LONDON – Evaluating the Africa Strategy & Way Forward
Tuesday, June 24, 2014 – 11:30 to 12:30
ICANN – London, England

TAREK: Okay. Good morning everybody. I'm very glad and delighted professionally as well as personally to be back with you here in this room, following up in our regular meeting about the evaluation and assessment of Africa strategy as well as where are we going ahead.

And we have the special honor this time, we have his Excellency the Minister from Cote D'Ivoire, Minister [inaudible], attending with us. And I think it's the first time we have an African minister attending the discussions of an African strategy in ICANN meeting. The Minister of Namibia should be also joining us at any moment, hopefully.

And we definitely welcome all of you. The owners, actually, of the African strategy as such, special welcome to the African Union, as usual, whom we are very glad that they are with us. [Inaudible] [Dali] and his team. It is very important at every meeting that we do a progress report, and that we get feedback from you. Where are we? What have we been doing right within the last quarter?

What are the expectations for the next period? Just, I want to give a word about the regional strategies At Large. I'm not going to repeat the history of the evolution of the African strategy as the first strategy that ICANN has adopted for regional strategies under the new leadership of Fadi Chehadé, about two years ago.

So Africa was really a role model for the other regions, and we want to continue to be a role model in the implementation. Latin America has

been following as well as the Middle East and other regions. And I think this fits now very well within our overall strategy within the global stakeholder engagement team with Sally Costerton and myself.

And also the work that the public responsibility panel was been recommending, last full chaired by [inaudible]. Not recommending not only for Africa, but for the whole public responsibility of ICANN, and we have a session for that tomorrow at 1 PM in this room as well. So with these words, we look forward to a successful dialogue.

We are here to hear from you, feedback, and to learn, and to listen definitely to valuable input. And we look forward to a valuable discussion. With this, I produce my colleague, to my right, from the [inaudible]. He will be presenting the agenda, then Pierre will give progress report, and then will start by asking His Excellency, the Minister, to say a few words after Pierre finishes, and then we'll open the floor for the discussion.

Thank you very much for coming this morning and joining us, and we look forward for a fruitful session.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah. Again, [inaudible]…colleagues and fellow countrymen. I would like to welcome you all to this African strategy session. Quickly, just to go through the agenda this morning, thank you to Tarek for those opening remarks in welcoming us. We are going to ask for one, Dr. Tarek has done the background of the strategy. We'll get updates on the Africa strategy, which will be my colleague here, Pierre Dandjinou.

Then we'll have a panel discussion whereby there is going to be some sharing of thoughts, ideas, and views on this. And the panel will give us five minutes each of their views, thoughts, and that will be Mohammed [inaudible] and Dr. [Ni]. And then after that, we'll go into the inter-Africa partnerships.

This is very key that we start identifying problems of partnerships on the continent, which we clearly don't have in place. And then currently we only have a working group, you know, on the Africa strategy but we need to move forth in establishing of a steering committee, which will be given more guidance and direction on what and where we need to go.

Then we will then go into the ICANN social responsibility program, how that can be cascaded into the rest of the continent, and the beneficiation of. And once we've done with that, we'll go into questions and answers. Without waste of time, I'm going to ask my colleague Pierre to take us through the updates on the Africa strategy. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much [inaudible]. And a very good morning to everyone. As Tarek said, we'll definitely, we now are providing kind of updates at every ICANN meeting, about the strategy. But also we, of course, like to hear from you, because we really need to involve the community, and this cannot be done without the community, obviously.

So I'm going to take a few minute to take you quickly through these slides. That really tells what we've been achieving after, I would say, after one year that we now [inaudible] possess. I would like also to find

those who contributed to this, and I see some, a couple of friends of Africa. I see George Sadowsky, Board member. He has been with us for so many years.

And then I think George is an African, and I think from 1997 he has been with us. And he has been assisting or supporting. Many other friends are around from the Board, there are supposed to be coming, I think currently there is a Board meeting. Oh, Sébastien is around. Sébastien [thank you very much]. Sébastien always tell me, "I am your man, and whenever you want me to go, wherever, to deliver anything, well I'm ready for that."

