
SINGAPORE – Enhanced Engagement with Africa
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ICANN – Singapore, Singapore

TAREK KAMEL:

Good morning everybody, and thank you very much Pierre for inviting me to moderate this session. I'm glad to be among African friends and many faces that we've been working together with for many years, whether in the development of the Africa strategy that had an excellent session yesterday - and I was very glad to attend part of it and see that now we're talking about phase two and about an additional project, in the same bottom-up process that was developed back in 2012, three years ago, in Mauritius. This program is more focused on a couple of programs of enhanced engagement with Africa.

This idea came very specifically during a call with our CEO, Fadi, and the African community last October, upon the decision of the Board of postponement, because someone said in the GAC today, "Cancellation of the Marrakech meeting." The Marrakech meeting has not been cancelled, it's been postponed, only as such. So part of the ideas that came up during the call, and that Fadi offered to the community, was how we could enhance our engagement in Africa, in addition to what's already being done, for preparation for the Marrakech meeting, to make it really a successful event next year, in 2016.

I understand from Pierre and colleagues that there's been a team working on four proposals, very specifically, that will be presented today about enhanced engagement. I will not say enhanced cooperation, but I'll say enhanced engagement. That's in preparation for the Marrakech

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meeting. I also will say that we were very glad that the African community has accepted the end decision.

Despite that, there's been reservations here and there, but there's been support and understanding, and there's a strong African presence here in Singapore, which reflects the ongoing commitment of the African community. The fourth project that I understand you've agreed upon are related to a high-level government meeting within the Marrakech meeting framework, which will be presented by the Deputy Chair of GAC from Africa. The second one is a pre-conference regulatory event, which I understand that Aziz will be presenting. The first one is related to NEPAD, the development which you'll be presenting, and the last one is related to capacity building and the new generation, very specifically, and focus on the new generation.

This is one of our purposes in Africa's engagement; to make sure that there's always fresh blood and ongoing input from new generations that are getting engaged more and more within the ICANN process and the multistakeholder process. With that, I welcome you all again, and I re-affirm the commitment of the management of enhanced engagement in Africa. We will provide the necessary resources in order to make these programs happen. I've committed that to Pierre and the team, together with Sally Costerton, so we'll make sure that those resources are available within the next period, in order to have a better preparation for the event in Marrakech. Pierre?

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much Tarek. I just wanted to inform you that today we do have French and English interpretation, so at least for our colleague



we apologize for yesterday, there was a few issues there, but finally we do have this interpretation. Also we are online, and we do have an Adobe connection, so we might be receiving comments or questions online as well. South Africa, especially [unclear 07:49] has also offered to have a five-minute presentation. You heard yesterday that they reached the landmark of one million registrations. The questions were come in of how did they do that, so they wanted to take at least five minutes to briefly elaborate on that. That's part of the sharing that we'd really like to promote across Africa.

TAREK KAMEL:

I also just wanted to mention that Cyrus Namazi is sitting at the end of the table. Cyrus is our Vice President at GDD. He's the second man in the GDD Group after Akram, so if you have any issues related to GDD in general, Cyrus kindly accepted to be with us in this session and take the questions, because sometimes they're related to procedural and detailed issues that we as an engagement team in GSE are not necessarily involved in. So it's better sometimes to hear from them, because they're the ICANN department that are in charge.

PIERRE DANDJINO:

Dr. Katiti was supposed to introduce the first project, because we do have what we're calling a project leader, although the idea came from the community. But then we actually have another group working on that, and he's the one leading one of the first projects, but apparently he's left for an urgent matter, so maybe we'll just go to number two.



HENRY KASSEN:

Thank you Pierre, thank you Tarek. My name is Henry Kassen, I'm from Namibia, and I'm also the Vice Chairman of the GAC with the African continent's mandate. I have been asked to be a project leader for the high-level government meeting that we've planned in Marrakech, that's planned for February 2016, this time next year. In terms of the information available, the objectives of having a high-level meeting is of course to promote awareness of the multistakeholder model, to support globalization, meaningful engagement of Africa in terms of the issues in ICANN, and to also secure the commitment of our governments, to support the process of the IANA stewardship transition as well as the accountability arrangement, and to steer discussion of the Net Mundial roadmap in terms of Internet governance generally.

The project actually was supported by the ICANN Strategic Plan. I think there are five tracks of the SP. One and four finds application in what we're going to do. First is to globalize ICANN, and the fourth one is to promote the multistakeholder model that ICANN has been operating on. In terms of the Africa strategy, which is 2016 to 2020 we have nine strategic objectives. Four of them speak to this point, which is objective seven, talking about outreach to African governments. Number eight talks about multistakeholder participation - to increase that - and nine talks about capacity building, because eventually our idea is to build capacity also. That's the introduction.

