
GISELLA GRUBER:

Hello. Welcome to all of you for this AFRALO call on Wednesday, May the 13th at 6:38. In English, we have Chris, Barrack Otieno, Dave Kissoondoyal, Alan Greenberg, and Mwendwa Kivuva.

On the French channel, we have Brahim Ousmane, Cedric Kingnga Yindu, Aziz Hilali, Baudouin Schombe, and Tijani Ben Jemaa.

We have excuses from Mohamed El Bashir, Hadja Ouattara, and Beran.

From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, [inaudible], and myself, Gisella Gruber.

Our interpreters tonight are Camila and Isabelle. I would like to remind you to please state your name, not only for the interpreters so that they might be able to identify which channel you are on, but also for identifying who is speaking.

Thank you very much. We will now start.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Gisella. Hello to all. Hello to everyone. I am very glad to see all of you. I can see that we have several people here.

Tijani? Is there a problem, Tijani? Can I keep...? I am very glad to have all of you here. We will now start this meeting for the month of May.

I would like to first start by saying that there are two important things that I would like to stress or to highlight. During this meeting I would like to spend a little more time on those.

We have some work that needs to be done over the next month because we only have one month and one week, or just a little bit over, until the meeting that will be held in Buenos Aires. We barely have a week – actually, a week exactly – until public comments on the transition and about ten days or so or a little bit more until the deadline for contributions on accountability.

We would like over the next week or so to address the topic, and we would like to form a drafting committee so that AFRALO might be able to give their perspective on those two crucial points because those two points are extremely important for the future.

If there is somebody who would like to speak to start, I will start with public comments, and then right after that, I will give the floor possibly to Alan Greenberg because he came with us and I know that he cannot be with us for more than an hour.

Alan, if you would like to speak right after the first point, you are more than welcome to do so.

Now at first, public comments: we have six of them. Let's go over the first one quickly because it has to do with the naming and country codes that we mentioned during the two meetings that we had before – .Hamburg and so forth, the three of them – and so now the comments period is closed.

As for as the second point, the complete report that is available to be downloaded has to do with the point that I would like to discuss a little bit more as far as the IANA transition. The report can be downloaded on the ICANN website. It is the complete report that was directed by the

CCWG. It also contains all of the resources that have been set up as far as public comments, and they all appear on the page under the third point in that topic.

For all of you who would like to contribute to the discussion and give your comments, I would like to invite you to go and download that report to read it. I will actually give you the link on the Adobe Connect.

Now, the next point is CCWG. The deadline of June 3rd and the feedback that I think has been asked from the committee by the CCWG: What are the improvements that we can set into place as far as improving the accountability of ICANN and the necessity for these improvements to be identified before the IANA transition?

In order to give time for comments to the community before ICANN 53 in June, and given the situation, I think that Tijani can talk about that since he is a member of this group and he can give some details later. There are problems in terms of dependencies and between accountability and the transition work. So what was determined was that the maximum length allotted to this public comment should be 30 days, that is May 4th to June 3rd.

Fifth point: the Stakeholder Group. That group, the stakeholder of the gTLD and GNSO, introduced a series of revisions to its chart in order to figure out Phase 1 of the work of the stakeholders GNSO.

So the group The Structural Improvements Committee – the SIC Group, that is its name – asked that we might have a public consultation forum in order to get comments from the community as far as the amendments.

The last point, again, is the GNSO and the consultation. That should be open so that we might get comments on the initial report on the process of policy development at the GNSO.

So that is what I have to say for that point. Now, we will move on to the report. But before, as I said, I would like to give the floor to Alan Greenberg, if you allow me, so that he might be able to explain the meeting that he had.

Would you like to say something, Alan?

ALAN GREENBERG:

Yes, thank you. I will try to say something that is understandable. As you are likely aware, the U.S. government, which has overseen the IANA function, the part of the core Internet that manages the root zone, has said they are willing to give that up. The various communities that use IANA – the naming community within ICANN; the IETF, which uses IANA to store protocol parameters; and the RIRs, where IANA is essentially the group that gives out IP addresses – are all preparing plans on how to transition away from the U.S. government.

The Cross-Community Working Group on Transition initially issued a draft report at the beginning of December that the ALAC found not acceptable at all. Fortunately, the situation has changed a lot since then, and we now have a proposal which is largely acceptable to the ALAC and certainly to most people in the ALAC and At-Large who have been involved.

