And I would like to [inaudible] up to almost the top of your agenda. And I'm sorry for bringing in another item, but I think it's quite important. And I will end by just saying that from my point of view, going back to the issue of IANA transition, and the

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proposal on ICANN accountability, for me the three big risks are capture, paralysis of the organization, and instability.

If these risks can be addressed, then we would be really comfortable with moving forward, and I would be quite comfortable with the proposal. And with that, I thank you for indulging me.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much. And would like, you have to go. Okay, thank you. Pierre? One comment please.

PIERRE DANDJINO:

Pierre Dandjinou. I'm going to speak in French. My name is Pierre Dandjinou from [inaudible]. And I would like to thank you very much Rinalia for congratulating us on our work. But we know we have still a lot to do, and I would like to use your presence for you to be an ambassador for our community to the Board, the ICANN Board. To reinforce our engagement activities.

For instance, we have an engagement activity for the IANA transition, which was done in [inaudible] by Pierre Dandjinou, and his team that was extremely important for [inaudible] for the politicians, the NGOs became aware of the IANA transition issues, and please let the Board know about those activities.

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We have some financing issues, some budget, not enough budget sometimes. So it's always important for Africa to move forward. Thank you very much.

I'm sorry to stop you. I would like to thank you. Most of all, you're always welcome to do more. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Do you have any questions for Rinalia? Comments or questions for Rinalia? So let's keep going. I'm going to give the floor to Mohamed El Bashir. I was going to, he's going to tell us about the update, and the ICG is going to tell us about ICG and represents AFRALO there.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much Aziz. And I'm happy to be with you today, and please give you a brief the current status of the ICG. I'm really honored to be in the ICG as a co-chair, and I have colleague here as well. He's a member of the ICG. And I think we have a good representation from the continent.

And it's always really joyful to receive the responses and the comments from the AFRALO community, especially the last comments received in the public comments period. That was well received by the ICG. AFRALO has raised very important points, that actually we as the ICG group, we work to address

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them. Some of the issues are already highlighted in your statement.

Usually the statements come in from AfrICANN, AFRALO they're really valuable. I encourage you to continue doing that, and hopefully we can have finalized statement that could be presented. So briefly, I will just talk in a minute or two about the current status of the ICG.

So in a nutshell, the final proposal is ready to be submitted. We are waiting for, to see the deliberations of the CCWG work and accountability work. And hopefully there could be a breakthrough today or tomorrow on those days. Tomorrow the ICG have a face to face meeting, we're going to assess the current status. All of the issues regarding incompatibility between the different proposals have been addressed, and basically there were two major issues, the intellectual property rights and the rights of the domain name of IANA have been resolved.

And now we have, I think, the linked in dependencies within that accountability work, which will be hopefully resolved soon. Currently the ICG is debating and discussing its future role in terms of, will the ICG be active after submission of the proposal? There is a role that the community wants us to play in terms of monitoring the implementation of the proposals.



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So that's a discussion currently we have at the ICG. I think the message that's probably is going to be concluded that we're just waiting for the community to finalize its work, and we're ready to submit the proposal once everything is done in terms of that accountability work.

So we're just looking forward to complete our work and charter, hopefully. And I think we have a very good statement. I just notice a couple of things that might need to be updated, because this was drafted at an earlier stage, but I think with you here, we can have a good valid, better statement to be submitted to ICG and CCW work. And I'm happy to read it once or any question regarding the ICG work. Thank you very much.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you Mohamed. Now I give the floor to Tijani. And with vice president of ALAC. And he was the representative of AFRALO on CCWG.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much Aziz. Not sure what to say about the process. There is a lot already that has been said. And over the past meetings, we've discussed this thoroughly, and we've done lots of work regarding the CCWG second report. We've also commented on the ICG's proposal. And since there have been

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many developments, of course I'm not going to describe what we've done, but I'll just say that the process is essential to ICANN's charter and to the future of Internet governance in more general terms.

Our engagement is crucial here because as Alan so well put it, we have different interests, our interests differ from those of other regions, very often. And we see things differently because our culture differs from others. We have had a very strong participation here, and I'll tell you, within ICANN, there aren't as many people involved in the process as those who come from Africa.