Of course, the holding of the high-level meetings is also a mandate that we got from the ICANN processes, called the ATRTs - one and two - and they both recommended strongly that the Board, GAC and the ICANN community work towards convening high-level government meetings regularly, and there are two that came more specifically to say we



should preferably convene it every two years. We had one in London last year, and 2017 will be our two years, where we plan to have the third one in Marrakech. The very first one was in Toronto.

So we have laid the groundwork for the Africa high-level government meeting. In terms of the African Strategy we've put it into a specific project so that we can focus on it. Currently we will be continuing with consultations in terms of the modality surrounding that, with the Moroccan Government, because the venue is indicated to be in Marrakech, and we'll be getting the final outcomes of the consultations in due course so that we'll then inform the African continent delegates in more detail. I don't know whether we should go into the details of the project itself. There are resources that ICANN, through our African Strategy, will make available for the project, but they're unfortunately a bit limited for what we want to achieve.

The call is basically that we'll try from our side to make it work. We'll also try to find additional resources. Of course, we have our entities in our countries, like our regulatory authorities, governments, ministries and civil society groups and so on, so the funding would be a challenge, but we are sure we'll overcome that. In terms of the actual program, we have an estimated amount that, as I said, is not sufficient, but the plan is to try and get as much participation from Africa there, and to assess some logistical support for those countries, as well as for delegates. The other aim of the meeting, as I've said, it's a high-level government meeting, and our pitch is for ministers.

Because it's important that we get our ministers fully informed, and it will also be shortly after the initial deadline that we're working towards

in terms of the IANA transition and the accountability process. So we'll be having good information to share with our ministers and our senior officials from our governments, so that we can get further high-level support and buy-in so it can be a success. I don't want to talk too much. Maybe we can have some time for comments. Back to you Tarek and Pierre.

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you Henry. Let me say the following in clarification: high-level meeting government meetings happen today at ICANN - one in Toronto, and the one in London was also very successful. So there is a mechanism within ICANN that we do not necessarily want to be talking about its logistical details now. Maybe Henry can lead this discussion with the ICANN meeting staff about how to make this happen, together with Aziz, from the host country. The big question we need to answer is what do you want out of this high-level meeting for Africa? What do you want for ICANN is the work of the GAC and ICANN's Board and leadership, and we know and understand why this high-level meeting is important to be repeated every two years.

But the question that we'll discuss together in the next ten meetings and be clear about is what do we need out of this high-level meeting for Africa, and I hope that this will be based on our discussion. Do we think maybe about having, before this meeting, a ministerial African meeting that proceeds and puts the priority of the African governments and the African community on the table in front of the GAC? Should we think about another modality or mechanism? The host country definitely has an obligation and responsibility, and I'm pretty sure Aziz will be helping



with that, and when it gets definitely successful, because it will be an important juncture in ICANN's history with the IANA transition, it definitely brings credit to the country, hopefully. Aziz?

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you Tarek. My name is Aziz Hilali. I'm a Professor in a university, the National Institute of Telecommunications in [Haba], in Morocco. The idea of organizing this workshop is, in general, the high-level meeting plus this workshop. The fact that Marrakech didn't happen this year might be positive for that. We have one extra year to organize a better meeting in Marrakech, a big success in Marrakech, an unforgettable meeting. We hope to get that. That's the positive aspect; to have one extra year to prepare a very strong meeting. We already have one meeting in Mauritius with African colleagues from the Working Group, regarding the ICANN African Strategy, and we thought about organizing those two events; the high-level meeting, and a workshop.

That would be in order to dedicate it to the African regulators and telecommunication decision makers. This is going to be something very positive for Africa. It's going to enable us to bring new people from Africa so that they know more about ICANN, so that they know about our activities, so that they can work with us and be active with us, so the people that will be invited will be mostly CEOs and regulators and telecommunication national agencies, TIC. The workshop should take two days, just before the ICANN Marrakech meeting, and our goal is going to be to reinforce awareness of those national telecoms, and to explore what the challenges and opportunities are that will enable us to create a legal framework.



At the national level, this is what they do. They try to put together a legal framework and a regulatory framework. That's what they do in Africa, in each and every country, and for instance for our Moroccan regulator, this is the entity that takes care of the ccTLD for Morocco. Regarding the African ccTLD we can promote them. I'm not going to go into detail. I have two hats. We organize the Marrakech meeting at At-Large. I'm the President of AFRALO, and we offer it for ICANN to come to Marrakech. I'm also a civil servant at the regulatory level. We were able to have Pierre and [Nik Thomas 00:24:00] come to [Haba] and we met with the regulators in Morocco.