Thanks so much for that. And so many friends around here. Thank you all of you. Well, what have we done so far? That is the most important part of it. We [inaudible], we do have a few statistics that we wanted to share, so that, as a way of background, well, you know.

Well, Africa, 1.3 billion. ccTLD, we do have 54 of them. L-Root copies, nine so far, but we still have two or three in the pipe. DNSSEC deployment is going on, we put 12 but actually only four African countries have signed the zone file. We do have eight that are really under the process, because we did launch a few programs, and this is happening.

ICANN accredited registrars, seven as today in Africa. We will be coming back to them certainly, seeing how far, how they are doing. ICANN staff, yes, we put that also as a statistic, three for the moment. We plan to have more.

GAC representatives, to this day, well 29 formal members. We may correct those figures, but that's what you have so far. ccNSO members, 33 and we do have AFTLD in Africa that normally take care of the ccTLDs in terms of capacity building. Well the largest ccTLD by domains, dot ZA. Then we do have… Within GNSO we do have four registrars that contribute regularly.

Now, flagship projects we call them, but definitely those projects derive from the Africa strategy. The Africa strategy has got eight strategic objectives. And then having translated into programs and projects. Projects are so many of them So the Africa strategy, in fact what you have so far is about, you know, three years in a period of implementation.

And that we are certain that okay, ICANN will be supporting. So what we did was make sure that we concentrate on a few projects, and that really could make a difference. So, for financial year 14, the flagship projects have been, well the first of them is the DNSSEC Roadshow. Now it has become popular. We've been to 12 African countries, now people have been trained, and we are seeing some progress there.

But we have yet to continue to deepen this sort of thing because they some demand, and we are working on partnership with a few other institutions on this DNSSEC. We do need some expertise on that. All right, now we have [inaudible], who is the chief consultant, but really we would like to be doing more. So we would like to have more and more people involved on that.

And I'm happy to talk on that later. Well, we also, one of our programs is the exchange program. Exchange Internship program, so definitely

what is behind this. One of the recommendations of the meeting now, I mean, you do know that we had the meeting in [inaudible], and that meeting was, we need to expose, you know, African registrars. And we need to grow the business, and why we are doing this is to see how best, you know, to conduct this business, and what business plan you have.

So what we did was discuss with global registrar, those who are either experienced, and well, we managed to have them accept, they agree, to have a few, you know, Africans, coming from registries and registrars, who can go in a kind of internship. So right now, we are ready to have six African move to those partners. Of course, the partners are Afilias. Afilias in Canada, they are ready to have two Africans, the program is already there.

ICANN will be supporting this and it should be happening, they were supposed to start by end of June, but that one is quite concrete. IP [Nero] from Singapore, is also accepting people. So they have been selected and they will be going as well. And then AfriNIC from France will be accepting two interns for a start. We need to continue this anyway.

Also we've been supporting countries. For instance, one of the things we noticed when we actually started a year ago was, when we engage but I'm going to talk about this, because engagement knows, stakeholder is 40% of our time. So my mind, that's exactly what they are doing. One of the things that countries have been telling us is the country, the ccTLDs.

You know, some of them suddenly discovered that this ccTLD was being managed either outside of the country, either by a person that they don't even know, they don't know about. So they really wanted to have a say in that. So they say, "Okay, what do we do to be part of this ccTLD?"

There are issues about, you know, the delegation in Africa, and that came high, you know, and I was not really suspecting this. So we actually as ICANN provide some, what I would say, policy advice on these things and to see best how to understand the procedures, and make sure that whatever the relegation you are asking for, you really understand what you mean. Because sometimes, it's just about transferring, you know, this thing, but it's also about building consensus on a national level because ICANN really does not get into those, you know, discussions per se.

ICANN stick on procedures, and then IANA does what it has to do. But this country need to understand. We also build some sort of partnership, and then we'll be working with AFTLD, we'll be sponsoring with the DNS forum, by the way which started in Africa, this DNS forum, you know, a culture I would say that now we are actually replicating everywhere.

We started in Durban, we'll be now in [inaudible], from seven to nine. We sponsor those forums, but we also contribute, and then we send experts there. So this is going to happen in [inaudible]. We have partnership with ISOC on these things. And then one other thing we are finding, we are trying to push forward is this, what they are calling study on African ccTLDs.