I'm not saying we're most of the people, but no other single region has more people than we do participating in the process. So Africa contributes and we do so substantially, significantly, and constantly. Of course, this not only the three mentioned who participated in drafting the African position. Of course there is many other people who participated in the process, but who don't belong to ALAC.

I could say Mary has participated, [inaudible], Manal, Aziz, they've all been part of it. So there is many of us. And we meet very often, we discuss often, and these people that I just mentioned didn't participate in the drafting of the document,

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but their ideas are always contributed in our debates, and we always take them into account when we draft whatever we do.

I'm proud of Africa, honestly. I'm proud of the African participation because it's active, and because it's deep. Why is it important to us? As Pierre was saying, there is minister who already mentioned this, but there is different issues with access to this transition. And this transition is going to determine the future of ICANN, on the future of Internet as well.

So the way the mechanisms that are going to change within ICANN, will also be of interest to all Africans. It must be said that Africans have the highest evolution rate in terms of connectivity these days. It doesn't mean we're more connected than others, it means we're practically at zero, while we started a different trend.

So we are increasing our connectivity rates, and now Africa uses Internet as others do. So of course, Internet and the future of Internet must be in the public interest of African communities. I'm also proud of Africa because wherever you go at ICANN, you find African's only, some SOs and some ACs have commented on the proposal but there are no subdivisions in these SOs and ACs who have contributed.

I don't just mean RALOs, because among RALOs only AFRALO did it. But we haven't seen the [NCSG], we haven't seen [N POP?],

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no one else has contributed or followed this process in depth, as we have. So once again, I'm proud of Africa. So when you read the statement, you'll see it doesn't cover item by item the proposals that have been published, because we've already made our comments regarding the proposals.

This time we've tried to follow what's happening. So we're talking about what's changing, that's what we discussed, and we've tried to identify the threats. So if the CCWG cannot conclude its work, it's going to bring the entire transition to a halt. And that can be a great issue to multistakeholder models, because if transition doesn't happen, the multistakeholder model isn't working.

So those who are against the multistakeholder model will say they announced it, they say it wouldn't work. And we all want it to work. Personally, I think the multistakeholder model is something we have in our hearts, we hold it very dearly because that's what allows us to contribute to governance.

Because when we think of governmental models, of course we can always contribute with our advice and express ourselves, but no one guarantees that it's going to be heard. So the multistakeholder model is a model that we respect, that we want. It's a model we want to see in the future. So at that level,

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the transition is important. So I think we must stress that aspect, which isn't always thought of.

Now, in the past two days, I've started to see people more confident, and I have myself begun to feel that it's going to happen, that the transition is going to happen. Two days ago, we had no idea what was going to happen. We had a working group that, of course, was doing its job, and they are trying to move forward. Because there is people who strive to participate in the process, because they have an interest in the process.

They have stakes, material stakes in the process. Then there is volunteers such as us who participate wholeheartedly, but who of course, lack the energy at times. And thirdly, because the group is open, so anyone can join, and when for instance, not to speak of others, let's say the At-Large structures, the end user, when they have a given interest, they will want to discuss an article which has just been published.

So they want to express their opinion because that is what's going to stress their interest. And so if they know that that will be discussed on a given day, they're going to bring 100 people to the discussion, to the meeting, because it's an open meeting. And so it will seem as if there were a majority of people wanting something. And that's very dangerous.

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So I have asked many times before that we follow the group's charter, stating that only the members represent SOs and ACs, have a right to participate in the decision making process. Unfortunately, co-chairs think that if we want to be more inclusive, it's better to have open participation so that anyone can join, but of course, this entails the risks that I just explained.

Why am I saying this? Well, because our group has been working towards the name, and those who come more often, the majority of those who come, have an interest in the process. They're interested in a given result, and us, At-Large, Sébastien and all of ALAC's representatives, we have all fought for a number of things, and unfortunately, we haven't entirely won.