We needed more details. In the African group we already have some things - we have figures, we have a first draft budget. We did put together a joint committee between ICANN and Morocco, between the regulator and ICANN, so that they work together, so that this workshop be organized. We have a budget. Now what we need to talk about - and this is what Pierre could take the floor about - is we need logistics regarding the budget that's going to be at the disposal for this workshop. We already have a first program draft and I'm very ready to answer your questions. Also in our budget we're going to take charge of a few regulators that we wouldn't be able to get otherwise. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL:

Any comments?



LAWRENCE: Thank you. My name is Lawrence, a first-time Fellow from Nigeria. With regards to the high-level governmental meeting, I would want to say that since we have adopted an African Strategy it might be necessary that before ICANN 55 they committee puts together a mechanism of engaging governments across Africa. I feel if an invitation is sent to them, maybe to nominate an official that could act as a Liaison, I expect there should be a system where we not only engage governments but we try to make them own the program.

In other words, we should be able to tie the African Strategy to this meeting of At-Large and bring it to the fore. But we will definitely need to not engage the Moroccan Government alone, but design a mechanism where we can get willing governments across the African Government to also participate and also sponsor their citizens of the country to the events happening in Africa.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you for your comment. Any further comments concerning the proposed high-level meeting in Marrakech?

CHARLES: Thank you so much. I'm Charles from the Kenyan ISOC Chapter. Thank you for the opportunity, for the presentation. The meeting that will come to Morocco is an opportunity for Africa and it's coming at a time whereby we're having a lot of challenges in Africa, certainly in Kenya, so I'd like to also suggest as well as getting the government engaged, could you also include the civil society in those meetings? Because there are some people that might [love] it, but would be able to articulate it

properly, but when you include bringing in stakeholders, maybe you could add more value and more flavor, and more effective... Because the Internet belongs to everybody. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, to answer Charles, President of ISOC Kenya, now it's my hat as the President of AFRALO to let you know that we did establish, for each RALO, a budget to have a GA of all the ALSes from Africa, about 30 of them in our budget for 2016, and we'll be able to invite the ALSes that represent civil society. This budget will be received and it will represent between 25 and 30 ALS reps that will come to Marrakech. This is another budget separate to the meeting.

TAREK KAMEL:

It's good to hear there will be a presentation for the ALSes and the civil society as well. This complements the stakeholder engagement and presence in Africa, so it's not only about governments. [Manel], you wanted to say something?

[MANEL]:

Thank you Dr. Tarek. Just very quickly to note that within the work of the BGRI Working Group, which is the Board GAC Recommendations Implementation Working Group working on implementing the GAC-related ATRT recommendations, we have already a summary or some guidelines regarding the high-level meeting, summarizing the experience of Canada and the UK in hosting the high-level meeting. It's almost adopted. I hope in a couple of weeks or something we can have something that we can share with the Moroccan Government, and that



will hopefully be useful and help in hosting a successful event. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you [Manel]. Those guidelines are definitely very important because they reflect the experiences of the high-level meetings in London as well as in Toronto in 2012, and it's a tri-part cooperation between the host country, that is the government issuing the invitation, ICANN's meeting team, and the GAC, as such. So I think having those guidelines ready may make things much easier. I'm still looking for the answer to my question of what will Africa and the African community get out of this high-level meeting themselves? We probably know what ICANN will get out of it; that it's important because of the transition, but I want to get back to Africa and the African community.

MARY UDUMA:

My name is Mary Uduma from Nigeria. First I want to address your question of what Africa and the African Union will get out of the high-level. The first is that we have this Internet governance program for Africa that the AUC is coordinating, and we've been making input to it, and I think it's an opportunity for the African countries to look at that. Second is that our heads of state are interested in the implementation of .africa. I know they'll use the opportunity to ask about .africa and what they'll get out of it. Third is that the digital economy is not yet fully adopted in Africa, and I think it's an opportunity for the African Union or the high-level people to know more about ICANN, know more about the digital economy, and know more about what they'll get from the digital



economy if they come up with policies that will promote that sort of thing.

So I think the list is endless, if we think about what we are going to gain from the high-level meeting. Most times, we find out that our governments, the regulators, the ministry that's responsible for ICT, they only know about telecoms or ITU, but they don't know about the benefits of getting engaged in the activities of ICANN, and it's an opportunity for them to know that. ICANN continues to [name 00:33:16] a lot, but I know it's going to be rewarding. My advice is that it should be kicked off on time now, before they start crowding their agenda with so many activities, so they'll put it on their agenda, and it's not a question of sending the lowest person in the Ministry of Communications to attend that meeting, but it should be really high-level.