Where we are right now is we are looking at the proposal and putting together some comments to submit to ICANN. As was mentioned, the formal deadline for submitting comments is the 4th of June, I believe.

However, since it's going to take some time to pull together what the formal At-Large comment is, the ALAC comment, and we have to get it approved, we would like all comments to be in by the end of this week so that we can draft a statement for further discussion.

In addition to the ALAC statement, any individual person or group, including AFRALO, is able to submit a separate statement that says whatever they want to say. And once the ALAC submits a statement, you could also choose to support that statement and say you agree with it.

So that's where we are right now. The overall proposal that has been published most of us think is quite acceptable. There is one large exception, and that is we believe that the control of the new IANA function should have more of a multi-stakeholder environment associated with it and not be largely just registries.

We will be putting in a comment thing. We want more involvement from other stakeholders outside of the GNSO and ccNSO. We will be submitting comments on a lot of other small points, but that's really the major point.

The other issue which has been discussed is, in the current proposal, the IANA will be a separate company. So it will be controlled and owned by ICANN but as a separate company. There are some people who feel that it should not be separate, that it should be just a department within

ICANN. There are other people, however, who believe that if it is not a separate company with a formal contract, that it is not an acceptable plan and they will not accept it. So that's one of the other issues that we're looking at.

I think that's really all I have to say. But I certainly welcome any questions if anyone has any. One of the leading people within At-Large who has been working on this project with is Seun Ojedeji from Nigeria, who I presume is on the call. He may have something to say himself.

I guess that's all I really have to say, unless there's any questions.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Alan. Seun is with us, actually, and it is planned in the agenda that he might talk about the working group that has been working on this transition, the CWG. He will actually speak a little bit later.

Are there direct questions to Alan so far? I think Tijani would like to speak. Go ahead, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Merci, Aziz. I would like to correct Alan on one point. It is not on the 4th of June but on the 20th of June as far as the deadline.

I am afraid that the interpretation is in the French channel and not in the English channel.

ALAN GREENBERG:

We have both in both channels.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Oh, okay. Alan, the problem is that you said the deadline is the 4th of June. For the CWG, the deadline is the 20th of May.

ALAN GREENBERG: Oh, I'm sorry. Then I got the wrong date.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. That's all. Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG: Have we lost all channels now?

INTERPRETER: Tijani, you are on the English channel and Aziz wanted to make sure that you were done.

AZIZ HILALI: As far as the agenda, we talked about the different activities that ALAC organized, and I wanted to ask Seun and Tijani to speak as representatives of AFRALO in the other group.

What I would like to do is, first, give the floor to Seun, as far as the CWG on the transition of the IANA function, and then we will ask Tijani to speak about that as well.

Seun, can you hear us and would you like to speak?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes, I can hear you. Thank you very much, Aziz. [inaudible]

INTERPRETER: Seun, I am very sorry. This is the interpreter. Seun, I am very, very sorry, but the sound is extremely bad and I was asked to tell you that we will give you the floor a little bit later because I cannot understand. My line is very muffled. I can't really hear you. I'm so sorry.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Okay. Okay. Can you hear me now?

INTERPRETER: Excuse me?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Can you hear me?

INTERPRETER: It's very hard to understand.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello?

INTERPRETER: It is very hard to understand.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Now can you hear me?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Seun, as soon as your mic issue is fixed, we will give you the floor, but right now we're going to ask Tijani to speak.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: There was an error earlier. I was connected to the English channel, but now I am on the French channel. I will speak in French.

As far as the CCWG, the Accountability Cross-Community Working Group, as you know, the report went for public comment and there are two or three points.

First of all, there are rights that need to be given to the community. For example, in order to demote a Board member – that is the first thing – or to demote certain Board members. Sorry, there is interference on the line here.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello? Can you hear me now? Hello? Hello? Hello? Hello? Can you hear me?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Tomorrow we will have a question on accountability, and Olivier Crepin-Leblond will come to help us. That is why everybody is working on this.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: The other point is that we need to improve – how do we call that – the system that we use. As far as improving accountability, there was a public report that went...

SEUN OJEDEJI: Hello?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Hi, Seun. This is Heidi. We're going to get to you as soon as we can.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I will have a draft for the accountability that I will prepare, and I will submit it to the AfrICANN community. Then we will gather and discuss the report as far as it concerns the AfrICANN community. There will be a draft that I will write based upon our discussion, and I will try to gather public comments directly.