It must be said that we have had an impact, but not really. So if the Board considers that what we suggest doesn't work, it's just going to be deleted. And then it's going to take a while, let me tell you, before we can find a common ground, before we can reach a mutual agreement, so us from At-Large, we have a position that's closer to the Board's than to the working groups.

And AFRALO has even positions that are even closer to the Board regarding certain matters. I think I have rambled a bit much, so to conclude, I'll say that African participation is important, and Africans are very highly respected today in these forums, in these meetings, because Africans express their opinions clearly,

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and they express opinions that are grounded. So I hope we'll continue to work this way.

It will be nice if there were more of us, as Alan was saying. So we're trying to reach out to those who can participate actively at these types of activities. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. Thank you Tijani. I know you dedicate all your spare time to this, and I congratulate you for that. And I think people must know that. Now we're going to move on to the presentation of the statement, which is the highlight of our meeting, and we intend to discuss it for about 20 to 25 minutes, so that we can see if it can be adopted at the end of the meeting.

So we have a young member, a young ALAC member who is an incoming member, that's Seun who just joined ALAC. He's a very, very happy young man. And he's very hardworking. And so I'm going to ask him to do something that's very difficult to do, which is reading the statement. You can read it in French or in English, as you wish Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

This is Seun for the transcript record. Thank God, I've read it in French, but I was given the English version.

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Yeah. I want to quickly say that this statement was developed by the community prior to Dublin. As Tijani has said, a lot has happened within the last few days. So as I read the statement, please bear in mind that some of the comments we have, the discussions we will have after this statement, will actually impact the output of this statement.

So the AFRALO AfrICANN joint meeting in Dublin was the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015. We the African Internet community participated in the ICANN 54 public meeting, and attending the joining AFRALO AfrICANN meeting out in Dublin on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

We [inaudible] the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability processes. We [inaudible] the comments submitted by AFRALO last September about the proposal put for public comment by the IANA coordination group, that is the ICG and the cross community working group on IANA ICANN accountability, the CCWG.

We have been following the outcomes of ICG, recent face to face meeting had in Los Angeles on 18 to 19 September 2015, and would like to congratulate the ICG on continuing its progress towards finalizing the final IANA transition proposal. We are pleased to note that the ICG has taken into consideration most



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of the issues raised in the AFRALO comments on the draft final proposal.

Nevertheless, we still have important concerns related to coordination among the operational communities, when making critical decisions like the separation of related and operations from the current IANA functions operator. We believe some positions if were not coordinated, could have immediate impact on the security and stability of the Internet.

Though we understand that some informal relationships exist between the operational communities, we believe it will be helpful if the three communities formally commits to coordinating with each other, whenever the need arises. We would like to congratulate the CCWG for the tremendous work done so far.

However, we are worried that the completion of this work may be delayed. We sincerely hope that the group manages to deliver its final proposal on time, in accordance with the transition timelines. Though NTIA has recently extended its contract with ICANN to 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, to enable the community to finish its work on the transition plan and ICANN accountability, we urge the CCWG and the stakeholders to work in good faith in order to finalize its recommendations without further delays.

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While we welcome the ICANN Board's comments on this second report of CCWG, especially those related to the budget, the recall of individual Board directors, and the enforceability of the proposed community powers, we believe that the proposal of exercising the community powers through the co-chairs of SOs and ACs is not appropriate.

We already expressed our disagreement about this issue in our statement on the first CCWG report. We reiterate our proposal for a single community power to recall either individual Board members or the whole ICANN Board. This will permit the community, as a whole, to recall ICANN Board directors after giving the justification of this decision.

You can recall from one to 15 directors, which means the old directors accept the CEO. In such a way, problems such as the unequal treatment of the Board directors, that is the SOs and ACs appointees, and the NomCom appointees, the replacement of the recalled Board directors, avoiding a reduced interim Board will solve several...

Okay, there is a grammatical... I will continue. To also make it simpler to reduce the number of proposed powers. Besides filling the whole Board, besides spilling the whole Board is not really reasonable since, at any time, there are on the Board directors who are just appointed, others in [inaudible], and

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some about to live. Recalling those we just appointed makes no, is nonsense.