The African Union should be involved in writing that letter that will be sent out, because that's how the African governments... When it comes from AU it becomes something they take seriously. If it's possible, if AU or NEPAD can organize something around that time to even attract more of those high-level officials to the meeting, that will help a lot. That's what I want to say for now. Thank you. [Menad] and then the gentleman.

ALI HAJID:

Thank you. My name is [Ali Hajid] from Comoros. What can Africa get from it? This is going to be a big, important event, and what I think Africa can get is more awareness. We have an issue in Africa with our decision making process. When we have a big event happening in Africa

I think that the decision makers will be able to be more aware of the importance of the development of the Internet in Africa. We do not talk enough about it. We need a massive presence of Africa in all the international organizations regarding the development of the Internet, about the ICANN meetings and meetings of other associations. Once we have this big event in an African country it's going to involve everybody - the government, the private sector, as well as the end users of the Internet.

Africa will gain a lot, and Africa's going to be more in trust of the Internet, because when we talk about a high-level event that's going to happen in Africa, it's not always seen as positive, but now we can show what we can do. We can go forward. We cannot follow, but fully participate to the development of the Internet. When we talk about the multistakeholder model, it's not only for one part of the world, but for the entire five continents of the world - just like [Marie] said, this is going to be very positive. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: [Menal]?

[MENAL]: Just very quickly, I won't repeat what's been said, but I was just going to concur with what Mary and my colleague here on the left also said, regarding the merits behind this high-level meeting. Actually, when this was included as one of the recommendations, the main purpose was bringing to the senior officials the work of ICANN participants here, so they can spare their participants, the time, resources and the authority



to provide timely input here within the meetings. So it's just to acknowledge what Mary and others said on the importance of raising awareness and sharing what's being done here to senior officials, so that people could be spared the time and resources to participate effectively. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: We need to come to a closing to this item, because we have another three or four items.

ARNOLD [CHETE]: Arnold [Chete 00:38:24], Seychelles. I think the biggest thing we, as participants, especially participants at ICANN meetings, can bring to the high-level government delegations going to ICANN meetings, is to make them understand the template on which ICANN has been built and operates, and that is consensus from the ground-up, and it's a template that Africa should emulate and continue, because the transition of ICANN depends on that template continuing. If we were to adopt a different set of principles and get away from these best practices, Africa is going to be left backwards. Don't forget we still have a lot of autocratic states in Africa. A lot of people might want to create their own little system to continue development of the Internet in Africa. That will slow down the Internet in Africa. That is a message we need to send to these people.

SPEAKER: Thank you Chair. Three things that I think will happen, or need to be addressed. I am confident that by the time we go to Marrakech, .africa



will be delegated by then, which means that that will be a point where we reaffirm some of the commitments that need to be addressed or extracted from the operations of .africa - reiterated, reconfirmed with the leaders. Two, alignment of policies. We spoke a few years ago on the alignment of policies on the continent, to ensure that the uptake of domain names is very easy. Three, the alignment on pricing for domain names. There is huge disparities throughout the landscape of the continent on pricing models, ranging from \$100 to \$10, and that makes it impossible for the general citizen to have access to domain names. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you very much. Henry, do you wish to add something, before I try to summarize the discussion?

HENRY KASSEN: It's fine, Tarek. I think the continent has spoken - at least a few of them.

TAREK KAMEL: A final word?

JAMESON ALUFI: Thank you. My name is Jameson [Alufi 00:41:05], Chair of Africa [City Alliance]. Just two points to what has been said - we have convened a high-level meeting, but we should not forget that we use the multistakeholder template so that the business, civil society and the academic community at the high-level should also be at the table. It's not got to be just government. That one. Also, the African cyber

security agenda, we know about it, so it needs to be pushed vigorously at that meeting as well. To measure the implementation so far, Nigeria [unclear 00:41:49] that was the one last week, announced the approval of its own cyber security strategy and policy framework. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you. Any further comments?

CHARLES: Thank you. I'm Charles from Kenya. This high-level meeting, I think it should [escalate 00:42:15] wherever it's coming from, up to even ICANN Meetings, and it could easily add the opportunity to attend a review of the IANA document where the ICANN Board Meeting was being discussed, but there was no presence from Africa. I don't know whether African issues were actually being considered properly. I'm not aware. [unclear 00:42:42]. We have ICANN hubs in the South Pacific and Latin America, all over the continent, and we have none in Africa. We should address those issues. I think they're issues of visibility, connectivity and so many things, and policy issues that [unclear 00:43:02] in Africa.

