

Tijani BEN JEMAA

This is my statement regarding my candidacy for the position of ALAC Chair.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by Alan Greenberg, and before him Olivier Crépin Leblond, and before both Cheryl Landon-Orr who use to be the ALAC Chair when I joined. Cheryl was the one who believed in my various initiatives since my early days in the community and pushed strongly to make them happen. I can't speak about Jacqueline Morris (Trinidad & Tobago) and Annette (Germany), the 2 very first chairs of ALAC because I wasn't there during their respective terms.

When I joined ICANN in 2008, At-Large was for me the right constituency to belong to because as civil society activist, in this Internet environment, the only interest I was committed to lobby for is the public interest by opposition to the political and commercial ones.

As soon as I started my activity in At-Large (AFRALO), I initiated a request for capacity building for the African ALSes. As it was an unusual request, it took a certain time to be accepted and the first face to face capacity building in the whole At-Large was held in Dakar 2011. It was a success thanks to all those who contributed in the preparation and execution of the program, namely the AFRALO leaders and the staff.

Before we managed to get the Capacity Building program accepted, we organized the first RALO Show-Case in Nairobi, March 2010. This kind of event became then a standing activity for the whole RALOs

To reach a common position on the ICANN hot topics, I also initiated a standing joint meeting gathering all the African community members at ICANN to discuss and adopt a common position that we transmit to the ICANN Board and to the concerned parties (the concerned Working Group if the issue is still under consideration in the WG, etc.). It is the African space that is now replicated for several other regions.

At the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF), I noticed that the contribution of ICANN was mainly an ICANN open forum, where ICANN senior officials speak about ICANN, its Multi-Stakeholder model and its bottom-up decision making process.

I argued that the ICANN community should also participate in IGF with substantial contribution, not only to promote ICANN and its multi-stakeholder model, etc., but also to show those who didn't believe in it that in ICANN, the community has positions that might be different from the ICANN org and ICANN Board. I then proposed, with the help of the AFRALO leaders, to hold a workshop in Vilnius, Lithuania, November 2010, that was accepted by the IGF MAG, and put as feeder to one of the main sessions. In the absence of the ICANN funding, the IGF secretariat proposed that the UNDP funds our participation. The Workshop got an excellent participation (full room). Later, ICANN accepted to fund substantial contribution from the community at IGF; That's how AFRALO got funded for their workshops in Baku, Bali, Guadalajara and Geneva. Other RALOs and ICANN community also did hold successful IGF workshops thanks to the ICANN funding.

Another initiative I had was the "local community engagement" during ICANN meetings held in Africa, and with the support of the AFRALO leaders, we started implementing it in Durban, July 2013 where we brought to the meeting venue students, teachers and NGO activists from several parts of South Africa and Zimbabwe. As a result, 2 new ALS and an individual joined AFRALO. Since Durban, we always do this activity whenever the ICANN meeting is held in Africa (Marrakech, Johannesburg, ...).

Since I took over the leadership of the At-Large Capacity Building Working Group, webinars are organized on hot topics at ICANN and on other topics that the community requests. In fact, the topics addressed for these webinars are suggested by the community members. We are holding between 9 and 12 webinars per year on a regular basis.

I'm deeply involved in the ICANN Finance & Budget (Vice chair of the FBSC for several years). Being member of the ICANN finance ad hoc group since its inception in June 2012, I participated in the improvement of the

budget planning process, and all the interactions between the CFO team and the community regarding the yearly budget and operating plan.

I had significant contributions in some cross community working groups such as new gTLD Joint Applicant Support working group, the Meeting Strategy Working Group and the CCWG Accountability that I'm now one of the 3 co-Chairs.

I also participated in the CWG Stewardship transition as an observer.

This is a sample of my activities and how I work: always making initiatives and working continuously to better serve the community.

As I said, the previous ALAC Chairs did wonderful work. This doesn't mean there is no room for improvement. If I'm selected, I pledge to improve the ALAC work both in the policy field and the working methods. I will work with the ALAC members and with the RALO leaders for the design and the execution of the work. The involvement of the maximum of the At-Large members (ALS members and individual ones) is our main goal. How to do it? We will find together, but a small idea is in each ICANN meeting, we get in touch with all ALSes and their respective communities, as well as individual members of the host country, speak to them and make them sense that we are interested in them and their local concerns, which will encourage them to contribute more, feeling that they are part of the active community (just an example).

I also intend to propose a specific task for each and every member of the ALAC according to their preferences. All ALAC members should feel that they are active parts of the team and work in a team spirit.

On the policy side, I see that we will have the compliance with GDPR of the whois registrant data and the new registration directory services for a while to work on. Also, new gTLD subsequent procedures will be the other policy issue for the upcoming period. ALAC involvement and substantial contribution should be significant. We will work together to find how, but I'm thinking of some kind of incentives for those who contribute on a regular basis.

On the At-Large review, we all together will continue the excellent work done so far. It is not a piece of cake, but we need to have it done.

From where I come?

I'm a retired Telecommunication Engineer with 3 skills: Broadcasting, Satellite control and Information Society

- Broadcasting:
I spent most of my professional carrier working in this field. I use to be the station manager of a TV station for 10 years before going to Satellite experience. And I came back to the broadcasting as Director for the network development.
- Satellite control:
I went on secondment to work with ARABSAT for 15 years as Satellite control engineer
- Information Society:
As Vice chair of the standing committee on Information and Communication of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), I participated in all the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) from the first PrepCom of the Geneva phase till the conclusion of the second phase. I was member of the WSIS Civil Society Bureau representing the Science and Technology Family. I then participated in some action lines implementation process, especially those driven by UNESCO.

Please note that I speak my mother tongue (Arabic), French, English, and a little bit German (very poor)

In conclusion, with my 6 years on the ALAC ALT (ExCom then ALT) and my 4 years as ALAC Vice Chair, I propose that we start together a new challenge of an innovative, participative, more robust and more visible ALAC.