Then I will gather all the comments based on my draft, and then that will be submitted to the ALAC. So that is the means that we will use in order to gather comments.

I will stop with this, Aziz. But if there are any questions, I am more than happy to answer the questions.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani. I would like to [trust] what you just said to highlight the fact that it is an excellent idea that AFRALO – we have always been a RALO that has been following what has been going on in ICANN. So based upon your proposal, if Seun can hear us, the idea is that we ask AFRALO to come up with a comment on both of those topics because both of those topics are high-level or are important and there is a lot of pressure. I think that it is important that AFRALO has something to say about that, that has a contribution.

I think that this is important. We need to involve all of the AfrICANN community. We need to use our community. However, because the deadline is tight, I think that I would like to propose that Seun might be in charge of a drafting committee that prepares a draft on this IANA transition.

I propose that he might give the opinion of the AfrICANN community, and I would like to have a draft by Tijani, as you proposed, and that both of those drafts might be sent to the AFRALO, the AfrICANN community, as well as to the list that we use for the AfrICANN community.

Afterwards, once we have agreed or if we get to an agreement together on that, we might use both of those drafts, that we might figure out what the comment is by the AfrICANN community. And once the meeting is there, once we are in Buenos Aires, we might gather both of these statements in order that we might make it one comment, one common opinion, by the AfrICANN community.

Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Yes, I agree. But I would like to correct one thing as far as the working group: one draft by Seun, one draft by myself, and then we submit these for commentary on the list. Once people have commented, we compile these and we have a common draft. I think that's a good approach.

Second point: you know the deadline is May 20th, so it is pretty urgent. In order to obtain comments, we need to actually have something ready before that date because we need to submit, then you need to get comments, and then you need to compile the comments. So we really need to work on this over the next two days.

As far as my draft, I have time; I can do it. We have until June 4th, but I would like to move fast so that things might move faster.

Now, Aziz, I couldn't find the words in French. I was confused about the whole English situation. I usually try to get ready with my notes, but I wasn't ready because of the confusion with the channels.

I think that we need to make sure that the community has tried as far as removing a Board member, as far as changing the status, and as far as rejecting, for example, a Board member.

Also, there are recommendations that were made in terms of independent review. I was looking earlier at what that was. That's the IAP. The idea would be to have a neutral panel with a neutral nomination of members.

We also propose that the decision from the panel might be compulsory, might have to be followed by the Board.

The third recommendation that we have is to improve the request process in order to include the action of the Board having to do with tasks with the fundamental values. The idea would be to change the review.

To go on with another important matter of the implementation is how we're going to apply that power. According to California law, the community stakeholders should establish an association so that they exist under the law in order to be able to have that power. So we're going to have an organization that wasn't a member, and it will turn into a member corporation, a chartering organization.

I'm not going to go into the potential issues [with percents], but for ICANN structure SOs and ACs must establish themselves as associations in order to be able to participate. The body that's going to act on behalf of the community is going to be a community group formed by associations of different representatives from the community.

The problem with this situation is that SOs and ACs could have other associations, such as government, for instance. Within the GAC, there are different organizations that make up the structure of that advisory committee.

The structure and the legal requirements must be respected. If they don't establish themselves as associations, who is going to cover that role? If ALAC becomes an association, for instance, and they have to respect California law, who's going to cover the expenses of their association? Who's going to be in California, and where are they going to have their headquarters, for instance?

I'm not going to go further into detail with this. This is all I'm going to say about that. Aziz takes the floor.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Tijani. Your first proposal was that you mentioned the draft, some sort of preliminary version, which is very accurate. You could speak of a different subject and the different possibilities, so that's going to cut back a lot of the work we have to do.

Seun wasn't able to speak because he couldn't make himself understand, but I understand that he wrote his comment on the chat. So now we're going to take a minute to read Seun's comment on the French channel. Everyone on the English channel, please hold on. We're going to read Seun's comments on the French channel.

Thank you very much. Now we have finished reading Seun's comments on the French channel. I believe there was also a comment by Alan, so we're going to take a minute to read that.

Can we please try again with Seun? If he can try to speak clearly, we'll see if we can understand what he's trying to say. But I understand his connection is not good, so otherwise...

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Hello? Can you hear me? [inaudible] Can you hear me now?