I think this is an opportunity for the African people to come and address these problems, so that for example we can also get a hub in Africa, and we can address issues that will improve African connectivity and fast-track the way to bridging the digital divide, because it's still growing bigger and bigger. Thank you.



TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you. Let me try, before we move to our next point, to summarize what's been said. It seems there's wide support for the attendance to the high-level meeting in Marrakech in February 2016. As we have said, and [Manel] has mentioned, there will be the adoption of the recommendation of the high-level meeting, so this makes it easier for the host country together with the GAC, as well as the ICANN meetings team, to take this forward, if a final decision will be taken by the GAC in this direction. It was clear that there is also consensus that we need to focus on Africa benefiting the most out of this high-level meeting.

Part of it is visibility for Morocco and for Africa and for ICANN, as well specifically that this comes at a very important juncture of ICANN's history - hopefully by that time the IANA transition will be over and completed, and this will be a great opportunity to celebrate that. In addition to that, I see that there is consensus that we should think together about a one-day event for the high-level officials, under NAPAD, under the AU umbrella, or whatever, from Africa, that is focused on Africa. Because at the end of the day, the agenda of the high-level meeting has to be global and it cannot be focusing on Africa especially, because the high-level meeting mostly is a dinner and one day. I'm throwing ideas out for you to think about as we move forward.

If we add an additional day for the ministers or head of regulators, in addition to the business community and civil society, as Jameson mentioned, in a multistakeholder format, and present to them the ICANN model and African Strategy, as such, as well as hopefully the operation of .africa and the opportunities that are being presented, this will definitely add a lot. We also need to stress with them the work that



the community has already started about the development of the DNS industry - specifically when we present this to governments.

Because let's be pragmatic - government participation becomes at ICANN more and more meaningful when they are representing and defending the interest and industry that exists in their country on a national level. Otherwise we find things, to a great extent, sometimes politicized or sometimes based on different motivations. So the more we develop the industry of the DNS in Africa - and I see a lot of work has been done in this direction - this will enhance the awareness about that to governments, and the role of governments, in incubating this industry, in supporting it, and pushing this forward.

I have a very specific proposal to my colleague, Sally Costerton, who's with us here in the room, that might be that maybe we can update our [BCG 00:46:41] study that we are updating every year, with a special focus on Africa maybe next year, to some extent. It talks about how an open Internet stimulates economy, stimulates socioeconomic development, adds jobs. It talks about, in the [unclear index 00:47:05] that the more we put up barriers for Internet access and access to content, this definitely hinders the socioeconomic development. So if this is more African-focused next year, and is presented on that high strategic level to the ministers, and to the decision makers as we have done before in other parts of the world, more globally.

I think this would be very helpful and the best message really for them to support the multistakeholder model, the open Internet, and the ICANN model in this direction. Sally, do you want to add anything?

SALLY COSTERTON: I think we could look at that, Tarek. We already have a smaller group working with you, Baher and Pierre, on this program of specific tactics for outreach, before, at and after Marrakech. I'd suggest we put that into that group for discussion. We can certainly listen to the priorities of what we'd ideally like to be able to demonstrate, and what is the practicality of using the data we have - either doing a little bit more original research, or repackaging what we have in a way that's very African-specific for African stakeholders. At the moment we have 69 countries, I think, so although there are many African countries in there, they're obviously not being pulled out as a separate subset. So I'm happy to look at it, yes.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you very much. Pierre and the team, we should take this forward. This is a very useful study and new, and will bring a new message as well to the African governments and ministers, and will add value. With that we'll move to the next item. We have the project of the new generation program. Tijani from Tunisia, will you share with us your thoughts about that? This is also one of the programs that's inspiring newcomers to participate in the Marrakech meeting.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you Tarek. In the framework of the ICANN new generation program an event will be organized in the upcoming ICANN Meeting in Marrakech, gathering around ten young Africans. The term "young Africans" was discussed a bit when we were thought about the project. Young doesn't mean babies, but it doesn't mean people like me. I mean it will be less than 30 years, from all over Africa. The objective of this



project is to bring youth to the ICANN process with their fresh knowledge and their innovative spirit. The composition of the group would be mostly from the academic environment, students, young professors, researchers, et cetera, and also some from the civil society organizations and some young entrepreneurs coming from the start up incubators, et cetera.

How will this group be selected? A call for EOIs will be launched six months prior to the Marrakech meeting through universities, civil societies, networks, techno parks, et cetera. In the application they have to explain their achievements in the field of the Internet - that means projects, research, publications, et cetera. An Evaluation Committee will select the first ten best achievements, taking into consideration the innovation aspect of those projects, and also the gender and geographic balance. What will they do in Marrakech? For sure they'll have their own event, which will be an exhibition of their projects, and a showcase of their innovation. But also those people will be introduced as newcomers in the ICANN activities and meetings.