Today, I cannot really tell you exactly, I mean how many registrants we do have in Africa. How the ccTLDs are performing, how the registrars are performing in Africa, we don't know exactly. We don't have the figures. What we do know, of course, is that there are places where, okay, 10 million in terms of population, you only have 600 registrants, which is not good. We should be doing better.

This is something we really want to, to contribute, to change. Now, this financial year 14, which is ending this 30th of June, the few things we did, we of course sponsored some of the regional meetings, IGF. We also will be sponsoring IGF Africa, which is also in [inaudible], from 10 to 12. And we contribute, we are shipping some people there to actually contribute.

So these things we are doing actually. And for communication with the community, we do have a website around, newsletter or so. I have to admit, we are not really, I would say, the submitting those, you know, because I keep on hearing okay, we don't know exactly what you guys are doing.

This, of course, I think we are not really maybe communicating the way we have, but definitely things are happening. We have been producing this updates, and also updates, specific updates on Internet governance in Africa. So we would certainly be submitting these things much more.

I don't want, we do have outreach activities, you know? In different countries. We have country mission, where we meet with different stakeholders. But the idea for us is to, of course, expose them to ICANN, but also make sure that there is an informed participation from Africa. I'm so glad to see so many people coming from the continent.

EN

And the [layer], I would like us to be now is to be contributing seriously, to be part of the working groups, to be in leadership position when it is possible, to really contribute. Not to just come and then, okay, what things are doing, you look at them. But you should also contribute. So we would like to be hearing more and more of people contributing to the, whatever ccNSO, GNSO, or any of them, or the GAC for instance.

Sponsoring, yes, we've done some of those. [Inaudible], AfriNIC, FTLD, [inaudible], we actually contribute to those because we believe, we really needs to, capacity building is key to this strategy. Now, to move forward, financial year 15. Of course, we will continue with some of these programs. There is one program we would like to launch which is the DNS incubation.

This is key. We now have a kind of mapping of most of the I-hubs in Africa. We met many African developers. We do want to actually and see some of the DNS business, population, whatever there. So we already have a [inaudible] document that's available. And that we will certainly be approaching some of these institutions to help us, you know, with this pilot, you know, incubators.

Of course, we started in the DNS award, certainly ICANN 52, Africa will be also giving this award. IDN-Africa, as well we would like to be working on. And I would like to rely on my [inaudible], supposed to be advice, the VP for Arab countries, and then he should be around. We really want to have a partnership there and work on IDN Africa, because today we don't have any, and we don't have any team, any working on those things.

So we would really like to be doing these exactly. So this are going to be key for us. Of course, we continue with the engagement, governments, business sector. So one of the things that we notice also is that business sector is not well represented, okay? So we would like to be moving, because maybe I didn't stress on it.

The Africa strategy is not just about coming and participating. It's about transforming Africa. It's about making sure Africa really play the game, because we are not playing the game, in terms of having the business in the industry in place. You see? In terms of having that business, which actually allows you to be coming here, with that sponsoring, because that's what I keep on saying.

We don't need to be, I mean you got sponsored, and then next meeting you're not sure. So how do you sustain your activity with that? So, if you have this market, this industry in Africa, I'm certain that we would definitely will see why it's good to be here, what we are getting out of this.

We did have a very important workshop two months ago in Africa. It's about domain name, the whole intellectual property rights for that. And the [inaudible], you know how do you differentiate between your domain names, and [inaudible], you know, and how do you actually protect whatever rights is attached to this? And how do you also deal with dispute resolution in Africa?

And that was first time we did have, you know, IP lawyers attending our sort of Internet IT meetings, and it was quite great. So we might be starting a network of, you know, IP lawyers, you know, in Africa. And

EN

there we're actually discovering this domain, I mean, you know, the domain name is actually quite a good thing.

So we would like to be championing some of those initiative, you know, in Africa. This is basically what we have been doing. I'm not going to get into details on the [inaudible] mission, and what we were [there]. But, there is a lesson to be learned here. Now, having say that, maybe to conclude briefly.

After one year of kind of implementing this, thanks to, of course, ICANN's contribution, we notice something. It has to be down in terms of partnering with you guys, with African institution as well. We do believe that there is some opportunities on the ground, that are [inaudible] from [inaudible].