INTERPRETER:

Please, hold on. I cannot understand you and Aziz at the same time.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible] with transition, and we're going to wait until the end of the week. At the end of the week, once we have this draft, we're going to send them on the list so that the entire AfriCANN community can have the opportunity of commenting on the draft and see if they want to make amendment to that draft that Seun and Tijani will be working on it. Once that draft will be adapted and validated, we're going to submit it to the ICG. Or rather I should say it's going to be posted for comments first for the AfriCANN community.

Are there any comments on these procedures that I have just explained? Tijani is asking for the floor, so, Tijani, go ahead.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes, I just I wanted to remind you all that the deadline for the public comments period for the CWG is May 20th. That is next Wednesday. Exactly we have seven days. Given that there is a weekend between and next Wednesday, we should bear that in mind.

AZIZ HILALI: Yes, that's exactly what I said. I said the deadline is May 20th, and that is why I had been discussing on the matter with Seun. He said he's going to send his contributions before the end of the week.

Seun, if hear us, please try to send us the draft tomorrow. If you do so, the committee will then have 48 hours within which to send their comments. It is only after those 48 hours that we will start working on

the consolidation of all those comments from the AfricANN community. Once we have finished that work, we're going to send that new version with the comments before May 20th.

What I just said, of course, is also applicable to what Tijani just said, that is, the matter of accountability. Since we have a deadline, which is June 3rd, we're going to work in the same way, more or less. About 48 hours will be allowed for this community to make comments.

Are there any comments at this point? No? I think Seun just wrote something on the chat. I'm going to read it into the French channel now. Please hold.

"Before Friday" says in his note. Okay, that's good. Just please make sure it's Friday at the latest.

On Adobe Connect, there is a comment saying that people must absolutely be able to send their comments regarding the agenda of our meeting. For the public comment period, we're going to have to make sure.

INTERPRETER:

I think Aziz just got disconnected. Let me check.

He's back.

AZIZ HILALI:

Now, is there anyone wishing to take the floor at this point? Okay.

We're going to move on to the next item on the agenda, which is the joint AFRALO-AfricANN meeting which we just discussed. This is what

we're proposing for the joint meeting. I think we should discuss these same subjects that we're going to try to do.

On the basis of that list, we're going to draft a statement. Once we have that statement, a draft statement, we're going to discuss that preliminary version, and we're going to work within a reduced group to finalize our joint statement. That will be voted on and adopted at the joint meeting.

Do you all agree? If there are any objections, this is the time to express yourself. Do you all agree or do you have anything to say?

Yeah, for now I think we have action items which are to be voted on before Friday. Tijani's going to be working on the draft between today and Saturday, and we're going to receive a draft on AFRALO and AfrICANN and their joint meeting. We're going to allow 48 hours for the community to make their comments.

Once that draft version is validated by the community, we're then going to appoint people to represent it. A small community formed by the AfrICANN that is going to discuss this matter and the matter of accountability.

There's a second action item. It's the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting draft statement on two issues, among which is accountability, and we're going to form a working group that will be led by Tijani and where Seun will also work with Tijani in order to prepare a draft statement on these two subjects that we have defined.

I hope I was clear enough, Silvia.

We're now going to move on to another item in our agenda. Before that, I'd like to know whether there are any comments on the AFRALO-AfrICANN joint meeting. Otherwise, we're going to move onto the next item. Good.

We're going to move onto the next item. That's the new ALS application. Over the past 13 days, we held elections for our positions. There was a position for an ALAC representative.

Seun Ojedeji was designated. We didn't have any other candidates. Given that the nomination period is over, all the people that have proposed are going to automatically be appointed to those positions. Seun Ojedeji is going to be the representative of ALAC until 2017. He's, of course, going to represent AFRALO.

I have personally been nominated for a second term as Chair of AFRALO. The third position that we were to fill was filled by Mohamed El Bashir as an AFRALO official as well.

Now for our new term until 2016, we have a friend of ours whose name, I'm sorry, I couldn't understand is going to fill this new position.

If any of these people who have been appointed wish to take the floor, this is the time to do so. No? There are no hands raised, either, so we're going to move on.

I guess we're going to have a short meeting today, which is so much the better for all of us participating here today. We have Dave Kissoondoyal raising his hand.

Dave, if you're on the English channel, I can hear nothing but a faint echo. We cannot hear you.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Okay. I'm trying to voice off my opinion, but let us hope that our friends...

INTERPRETER: [inaudible] Please, hold on. I'll let Aziz know that you are.

Right, Dave. You can go on.