Their participation should lead to better organization and coordination of the ICANN new generation participants - I mean a creation of the educated mailing lists for them, subscribe them to the ICANN mailing lists, creation of social media pages, et cetera. They will constitute a tank of new ICANN community members, and why not new ICANN leaders? This project should be done in partnership with universities, techno parks, incubators and civil society organizations. I will not speak about the cost. That's all.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you Tijani for your presentation. We'll now open the floor for comments.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much for the presentation Tijani. My name is Seun Ojedeji from Nigeria. I work for a university, speaking on behalf of myself. I think it's a very good initiative. One thing I want to suggest is that once the ten people are selected, they should be engaged before the meeting. It would be good to actually engage them in a manner with which they are more prepared for the ICANN meeting when they come physically. If they could have some webinars arranged for them, to introduce them to the huge community they're coming to meet in Marrakech, that could help them, to prepare their minds - not necessarily scaring them, but at least it will help them, particularly because they're going to be between the ages of 20 and 30.

The other thing is I think there should be a continuation and there should be a mentoring process, in the sense that even after they finish... One of the problems we have in Africa is that we have people start, and you most likely will not see them again. If they could be given support to continue; once they attend Marrakech they could be mentored to actually continue in what they are doing, and get further engaged in ICANN. That could help. Thank you, and thank you for also recognizing that it's going to be gender and geographically diverse.

TAREK KAMEL: Any other comments to the new generation program? If not, any remote participants' comments? Then thank you Tijani. We look



forward to proceeding and putting this on the agenda of the Marrakech event, and to do some preliminary work before Marrakech that can be presented to the African community. The third project that we have is related to Aziz - more about the pre-conference workshop for telecom regulators. Aziz, do you want to add to this?

AZIZ HILALI:

Yes, absolutely. There's an Organizing Committee that was put together, and this is quite ambitious that we're trying to put together the high-level meeting, the workshop for regulators, or the program that Tijani talked about. This is ambitious. At the ICANN level we're looking for sponsors at the local level. Regulators are going to take charge of some expenses, but at the Organizing Committee that's put together for the African Strategy we have to all work together so that we can put together those three high level projects - high-level meeting, workshop, and new generation program.

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you Aziz. It's definitely a matter of resources and costs, but it's also a matter of what is the exact message that we're going to be sending to them when we invite them and convene them from an ICANN community point of view. This message needs to be tailored and prepared very well in order to make maximum impact as such. Any comments? Yes, please?

LAWRENCE:

Thank you. This is Lawrence again from Nigeria. At the presentation of the African Strategy yesterday a question was asked, which was how



could this program be funded outside of ICANN. That got me thinking. Now, this issue of the Telcos have come up again. Looking at the model that we're putting up at home, as it is presently, if you pull out the data from our networks, I believe that a lot of phone users will migrate from that Telco, who doesn't have data for Internet anymore to another one. It's no longer about voice. Data, video and all that also has become important. All these mobile devices, if you're saying, "What's the relation with this and ICANN?" - all those mobile devices are administered by IPs and so there is a relationship between their business model and what ICANN is doing.

So I believe that ICANN can approach Telcos from the point of the fact that there is definitely a need to deepen the IP protocols, the Internet and its diversity in Africa and get them to partner on that. They also would understand that there is a huge business for them. Most of them are migrating from voice to data, and we can approach them from that angle. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Thank you. I'm not going to respond to that. These are good comments of yours. I just wanted to remind you that this workshop idea came from the Moroccan regulator himself, and the expectation from them was to know more about ICANN, but they were also saying they have no clue with this Internet governance is all about. They were saying, "If you could use this opportunity to have a few of them in Marrakech, to go to this specific workshop..." and also they'd be able to participate in ICANN Meetings. They also offered that they're ready to contribute to the budget.



My message here for the other regulators that we do have here is that now that they know about this, of course they'll be officially contacted by the Moroccan regulator, and the message should be spread in countries, to have regulators ready for this. I wanted to add that.

TAREK KAMEL: Mary?

MARY UDUMA: Thank you. Some of us were in Busan during the ITU Plenipot, and Internet-related issues, when I asked the ATU Secretary General, he said, "No, I don't know anything about it. I don't know if you know anything..." The leadership of Africa, when it comes to regulation in that space, had any comment on Internet-related issues, as is being discussed in ITU. Even at the Council Meeting they were still dodging it because they don't understand it. If only that would be an opportunity to talk to them, for them to understand where the Internet is related to what they do on the day-to-day, I think it would make a lot of difference. Thank you.