I approach him, for instance, I said, "Well, [inaudible] you have so many good ideas, you know, on how to build capacities. You've been working with Dr. [inaudible], for instance. You did it. Your ccTLDs seem to be one of the more stable. Well, why don't you contribute to the [inaudible] Africa?"

Of course, [like he] sharing this thing. Of course, I told him [inaudible], this is about the working market in Africa. So, how is [inaudible] going to share whatever [sphere] they do have there, and from South Africa? And how do we really take from, in Nigeria that has been doing a tremendous work, you know, for the last, you know, years. And there is reason for that.

So, we do need to build these sort of capacities, but we need those partnerships, we need to know what every one of us is doing, and how

we built sort of a partnership. So this is what it's all about. And then also, how do we sustain this? ICANN is nothing, it's forever.

At least ICANN strategy for Africa and for three years, you know, how do we sustain all of this? We need to think about those. So these are some of the lessons that we learned that we need to move forward, we need to engage the business community on that. I'm also glad that the government are more and more being, you know, are being approached well.

When are you having DNS roadshow in my country? And coming from ministers, I'm so glad that they should also, you know, have the sort of request for us. So Minister, I am happy that you are here. [French]

So thanks for your attention and then I'm open for questions, and so leave it to [inaudible] for rest of program.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you Pierre for setting the scene. And I think the scene has almost presented challenges that we have ahead of us. I have just been reminded that I have done something that not even my former president did. He never took things for granted. He religious introduce himself, even though he was known, referring to President Mandela.

My name is [inaudible], I'm the CEO of [ZDCR]. So that you know who is sitting in front, you know? I am, before I make further comments to this presentation, I would like to ask the Honorable Minister from Cote d'Ivoire, for short remarks on his observation. Sir, please.

MINISTER COTE D'IVOIRE: Thank you. Mr. [inaudible], ladies and gentlemen, all participants, I would like to start by thanking you for this opportunity that you gave me to communicate with you. And I would also like to congratulate you for the work that has been done in Africa, so that Africa might have a voice within the debates that are going on as far as the evolution of Internet governance.

This outlook will be the outlook of our continent, that we will provide to adjust decisions that might be taken. I will speak briefly, because Mr. Dandjinou said a lot of things that I don't need to repeat, but that I agree with.

But I would like to more specifically congratulate the whole ICANN team in Africa for the work that have done so far, and for the positive impulse that you give to do the development of the Internet on our continent. Africa, I believe, is where the continent where the progress of the Internet is most important and most visible over the next decade.

This technology today transforms the world in a very deep manner, and will also transform our economies, our social life even more so then what is going on today. This is even more true for our African countries, for our developing countries. For African countries, these technologies represent true opportunity in order to accelerate economy growth, and to reduce poverty, and gaps in poverty.

Each of our countries is creating an environment, an ecosystem, within which these technologies might be available to all. However, we must not ignore governance of the Internet. We must remain vigilant so that

these opportunities might remain opportunities. So that these opportunities might not become new means to spoil, maybe this is a strong word, but to spoil our countries.

The importance of Internet for the, for our countries means that we must be where decisions are made, so that our voice might be heard. And in my opinion, our voice must be coherent. Our voice must be concerted voice so that we might represent a majority of our countries. As far as Ivory Coast or Cote d'Ivoire is concerned, I would like to, without repeating what has been said yesterday, would like to remind you of a few principles that I think are important.

The Internet that today is a good for all of humanity, might remain a tool that is governed at a global level, a tool that is globally managed. It has been said, I think it has been said on several occasions, that the Internet belongs to all. So, this means that all need to contribute to Internet governance. I think that is natural, in order to keep developing and having a good impact on our population, governance must be equitable and democratic, open and transparent.

We need to make sure that other countries might not have more say in this governance. This is something that is necessary so that our populations might benefit from all the good that the Internet represents. Also certain general principles might need to be recommended to states, and the states must still keep their liberties.

We are not going to censor. We are not going to control. However, each state has its own specificity, and this governance of the Internet needs to take into account the needs that are specific to our

populations. So all in all, we agree with the general principles that have been mentioned yesterday, at NetMundial in 2014.