DAVEV KISSOONDOYAL: Okay. First of all, I'd like to thank the members who have supported my self-nomination for the ALAC voting delegate to the NomCom.

The ALAC is not unknown to me. In the past, I have been a member of the ALAC. I have been an executive member of the ALAC, so I'm getting another opportunity to bring my contribution to the ALAC. So I want to thank all the members who have supported my self-nomination.

AZIZ HILALI: Wonderful, Dave. Thank you very much. We hope to see you again among the [inaudible] because as you just said, you used to be an ALAC member.

Fatimata is raising her hand, and she can take the floor.

INTERPRETER: Very faint audio. She's asking whether we can hear her.

AZIZ HILALI: Yes, we hear you. We still manage to hear you a bit. Can you speak closer to the mic?

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: I'm glad if you can hear me. I'm very happy to be here today. I would like to congratulate Dave on his appointment. I'm sure he'll do a grand, wonderful job, and I'm sure he will be a great asset, like I said.

INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. I'm doing my best, but I really cannot hear her.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: We're going to work on the business of accountability. Even though I'm not always able to participate at meetings, you're always with me in my heart and in my soul. I still belong in AFRALO, and I'm still thinking of you always.

That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Fatimata. I heard you. Maybe the interpreters couldn't exactly hear you. Have they interpreted, or were they not able to interpret Fatimata?

First, I would like to say to Fatimata that we're going to miss her greatly. I'm going to sum up what she said. I could not repeat everything she said, but she has been a member of AFRALO for many years.

First she congratulated Dave, and she said she's sure he's going to do a wonderful job. Then she explained that she is no longer a candidate for positions, and she explained some more of the situation that she has left and explained the new responsibilities she has, which prevent her from participating at every ICANN meeting.

She said she will always be with us and will participate at meetings as much as possible, but she explained that she cannot always participate. Still, she said she will always have us in our hearts and she will always be present with us. That's all.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Thank you. Yes, that's exactly what I intended to say. You have summed it up beautifully.

AZIZ HILALI: Would anyone like to take the floor? I think we have a number of people here who know Fatimata very well. Would anyone like to take the floor?

I would like to add how grateful we are. I am personally very grateful to everyone who supported my nomination, and I will always strive to uphold AFRALO within the same standards that we have always worked towards at ICANN.

I think our RALO will always be considered among the most active within ALAC, and that's thanks to you all who are here who work to prepare statements and joint statements.

You see, our statements aren't only important for our RALO but for the entire community, for the entire AfrICANN community. And this is a very important time in which we live because we're working on the transition for IANA stewardship, and we're trying to improve the accountability of ICANN.

Now Tijani will take the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Aziz. I just wanted to clarify regarding something that Seun said: that this is going to be AFRALO's position, AFRALO's opinion. And at the end of the ICANN meeting, we're going to discuss our statements with AfrICANN, and it will only be after that meeting that it is going to be a joint statement.

AZIZ HILALI:

So what you suggest is that the draft that will be proposed only be distributed at the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Yes.

AZIZ HILALI:

Okay. I agree. Are there any other interventions? Right.

The following item on the agenda is new ALS applications. We have two applications. Nathalie Peregrine from staff has sent the documents corresponding to each of those applications.

On the one hand, we have the High Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youth from Nigeria, and we have ISOC Zimbabwe. To the best of my knowledge, these two applications are well-justified and well-grounded, and I think these organizations should be accredited by ourselves as ALAC ALSes.

Barrack, would you like to speak?

INTERPRETER: Hi, Barrack. Aziz is giving you the floor. I think you might be muted. I'm not hearing you. Please check.

BARRACK OTIENO: Hello?

INTERPRETER: Hello. Yes, you can go ahead.

BARRACK OTIENO: Okay. Yes, I would like to agree with Aziz that the two organizations, the High Tech Centre for Nigerian Women and Youth and ISOC Zimbabwe, should be accredited. There are some background checks, and both have also gone through the due diligence treatment. Both in the document and on the ground, the organizations are actively involved in

promoting [inaudible] development within their respective countries, so I support the position that Aziz has mentioned.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Barrack. So that's what we had to say, Barrack and I, about these new ALS applications. We propose that our RALO give positive feedback on these two applications, that both ALSes be accredited. Unless there is any opposition, we'll understand that you will agree with this.

Great. So I take it you all agree? Silvia, please add an action item. If Barrack agrees, Silvia, please write that Barrack is going to send to Nathalie the positive advice from AFRALO regarding the applications of these two ALSes.