SPEAKER: That's one of the important messages that we can send as an ICANN community to the African regulators. They are more and more involved in global Internet governance discussion for the preparation of the WSIS Review and what will come afterwards, and the ICANN and the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet Policies, as well as the IGF and other fora. So the more and more we have awareness between the regulators about Internet governance issues, this will definitely help.



I want to go back to what Aziz said - we need to also be realistic about what... If we take that direction and the GAC decides it will be a high-level meeting, let's not overload the agenda too much with too many events at the same time. Then the message will be clear, crisp, and really reaching the targets that we want to achieve.

If you allow me, we'll move to the last Item. Mr. Katiti, you had a project to report on, concerning increasing participation in regional fora, as far as I understand. Then we'll have a couple of minutes on a delayed item from yesterday, on the African agenda related to the ccTLDs.

EDMUND KATITI:

Thank you Chair. I'm sorry I was not here at the beginning. This project is intended to increase awareness amongst African policy makers and their advisors about the bottom-up multistakeholder model of Internet governance, the role of ICANN in this ecosystem, and key issues that are currently being discussed. From the African Union perspective there has been recognition of a need to engage more and more with our key stakeholders - this being the private sector companies involved in the sector, their regulators, as well as civil society and academia, and to borrow and count more on the multistakeholder model, as practices in the Internet community.

So there are opportunities, when we have our continental, ministerial conferences, as well as the regional ministerial conferences that are held by the regional economic communities. There is wide agreement now, and it's embodied and included in our comprehensive ICT strategy for Africa, which was drawn up last year, and it's for 2015-2020, which states that whenever we have these important ministerial conferences,



we should have ways of bringing in these other stakeholders, to allow them to have exhibits, to have workshops on the side, as well as sponsorship opportunities for dinners and lunches, where they're able to deliver some of their specific messages.

We were supposed to have an ICT ministerial conference in September of last year in Lusaka, Zambia, but this could not happen as the Zambian Government informed us that they were not able to host this conference. In recent weeks there have been attempts to request the South African Ministry of Telecommunication and Postal Services to host this ministerial conference, and discussions were proceeding very well until about a week or so ago when we learned that at the AU Summit, South Africa had agreed to host the next summit of heads of state at the end of June, which then makes it very difficult to host the ICT ministerial in May and then host a summit in June. But discussions are still going on. We do not have a final answer.

But within discussion with the Secretariat at the Information Society Division in Addis Ababa, we learned that when this ministerial conference does take place, we should provide for presentation of the ICANN African Strategy for reporting on the IANA stewardship transition, talk about the high-level meeting that will take place in Marrakech, as well as updates on the .africa project, as it will be at that time. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL:

Thank you very much Katiti for this idea. Indeed, it makes a lot of sense that we increase, as the ICANN community and as ICANN, our engagement within the regional fora, because we have been witnessing



not only in Africa but in other parts of the world, there is a shift in decision making more and more towards the regional fora; the Arab Council of Ministers, the European Commission, as well as the AU and so on. Whenever we get a chance to present the ICANN matters and the ICANN model, as well as the achievements, I think we should not hesitate to maximize the benefit out of it - not necessarily only the ICANN regional staff, but it could be community, business leaders, and we can put a team together in order to make sure that the message is rightly relayed.

These regional fora become more and more a place of decision making. It will touch on Internet governance issues more and more, security issues more and more, cyber security issues more and more, and it will touch on ICANN issues as well in the future. We fully support this endeavor, and if you can help us by providing us access to those ministerial meetings, I'm pretty sure Fadi will also be happy to participate whenever there is an opportunity, and provide the right messages and the right [unclear 01:08:56]. [Simpson], do you want to say something?

[SIMPSON]:

Yes, thank you very much Dr. Katiti for that brief. What I've heard is music to my ears and is really nice. I want to believe that implementation has started, so we're looking forward to the invitation, as the Chair just mentioned, and we want to be involved in the action on the ground. Thank you very much.



TAREK KAMEL: Believe me, this is the biggest impact you can do for ICANN, by opening a door to us to those regional fora at the time, and giving us, as an ICANN community, access to those regional fora. Because the decision making is shifting, more or less, in this direction. Any other comments? Aziz?

AZIZ HILALI: I wanted to add something about the African participation in ICANN. I talk for AFRALO. We have a Task Force of Africans that worked on one issue. The fact is that every time jobs come up at the ICANN levels, in constituencies, we realized that the profile of many Africans is not going to work out to get those jobs, so we put together a flyer. I'd like to have my African friends look at this flyer. We're trying to inform the African community about the type of candidacy you can get if you're interested in working in the realm of ICANN. We have strong qualifications in Africa, but you have to be able to observe the process very well. We have a flyer that talks about it that's been published by AFRALO.