As far as we are concerned, governance for African countries needs to make sure that our culture is kept. That the development of our countries is protected. That education and health are protected, and of course, there are more things that we could add to this list. A collective vision could be defined and adapted by our heads of state, through the African Union.

It could also be adopted at a regional level, through each of our organizations, through all of the different organizations that we have, north, south, east, and west. And I would also add the necessity to work together so that we might take into account the differences that exist.

I would like also to, and that I can't on ICANN, on ICANN Africa more specifically, and I hope that they will facilitate what I just mentioned. Cote d'Ivoire is there to support the work that has been done, and to support all of the communication. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you Minister for your words of support. We really appreciate that. And as we proceed, I would also want to recognize my colleagues that are, if I don't do this I will be held responsible, so when you go back to Africa, the AUC representative here, Mr. [inaudible]. Thank you sir. Thank you for joining us.

And of course, the [Net Arp] representative. Dr. [inaudible]. He was here, I saw him briefly. Yeah, he's still in the room somewhere here. And yeah, we do recognize you. And all of you, my colleagues. And if there is anybody that I have left out, but I know on the continent AUC, I would have been in trouble.

As we prepare for the panelists, I think if I were to share two things around the strategy for Africa. Pierre had raised the [inaudible] platform, is the challenge of how best we can grow the ccTLDs. And we have a huge growing population of 1.3 billion, and a lot of things that are happening around the growth of the domain names on the continent does not reflect very closely.

And some of the opportunities that we need to consider in growing the registrations would be the establishment of a shared service platform, whereby the smallest of the ccTLDs can be connected into a platform that would make all of the services available and equally transform them from a legal system into an EPP system.

And we feel that in that way, we'll be able to immediately grow that market, and this is no silver bullet anyway, but it is something that has been proven to result in positive numbers, or positive growth. The other thing that the continent needs to look in very closely is the policies.

Some of our policies are not friendly for the ease and growth of registrations, and they are not allowing for external companies or companies that are not registered in countries to open in that space. So we need to start off also by looking at the policies. Then the other

issue, we need to take full advantage of how to make dot Africa work for us.

How to make the Africa Foundation work for us as a continent. And this is one of the things that we have in our hands today. Dot Africa, when it becomes a reality, will also be [inaudible], a foundation, and how best will that foundation be utilized to grow this African market, and to make it a positive input to the African strategy.

On that note, I would like to invite my colleagues, and I will start with ladies first, [inaudible] please, if you are to give us your remarks, five minutes. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. And good day all. Thank you Pierre for the updates. I'll start by saying… Starting from the positive side that the outreach, that the group, the ICANN group in Africa had embarked on. They are yielding positive results. First is that awareness is being created, in terms of businesses knowing that there is business in the domain name business.

Secondly, [Pier] after talking with my minister, changed a lot of attitude towards Internet governance forum and ICANN programs, and she is now very much interested in what to be done and how we can grow the DNS industry in Nigeria. In terms of outreach, there are two areas I want to look at.

For us, in Africa, to know about ICANN and for ICANN to reach the un-reached in Africa. So there are two prongs. So we need to get it right, that if ICANN should support what Africa is doing in terms of outreach

at the national level, and the sub-regional level, and at regional level. In Africa we have the national IGF, we have the sub-regional, like the West African IGF, East African IGF, and then we have the continental IGF, which is being promoted by AUC and ECE, with the support of [Net Par], other African countries.

So, that would take the much needed communication to add people if we continue to have ICANN support. I was listening to Fadi from ccNSO meeting with the Board, and he was saying that, he said this is zero, a freeze on spending for 2015. And I don't know how we're going to carry out this outreach without proper budgeting, or no budgeting for Africa in particular.

I don't know if you can freeze other countries, I mean other regions. I think Africa needs the budget to be able to do what we need to do. We have about 54 countries or 53 countries, you'll correct me if I'm wrong. And not all of them know about the domain name industry. Not all of them about what the transition, ICANN transition, I mean the IANA transition is all about.

Not all of them know about the NTIA letters. So we need to communicate that, and the charge is whatever you can to get to do that, I don't know. So if we do that, then we need the support from the ICANN. Collaboration and partnership. We already have platforms in Africa. We have the IAS is a good platform. We have the FATLD, is a good platform. We have the IGFs, they have good platforms for us to collaborate and partner with them, with ICANN.