Even if we believe that this kind of power, if exercised, will mean the failure of the multistakeholder model. We will still support it in case it becomes ultimately required. We would like to stress the importance of the IANA stewardship transition process, and accountability mechanism to the African Internet community, as a safeguard of Internet growth and development of our continent, which is currently experiencing the highest Internet access rates in the world. Thank you.

That concludes the draft statement. Like I said, I'm sure as you were reading it with me, there are some grammatical things that needs to be fixed. And also, based on the status of the CCWG today, there are also some views that may need to be updated. So I'll turn it back to Aziz to initiate the discussion. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. Aziz takes the floor, sorry. Thank you very much. Thank you Seun. I know you use to have four pages and now there is only two. So you've done lots of hard work to summarize it. Some of us have been here since the beginning, and there is someone here who has just joined us, that's Fadi. I don't know if you've seen him, he was at a Board meeting. So let's give him the floor so he can address us.

FADI CHEHADÉ:

Thank you Aziz. Thank you dear colleagues. This is Fadi speaking. I'm very glad to be here with you this afternoon, and I'm very happy to hear this statement that has just been read before the others. AFRALO is very important to our community, and it's a group that has great African values, and great values of equality, of democracy.

When you think of what's written here, I mean it's something. It's not something we see anywhere else. So I actually appreciate the effort that's been done to prepare this statement, and it's going to be helpful at all levels, if we have an ICANN that is where it needs to be, especially in this new stage.

So what we're doing is really campaigning for ICANN's independence, that's what it is. We don't say it much, but that's the truth. It's campaigning for the independence of ICANN. I'll tell you something I haven't shared much to this day, but when I started with this adventure, I asked to visit the leaders of the International Red Cross Organization in Geneva, so I went to see them.

And I asked them, "How is it that anywhere we go, when the Red Cross arrives, people always move aside? They stop fighting." When I was in Beirut, back in the day when I was young, the only ambulances on which no one drew, no one shot, the Red Cross,

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even if they were from the Lebanon, I mean, there were issues. We were fighting, but the International Red Cross was always independent.

And so I asked them, “How do you manage to stay independent like that? How do assure that independence?” For decades they have done it. And so, I asked them, is it via agreements, or do you sign anything? Is it a legal measure? What is it that gives you that independence? And they said, “No. It’s true we have agreements with some countries, it’s not because of that that we are independent. What assures our independence is the principles. Is our principles.”

See the principles that unite everyone in this Red Cross network, and the Red Crescent and the Red Star, of course, so it’s the principles. And you here, you’re speaking of principles. Principles for governance, for transparency, for democracy, for participation, engagement, inclusiveness. And that is what’s going to maintain as an independent body.

Not our lawyers, not our agreements. Of course, we need to have those but aren’t there any principles that unite us? I hope it’s the principles that brought us this far, what will help us go on with your help, with the help of AFRALO.

Now, I’m going to speak of something a bit happier. On a more positive note, we’re going to go to Marrakesh soon, to Morocco,

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such a beautiful country in our beautiful African continent. To me, I feel very close to this, because it's also my last ICANN meeting. And I really want to be there. Africa is a continent that most needs our attention.

They're the ones who represent a higher chance of being more transparent, more open. It's the continent of the future, the continent of progress. It's even the continent of the economic viewpoint, which we now see as a continent that's going to be the one with the highest economic growth.

So you see, there is a lot of possibilities in Africa. And I'll tell you something personal. My son, who is 24 years old, he is called Philip, and he works for an American company called Apple. And he was one of the engineers, he is one of the engineers who developed the iPhone. He worked with them for three years. He was very well paid.

Very, very well paid, I'd say. But a month ago, he told me and he told his mom, that he would quit, he would quit Silicon Valley, he would leave it. He will sell everything he owns, his car, his bike, everything. He is 24, and he's going to Africa, he's moving to Africa.

What are you going to do back there? You live here, you have a great job. And he said, "I'm young. I can always come back. But my roots are in Africa and I've never seen them, so I'm going to

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Africa.” And he went. He took his backpack and he left for Africa.