At the Board level we have... in ALAC the opportunity to volunteer, and at the gNSO level as well, and a position for the ccNSO - so many opportunities, if you want to serve and volunteer for ICANN. If you know some stronger African candidates, please let them know about the process. Now let's go back to Marrakech and our goals when we bring some high-level meetings and regulators, I think this is going to be a great benefit for Africa, and we're going to be in Africa in Morocco.

TAREK KAMEL: Okay. I think we're running out of time. We have two minutes in order to cover the delayed issue from yesterday about the ccTLD. Thank you Dr. Katiti for your presentation.

SPEAKER: It's just an announcement on a call from our side in terms of regional engagement. I know the AU is a center point of information. I know we also have our regional reps and so on. Please, let's be practical. We want to bring the message to our regional fora because that's where we need to talk about ICANN, and civil society and the multistakeholder model and so on. I know that Bob, our Manager here, in the African Strategy Offices, has indicated we have a website - Africa.icann.org. As our colleagues from all the regions, wherever you're involved, announced on this list any events that are an opportunity for possible consideration for ICANN to provide information on that gathering. Thank you very much.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you very much. It's your turn now.

LUCKY MASILELA: I will not waste a lot of time introducing the concept. Yesterday we talked about the one million achievement, and we thought that there is a model that can assist in the uptake of loading and connecting ccTLDs on the continent, and we thought we might share that with you this morning - one of the models. Neil, take us through this. He is our technical backend and also with the [za 01:14:21].

NEIL:

Good morning everybody. Lucky asked me to provide a quick overview on the concept of a shared registry platform for the African region. In the .za structure we've done a lot of policy uniformity or consolation with the gTLD space when we took on three city domains and when we started preparing for .africa. Our ccTLD namespace has moved towards a gTLD policy environment, as a matter of evolving over the last two to three years in taking up these TLDs. What we're proposing as a concept is that when we establish the .africa registry and it's finally up and running, that registry will be set up on a specific policy set, and it will have a value chain attached to it comprising of ICANN registrars and reseller bases.

What we're proposing to do is to essentially establish a side identical version of this registry platform called the shared registry platform. This will be based somewhere in the African cloud, and it's a process by where we would get ccTLDs and other African TLDs to onboard onto the system. It takes care of all the backend registry requirements, but the real value in it is that we can bring over all the registrars, all the value chain that have connected to the .africa platform. We can bring this value chain online for the ccTLDs and for other African TLDs in a very short period of time.

All that is required is that we utilize the system that has some form of policy uniformity. Pricing could be different, but the real technical integration for registrars and resellers, if we could keep that the same and move towards that type of policy implementation, we're going to find ourselves with a whole large channel that we can service and that



will service the community in Africa. That is it in a nutshell. There is a lot of detail that needs to be worked out around it, but the concept is sound, and I think if we, as an African community, can move towards something like this, we're going to see great growth in the African domain name environment. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you for the presentation. Comments, Pierre?

PIERRE DANDJINO: Thank you for this, and Lucky, for the idea. I do also believe that we have some space for further discussion on this one. At the end of May I think we're having this African Internet Summit in Tunis. It would be great if you could make a presentation. We're also having the third addition of the African DNS Forum. That's going to be in Kenya, in early July, so it would be great if you - especially when we're talking about monetization of the domain names in Africa - could be part of this meeting as well. Thanks.

TAREK KAMEL: Okay, that's fine. Before we finish and summarize, any other comments? Any Other Business? I don't see that. There is today, at 14:00 in this room, an accountability meeting for the Union, AFRALO and AfrICANN, yes? It's in French and English. That's fine. Final comment?

SOJ: Yes, a final comment just to Dr. Katiti. Please, all the programs that were planned, it would be good to enable remote participation - not



remote streaming. Not just active participation, because a lot of us will not be there, but we want to be able to participate. Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Thank you very much. Are there more comments? Bob?

BOB: Yes, just one remote participation comment from [Marmaduke 01:18:40]. It says: “The Marrakech Meeting must use the ICANN 42 Meeting in Senegal as a benchmark. So there is a precedent and we have something to beat.” Thank you.

TAREK KAMEL: Okay, so thank you very much for coming, and I also want to thank Pierre and Aziz and the team, Tijani and Dr. Katiti and everyone who worked on the project. We look forward to bringing this additional engagement agenda in preparation to the Marrakech event within the next couple of months, and take it forward in addition to the African Strategy that’s been discussed and presented yesterday. Thank you very much everybody, and have a nice day. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