And finally, I want to talk about participation. We in Nigeria, we've been trying to make sure that we are here in ICANN meetings without

being sponsored. And I want to challenge our members, if you know that there is a business, a domain name business, you can be here without being sponsored. I have some of my registrars here that have been coming, and some of them have become ICANN registered registrars now, at least two of them that are registrars from Nigeria, they become ICANN registrars.

So we should carry the message there. And we want to say that we should participate not only participate to be seen, we participate to be heard, and participate to contribute positively. If we can get our academia in to be able to do research, let's do that. Let's support that, and then we'll have enough contribution to ICANN process. Thank you very much. That's my intervention for now, I'll say more if I'm giving the opportunity.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you for the short comment. I think there is a short comment that will be following, may I ask Doctor…

[TAREK]:   Welcome Madame [inaudible]… here in our meeting in ICANN, our London meeting. I just wanted to correct the misunderstanding that might have happened. When you said Fadi said this morning that he is freezing the budget for the various activities, no.

He is freezing the increase in the budget. So the budget is there, as it is in fiscal year 14, in fiscal year 15. So there is no increase, but to have the same amount that has been kept up, moving forward in fiscal year 14, in fiscal year 15 as well, and it has been approved by the Board. So I

just wanted to correct that so that no misunderstanding are happening, that the budget is freezing so there is no budget, no. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you, [Tarek]. And I will continue with our panel. And our next panelist will be, now I'll use age, Dr. [Nee].

DOCTOR [NEE]: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Actually I have very little to say, but to express my thanks and appreciation for the effort that it has taken to move this forward, and to thank, you know, the CO for his foresight and encouragement for us to develop this strategy.

I happen to have, you know, been, you might say, the chairman of the drafting committee that consulted the community to develop this set of [inaudible]. And so I would really would like [Terek] and Pierre to convey to Fadi our sincere gratitude for this effort, and also to the Board for moving further forward. Now, normally, it's quite common for Africa to get discussed and forget, and so I'm equally pleased to see that we are trying to implement, and that makes me feel very happy that we've changed the tune and begin to do things actually on the ground.

And that's also very good. But we should bear in mind the implementation takes some time, so we don't put undue expectations, including the budget issue as well. Implementation is much, much more time consuming effort requiring much more engagement. But if you engage properly, the attraction is much deeper, and as they saying goes, you get better footprints.

So I'm looking for real deep footprints and I would like us to continue this process. One bit of advice regarding community dynamics, I think we are a community that has grown, and that's very successful. But we should also bear in mind that when you come into a community, you kind of let go of the, where you come from so to speak, if you are to volunteer properly.

And so we should bear in mind that as we come into a community, we should also use our difference to advantage, by helping to the [valuing] of differences, as opposed to having the differences polarize. So I'm actually challenging you to, you know, let this thing grow freely, and strongly, and in a very cooperative, and you might say, supportive role, for everyone, because there is only one Africa. Forget the countries, it's one Africa.

And forget the individual countries, it's one Africa. And if we can do that with respect to this strategy, we may surprise ourselves, the businesses and the opportunities we can create. In that light, I would also like to caution that in the multistakeholder environment, sometimes it's not clear who is doing what and so on. But at least one thing is clear, that we can't all be doing the same things, and at the same time, there are some which things happen, they actually implement things.

And so which we be mindful to pay attention to developing that side as well. Meaning, if all of us can discuss, but few cannot actually type commands to make things happen, we are hurting ourselves. So we need to also pay attention to building the technical capacity that can support the other policy areas, that we equally need.

So we need to find that balance, and if you can get that balance right, our community will become sustainable, businesses will emerge, and we would all be very successful. I thought I would just say that for now. Thank you very much.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you [inaudible] for the warm words of advice, we appreciate that. And yeah, Mohamed, please entertain us. Thank you.

MOHAMED: Thank you Chairman. Well I think that I just want also to give the thanks to the organizer. But I will try to summarize, very quickly, input that needs to be taken into account. The first thing is, the African strategy has been developed by a core group of volunteers that just bring their [hurt], and their belief in Africa that we need to take ourselves, I mean the direction that we want to have.