I’m still trying to calm his mom. But he is now in a small town called [inaudible], that’s in the south of Africa. And he found a hub the young, and from there he is creating new technologies so that he can improve social life.

And he’s never been happier. He’s not paid. He lives simply, but he’s in Africa and he is happy there. So that’s Africa to me. And that’s the spirit that I understand, that I like, that I’m now reliving through my son’s decision.

So I think Africa is going to give him much more than Silicon Valley. And he’s going to be much happier. He’s going to be with more values there than anywhere else in the world. So it’s that spirit that I want to commend. That’s what I want to thank you for. And for everything you do at ICANN, never lose your confidence. Your voice in ICANN is appreciated. I appreciate it, and throughout ICANN, everyone appreciates it. We all come together to Marrakesh, and I hope, because I promised some of you, that I will do something special for Africa.

I’m trying to work on it right now, and I won’t say anything to the extent that it’s done, it’s solved, but I won’t say that until it’s done because I want to come with something to my continent. I

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don't want to come empty handed, I want to bring something I owe you, that I can owe to you.

Give me some time, I'm trying to get there. My children have never been at an ICANN meeting, and I've asked them to meet me in Marrakesh, my two children so that we can all be there as a family for my last meeting, with the youth in our home. So thank you for everything you do.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. Thank you very much Fadi. Thank you very much for everything you do for Africa. Everything you've done every since you have started to lead ICANN. I assure you the African community is sad to see you go, and so we're trying to have a meeting in Marrakesh where everyone comes, so that it can really be a meeting where we bid our farewells to you, where we will wish you all the best.

And the story of your son really touched me. I hope everyone else will follow the lead.

Aziz speaking. So going on, moving on. Seun just read our statement. We have only 20 minutes left to discuss the statement. We're going to start a list, a queue, so everyone can take the floor, either to comment on the statement, either to



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make shorter comments so I have Emmanuel [inaudible], Dev. I now your name, but it's not coming.

So we're going to start with Emmanuel. Please speak slowly so our interpreters can translate. Emmanuel, you have the floor.

EMMANUEL:

Right. I'd first like to thank all of those who worked on the drafting of the statement in the name of AFRALO and AfrICANN, through the different working groups. They have done great work, and I wouldn't want to forget to thank them in the name of Africans, I'll say they are the ones who have great standing to me, and I thank them for that.

Specifically on the statement we have to go faster, so I have a comment on the form and one on the merits. Regarding the form in the sixth paragraph, in the English version, it's the paragraph that starts with, although NTIA has recently etc.

In French we say [French] etc. So it's perhaps because it's perhaps a profession defamation, but regarding form, it's not right in such a statement to end the paragraph by saying [foreign language]. So we're just accusing them of not acting in not good faith by saying so. I think it's borderline diplomatic. So we could just say, we encourage... So instead of saying we invite, we encourage.

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So that's asking people to go further. We encourage them. So we encourage the CCWG and it's stakeholders to actively work in order to finalize its recommendations without further delays. So that's encouraging, but when we say in good faith, I think there is people if urged like that, they won't read the rest of the statement.

Then my second comment is on the merits. So when we speak of community empowerment, I think Tijani or someone else should define the community powers in the model that we are proposing, in the model that we are suggesting. But the voice of the community should be in the discussion. And then behind that, what seriously concerns me is the positioning that says it's not reasonable to recall Board members.

I think it's reasonable, but wouldn't it be? [Inaudible] thinking of sovereignty in the two means of popular sovereignty. What we know is the recall, and at the level of national sovereignty there is no chance of doing this. It's like why wouldn't we be able to recall Boards if we could impeach presidents?

You say it's not reasonable, but I don't think it makes sense. When you name someone to a position, through popular sovereignty you can always recall the person, even if the person, never mind how far they are in their term. If you take into

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account the fact that all Board members act for the community, let's take the [inaudible] for example.

What do we do if they're not acting for the benefit of the community? So there is always the possibility of recalling members. So it's not reasonable that we don't support this mechanism. I think it's very reasonable to be able to do it. We just have to think of the way to do it so that there is no abuse of it. But, there is challenges to this. When we challenge this, we risk capture, and this is something we are suggesting to avoid capture.