I think actually that it's Barrack who has to decide on the accreditation, so actually I'm going to ask him to send to ALAC, not Nathalie because ALAC has to decide. So I'm going to ask Barrack to send his positive comments to ALAC for these two ALSes to be accredited. Wonderful.

We are now down to the last item on the agenda, and that's any other business. Is there any other business?

For the meeting, I would just like to say that, regarding Argentina, I have an idea. In Africa, the Argentine consulate isn't always present in our countries. For instance, Beran could not get a visa because when she applied for a visa, she was told that she had to go to Nigeria in order to apply for a visa. So she had to travel in order to get it, which was not possible for her.

She could not get the visa she needed, and so there was an [entire] discussion within the ALAC regarding Beran's case. That is, unfortunately, something that happens quite often.

Alan, are you still with us? Could you give us your opinion on what happened with Beran?

Apparently we do not have Alan with us. Tijani, do you have any news to give us as far as that's concerned?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

No, Aziz, I do not have any new information on that. There were some reactions on the part of the community. And if it's true that it is an issue, that really creates a lot of problems for us in Africa that is not an issue for people coming from Europe or from America. But it remains an issue because as far as diplomatic representation, there is always an issue with African countries.

Fatimata, I think you would like to take the floor. Go ahead, Fatimata.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

I would like to say that I could have come to Europe to get my visa, but that is difficult.

INTERPRETER:

I'm sorry. This sounded very, very low for Fatimata.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

So as far as I'm concerned, I cannot go, and the issue is an issue of visa.

AZIZ HILALI: Yeah. Beran complained about that. I knew about him, but you're right. You also will need to miss the meeting because of the issue of the visa and that is a problem.

Tijani, you wanted to speak. I'm sorry, [inaudible]. If you would like to speak, go ahead.

FATIMATA SEYE SYLLA: Somebody called me back so that I might be able to actually be heard. Nobody heard me except for my president, but it seems like it's better now. My sound is better.

Hello? Hello? Okay. One second. [inaudible] will speak now. One second, Fatimata.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello, everyone. I am so glad to meet the new AFRALO team. In terms of the ISOC-ALS, we wanted to talk about Internet governance. We have been starting since September, and we should also be able to work on that with the AfrICANN community.

There is an event organized September 8th through 12th. As far as the official accreditation of the ISOC-ALS in ICANN, on the 24th of January, we had an event as far as the Internet ecosystem. We had about 200 participants during the event. That's what I wanted to share with the community.

Also, as an ALS, there was a presentation as far as the Internet ecosystem. And if there are members of AFRALO who would like to be involved in the event, I am available if you would like to communicate with me.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you, [inaudible]. I'm going to repeat what you just said for the interpreters because the sound wasn't that great. First of all, [inaudible], I am so pleased to know that you are involved again as far as the event that you are putting together as far as the ALS and the ISOC chapter.

As you already know, the chapter, there is some money that you can use. And as an ALS, you don't have any money but you have some possibilities to have one person from AFRALO or a person from the Board from ICANN to be a speaker and to help with transportation costs.

You still have time for that, and if you need for me to help you with that request, feel free to write me an e-mail and to let me know who you would like as an ICANN speaker.

Again, congratulations for everything that you do. As far as Fatimata – I don't know if she's left – this is what she said, and I would like the interpreters to relay that to the English channel. We talked about Beran, and Fatimata also had the issue.

She didn't write to ICANN to explain the situation, but she also will be unable to be in Buenos Aires because of the visa issue. She lives in Dakar, and in Senegal there is no diplomatic representation there. So as

far as Fatimata, she would have had to have gone to Morocco. That is what she would have needed to do in order to go to Argentina.

That means a one- to two-week wait, and she would have had to miss work for that period of time, so that is something that was not possible. She complained of this great hardship.

So here are two examples of members of our community who are unable to get involved to participate in the ICANN meeting because of the visa issue.

Tijani, I think you wanted to speak? Okay. Very well.

If there aren't any other members who would like to take the floor, I would like to thank all of you for your presence. I would like to also thank Camila and Isabelle for their work – difficult work, I know. I would like to thank Silvia, Gisella, and Heidi to have been with us today. I think I might have forgotten other people from staff. Please excuse me if I did.

Thank you, everyone. I look forward to our next meeting next month. I wish you an excellent day or an excellent night. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]