And we come up with a document that was the reference for all of the region. And I think that [Tarek] already said that in the introduction. The African strategy was the difference for all other regions to start and to implement. Hopefully, we come out with some good ideas and implementation is going.

But if we look at the numbers, I just want to be clear that, if you look at the business of ICANN, there are two foots that, I mean, the domain name business and the IP addresses where some resources are coming out. All the other things are policy. So in the domain name business, if you look at what's going on there, is we have a ccTLD business and a

EN

gTLD. We don't want only to think that the whole business of the DNS is what only ccTLD.

Hopefully, we need to have a strong ccTLD baseline in Africa. We don't have that one. So AFTLD is doing a great job. They are trying to bring best practices and so forth. But there was area that really needed to be looking carefully. I just want to use one example. Do you know that, for example, when you register domain names in the database, there is an issue regarding where this data going to be stored?

And you have heard that the European Union, individually, many countries have object that they don't want the data to get out of the country. African Union has last month's, validate the cyber security document for the whole African framework. So it comes to see what is going to be the local implementation of this cyber security staff. And we see that, the discuss that we see in European countries, in US country, we did not have the chance to get the same areas developed within African countries.

So we really need to see how we're going to coordinate between the effort made by the African union, the African strategy, and the people who are the core partners around this, to make this environment with a better trust, because without trust, what we're going to have is a number of domain name registration, going to be very weak.

We only have seven registrar in Africa. Out of the three million domain names that we get worldwide, for example, we know that, I mean, half of these domain names from the… Let's say more than 60% is from the gTLD business. In this 60%, half percent of this is just managed by one registrar, Go Daddy. The other one just managing the whole.

What I'm trying to show you is, there is room for stimulation, there is room for businesses. We are just seeing this virtual development that we can make it happen, but if we don't stimulate it, I'm just recalling what [inaudible] was saying, domain names are not [inaudible].

I mean, people are not shooting themselves with domain names, they're not waking in the morning and saying, "I want to have my domain name before midday." No. We need to stimulate it, and it going to be content driven, and it going to be economy. In part of domain name have to be measured on the whole impact of the whole economy. This going be to e-commerce business, through the music industry, through the creative industry.

This is what we have to solve and we have to sell to the global world. We have our industry, laying down waiting for us to help them bring what they have to show, what they have to sell, what they have to share with the whole community. So I think that our job is, we as actors have to be, in a cooperative manner, to create ways to become, this DNS industry to become a real impact on the African economy. Thank you very much.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you again to the panelists here. And now back to the floor here, if there are any questions on the remarks that were given by our panelists, [inaudible], Dr. [Nee], and Mohamed [inaudible]. Questions from the floor.

I'll start to my right and take four questions with you sir there please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay. It's not so much as a question as it is two comments that I think the panelists have discussed, that I think are very important. The first deals with how we expand the domain name market in Africa. And one of the assumptions of most registrars is access to a credit card. If you look at most websites for registrars, you get a place where you can select your domain names, and then a credit card gateway.

Yet, we know that in the developing world, access to financial services is a serious problem. Very few people, in Africa, have credit cards, or bank cards, debit cards, those kinds of things. That's a big problem. How do we begin to modify the, you know, the basic model of a registrar to account for that?

I mean, we have to think very creatively about that. Also even simple things like going across borders. If you want to register a domain name with a, let's say a Senegalese registrar, who has got a nice website, and you're in a Cameroon, how do you transfer the funds?

I mean, that's an issue, structural issue of Africa as a whole. We've got to think a bit creatively about that, because that is really our market, is a lot of those people who are out there, who don't have the formal access to these kinds of services.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Sorry] colleagues. I'm going to try and push you, if we can be very brief. We have another team that needs to be coming in, even though they took 10 minutes off of our time early on, 10 to 17 minutes, so let's try and push so that we can leave in the next 10 minutes. Thank you. The next question and then we'll come back to you sir.

We'll take a batch of four questions, then we'll take responses. Thank you.

PASTOR PETERS: Just a quick observation. My name is Pastor Peters, I'm [inaudible]…of [inaudible] across the borders. Yeah, in the course of the progress reports, I mean, all that was mentioned and referred to us to do with the business community, but no reference was made to activities or programs that the objective was involving the Internet end users.