But this is a possibility we should keep, and that is what's going to assure that Board members will be careful because there is always the threat of being recalled. See? Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. Thank you Immanuel. Now [inaudible].

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

Can I speak Arabic? Okay, I'll speak French. Right. Of course, I join all the others in thanking the members of the committee and all of the people who have worked at ICG and other committees as well. We must certainly also thank the authors of this document. No progress can be achieved without criticism,

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so it's presented as criticism and I think this is good for diversity and for progress.

I'd like to come back to two points that were mentioned on the one hand, what Pierre Dandjinnou said regarding African participation. I think we must look at each other, it's good to look at each other face to face. I have [inaudible] it's good to look at each other in the eye and say there is something to be done.

It's not a deficit of human capacity that has prevented us from doing that so far. It's just that none of the institutions, none of the sovereign African institutions has ever participated in this matter of ICANN reform, and no constituency at ICANN has been called to listening to Africa specifically.

So I think we're going to have to think of that specifically now. The other day, Tijani asked our CEO to think of the creation of an African office. I think that is a very important starting point. I think we should compare the role of the offices in the [outer] regions, and compare it with us, because what do they do?

It's nothing different from what we do. We don't have a federal element that keeps the wheels turning. We're not building capacity. We're intervening here, there, and sometimes we're even [inaudible] because ICANN, don't forget it, is a big machine.

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So we can neither attack it on the front or behind, we can only accompany the movement, and that's no good.

That's my first comment, and I think we must absolutely solve the matter of institutions. Secondly, I'd like to go back to the document. With all due respect, I think with the developments of the past week, the document must truly be amended. It must truly be changed so that it will take into account everything that has been done during the week.

Now going back to what I care for the most, every time we speak of NTIA and IANA, I think it's not a new project. It's not a new discussion. This goes back to 1998 and to the creation of ICANN. This question has always been debated, and no one ever seem to be interested in it because it was all part of a big commitment that we couldn't speak of.

A big commitment not to be spoken of, and NTIA, IANA, I think it seems now as if we only started to discussing it two years ago.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. You have no time left, I'm sorry. You've gone over two minutes already, and we're going to give everyone two minutes, so please wrap up.

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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] speaking. Yes, excuse me, so I'll wrap up here. We've been discussing it since Netmundial, and I would have wanted to see an explanation in this document why NTIA and IANA are discussed now. Why is it only now that we start discussing it? It's a bit what Tijani and [inaudible] said.

Why is it today, a strategic discussion, for ICANN sovereignty?

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you. I'm sorry, says Aziz, everyone needs to comment and I ask you to please respect the time that is given to you so that everyone can take the floor. Now Dev, go ahead.

Let me tell you as well that Dev has just been appointed by AFRALO for the NomCom, he's appointed to the NomCom. So we congratulate you Dev.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you Aziz says Dev. I would like to comment briefly on the English version. You say it means the whole directors, except the CEO. [Inaudible] means the whole directors. I think it's a grammar issues, she said the whole Board except the CEO. And on the English version as well, the replacement of the recalled directors, avoiding a reduced interim Board will solve several stop. So we should go on there, there is something missing.

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AZIZ HILALI: Aziz speaking. Yes Dev, can you please send these comments in writing to Tijani and Barack? Because they're the ones that can note. Now, I had Jameson, Alan, Tijani, and then Pierre, and then the gentlemen from Senegal. What's your name? [Inaudible]. So now Jameson. Am I right?

JAMESON: Thank you very much. I want to firstly thank all those working on moving African opinion forward in ICG, CCWG, and this community. I would like to comment on Pierre's statements earlier, and then say something about the statements that have been put forward. I want to thank Pierre. Pierre has been quite engaged in the African continent concerning the business stakeholders.

But we cannot continue to talk about regrets. The industry is not there. We need to be positive, we need to continue to double our efforts in outreach. Outreach our government and with the respect to private sector, and Mark mentioned something similar earlier.

So outreach must continue, and there must be continuous engagement between all stakeholders, governments, Civil Society, and the business. Then secondly, on coordination, the

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ICG work. I think the ICG should still be involved in the implementation, because when you look at coordination it's about [inaudible] all the various functions of the components of the system.

So just feel that we should have that in mind. Then lastly, on the statement before us, I have two comments. The one is respective paragraph five, and that is to say we might need to specify some of the issues of concern, why we need to conclude, the CCWG to conclude this work on time.

And specifically I want to add that is after we have the last line, that is timeline, in view of implication, for example, ICANN FY 17 budget preparation, another concern. So if we have those specifics we need to put them there.

And the last point has been expressed before, that is regard to split the Board. I think the other speakers put it very well. It's possible to appoint somebody fresh and we have a need to recall a person, so we should have that, so it's not unreasonable, you know, to have that. So thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you Jameson. Now Alan is going to take the floor so that he can answer Immanuel's question.



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ALAN GREENBERG: ...less than my two minutes, so I'll give you some time back. Two quick questions, two quick comments. First of all, to echo what a number of people have said, but Immanuel was the first one, I think you want to be careful in not stating opinions as facts, because someone who holds the opposite opinion, at that point, often stops reading.

So you may disagree with someone, and you may disagree strongly, and emotion is an important reason why some of you are so involved, but if you state a position as a fact, the person who disagrees with you will often just stop reading. So I think you have to be careful when you're doing that.

The second thing is we've heard a number of comments about needing to get a lot more people into this process, and the growth we've seen in Africa, but I have to say there is a number of people in this room that I've known for 20 years. So there are a few people that have been around, and this long and deep roots in Africa in working on technology. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you Alan for minding time says Aziz. Tijani, do you want to add anything on that reply? Okay yeah. Let's hear Pierre first.

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PIERRE DANDJINO: Pierre speaking. Thank you. What I wanted to say is not about what's written here, but it's about what's not written. We speak of the different elements in all of the rest, but one of the main points that is underlined here is this inertia that we were speaking of, inertia at the African level. It's an inertia which, in spite of the effort of our defenders, which whom, both of whom must be congratulated and thanked, mean that we are present.

But we're not to hide from ourselves everything that we've left behind, and everything that we have by default. So I think it may be within the document, or [inaudible] but we must remind AFRALO members and the members from all African structures from our position of [guard?] because we are at the forefront of the process, and so we must remind them that there is a lot of work to be done.

And we have two champions here who must be congratulated for all of the work that's been done and all of the difficulties left behind. I've heard many people say this, but truly their work is wonderful, and Africa has a lot of pride to take in what they do. So they must be commended, but we must still acknowledge there is a lot of work to be done back home.

I don't know how you want to put this, but that's the idea.

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AZIZ HILALI: Aziz speaking. Thank you Pierre for all your encouragement. We're now going to give the floor to the last participant, because we have but four minutes left. Now it's [inaudible] from Senegal.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] speaking. Thank you Mr. Chair. I thank you all. I'm glad to participate at this meeting, and I come from Senegal. So having come all of the way here, I want to express my gratitude to all of those who have contributed this much to ICANN, who have managed to come this far. We're not there yet, as Pierre just said, but when I look at the text, one the second page, you speak of the power to recall members, and this was already been, this has already been said, but we need to have sanction powers and recall powers.

When we speak of it, as we speak of it, next door people are trying to discuss other very important issues as well, so in the way that things happen, we feel like our opinion hasn't been heard. We never know if we made ourselves clear, and we never know if people understand what we mean, or if there haven't been enough interventions from Africa.

A lot of the time it has been said that they expect more African participation, but it's mostly what I want to say that it's up to us, it's up to the new generation to represent the voice of Africa.

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Africa has a lot to say, and every stream even louder our voice would be heard further.

So how can we be stronger together so that we can really have an impact through our voice? So that our voice could really be heard so that no one forgets what we really want? That's what I wanted to say. I thank you and I'm truly very, very happy to be able to participate here. I hope can do so at Marrakesh too, because African countries will have an opportunity there to come all together.