So and then we know that they constitute a block of the oil that drives the Internet. So, my question is, what is the African… What are we doing towards that? And also, this is my first meeting with this group, what [inaudible] five years now. So but, I also want to say that I think it is also good that this body also interacts and work strongly with the Civil Society group within Africa, not just the registrars, the cc… [Inaudible] but also effective, if you are also engaged with the [inaudible] or the grassroots. Thank you very much.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [French] …oh yes, sorry. We have to start, we should start taking the approach should be local, national, and as you, as we said, as the Minister said, we should have a voice, we should be together, and we should go to the basics. And countries, like we said, who, the African countries who have not understood the ICANN in general, start now.

That we should do some outreach, a very strong outreach, at a local level. There is a lady who talked earlier, I'm sorry I did not remember your name, but it's a question of money, and strategy clear. How can

we participate ourselves with our [inaudible], and so we could bring our contribution and our brand, African brand, to be able to impose, and to have our word, to be able to say something.

You know, with mobility, with mobiles now, and with 90% of mobile telephones, Internet, today we are working on the back board everywhere. All of this is not consequences on the Internet space, of the use of domain names. What I say, in summary, is to do some outreach at a region level. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Then we take responses, then we…

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible]. I have listened carefully to what has been said here. And as a consumer, because I come from the consumer end user, I think a set guy, I'm a bit dubious because you people stop at the industry level, but I think the industry in Africa can be stimulated, if you stimulate the market.

And that's one thing. And secondly, as has been said, the market today is Africa is through mobile things, and I think this approach we have, you have to see through best practices. Like today in East Africa, Kenya mainly, the problem of the finance, you know, card usage is important. So maybe this has to be seen, how to push in other countries because it's true. I mean, the registers, how will they have the market without that?

But what I'm afraid of is, through some speeches here, if our government will be caught in ideological debates on national, you know, influence, and then we end users will be caught in this, and it will be a whole bureaucratic thing. We need more freedom, I think. I think if today we benefit of something in Africa, it's because there has been more freedom, maybe there was a country there, but the country, fortunately, I believe it has respected the freedom to create, to push, then if we have 20 or 50 or 60 governments they are trained to [inaudible], or something that they cannot control.

So this is…

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Sorry, yes.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [French] Thank you to Pierre for the presentation that you did. I have two comments. The first concern, the indicators that were given to us. And really, sincerely, I do not know if we should be satisfied with it, these indicators, or maybe ask ourselves some questions. I would have been more comfortable with these indicators if I had known the objectives of the strategy better, the actual situation, and also what's left to be caught.

In fact, we have a situation that doesn't move. Maybe it's satisfactory for everybody's vision, but I think that we should be able to, at this stage, we should be able to appreciate the [inaudible] the situation when it comes to the implementation of the strategy. That's my first one. Second point, well I'm completely in agreement with Mohamed,

when it comes to the implementation and the impact, how can we measure?

In fact, we're not going to wake up every morning and say, "How many domain names do we have?" We need to find out how we can transform Africa, how we can bring more new application, and the impact could be on Africa and Africans.

[French]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: …please, you need to be addressing your concerns via the chat here, the audience here. Can you give us another few minutes to wind off? Respectfully, we did not walk into the room whilst you were in your session. We would appreciate that you respect us to wind down, and then we will allow you to continue with your meeting.

Yes please, allow us another minute to close.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Quickly, quickly, the new speaker. The IGF platform that man, the lady talked about, seems to be very appropriate.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: …problem. I do not think we are going to be able to conclude properly. I think the time allocated in between sessions is not appropriate, and will always create problems. We were in a similar situation last year, if I recall. We were pushed out of a room. We cannot be in an incident, we

need to have a space, we need to have sufficient time to discuss our issues.

And I'm going to ask the convener of the meeting to close and see how best we can continue. But as it is, the situation is not tenable for us to continue. My apologies for the time allocated and the space that is not available. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you. Thanks for coming. We will really take into consideration. We are very sorry about that one. And we will be communicating with you, how we do, if we consider convening this meeting, you'll know. Please. Thanks for having come here.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]