We always wonder what the stakes are at ICANN, and the stakes of Internet. Deep down, it's, we do realize that our governance don't always understand what they need to do, and our meetings constitute a platform from which we can make them understand what they need to do so that the dialogue can be improved. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. Thank you. We have but a couple of minutes left now, so we're going to skip the closing remarks. And I'm now going to give the floor to Tijani. I'm going to ask you, Tijani, to briefly explain the element we've all heard of, which is the stress 18. And then if you could also answer to the questions. We thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you Aziz. Tijani speaking. I'll try to go fast. Pierre Dandjinou makes, we make a statement here for the Board, for the different ICANN working groups, because we intend to have an impact in the decision within ICANN. That's why we deal with current issues at ICANN. I will make statements that are addressed to the Board and to the different working groups. So what you say is very important, and will probably draft a separate statement that will then be addressed to the community.

Going back to the matter of good faith. Good faith has been mentioned a number of times at the CCWG because I don't know, I'm not sure how to say that reinforcements, because of the reinforcement of the powers that the community wishes to have. They're always speaking of good faith. They ask for good faith. A lot of people say we mustn't rely on good faith.

So, we say in good faith here not to shock people, or to be hard on them. We don't want to come down too hard on them, it's just to take once again the same language, but of course it can be removed because there has been so many comments on it. So we're going to paraphrase, and say otherwise.

Then it's not reasonable, that was another matter, is unreasonable to recall ICANN Board directors. We didn't say it

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was unreasonable, on the contrary, we say in the paragraph before, that we suggest that the community have one single power, because we have the power to recall Board members.

And so the power to recall individual Board members is one of the powers, and then there is, on the other hand, the power to recall the entire Board. We ask that there be a single mechanism so as to simplify because we think individual members must be removed by the entire community.

Contrary to what the CCWG and most people say, and what most people want, because they want to have the particular SO and AC who appointed him to the Board be the only ones with the power to recall that member. On the contrary, what we say is that we want to have a single power in which it is always the community recalling the member.

And given that it's the community that's going to recall the member, it can recall one member or all of the Board. So that same power is going to give them the possibility to have both powers into one. But in the end, we say that recalling Board members, because there are always people who have only just been appointed, others are in the middle of the term and others are about to leave.

So we said recalling someone who has just been appointed makes no sense. That's what we say. So of course, we must

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have the power to recall Board members, but if we have just appointed someone and we want to recall them, that sounds unreasonable. That's what we said. We'll change it. Okay, fine.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. If you please, we're going to take this offline. Now let me conclude on what was said here. Three more minutes. We've only got three minutes left.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Hold on, you're stressing me says Tijani. We're speaking of stress test 18. So stress test 18. You know that governments participating in the GAC are members of an advisory committee, so the advice ICANN but their statements and their communiques must be [inaudible] by the Board. So if there is a negative answer, the Board must find a means to achieve consensus with the GAC in order to solve the issue.

That's a current bylaw. When the power was delegated to the community, there was no difference made. And so, some said this is going to give governments more power. So the NTIA is going to reject the proposal. So we don't have to give more power to the governments, so as not to have a proposal that will be rejected by the NTIA.

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That's why we started working with this stress test 18. That's we started working on it. So governments must either be advisors, as they are today, with this advantage of having the power to have an impact on the Board's decisions, or else be part of the community and participate as members of the community. But they cannot have this advantage. That's the aim of stress test 18.

I don't share this idea that we cannot find the means for this question to be solved though, that we can have an impact on it, because GAC governments, of course, will never decide on it. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Aziz speaking. Thank you very much. So that's the end of our AFRALO AfrICANN joint meeting. I would like to invite you all to my Marrakesh [inaudible], come all ye merry. As you know, every time there is an ICANN meeting in a region, we try to organize showcases. So in Marrakesh we intend to have a great showcase with all Africans. I hope there will be many of us.

And representatives of French speaking countries will help us, I hope, organize a big meeting so that we can have as many African participants as possible. And of course, we rely on stuff who have always been so helpful to us. We thank them. We



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thank the interpreters. We thank you all for having attended this meeting, and see you all in Marrakesh in March. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**