ICANN73 | Virtual Community Forum – Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – 14:30 to 16:00 AST

CLAUDIA RUIZ:	Hello and welcome to the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting. My name is Claudia Ruiz and along with my colleuage, Gisella Gruber, we'll be the remote participation managers for this session.

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With that, I will now hand the floor over to Seun Ojedeji, chair of AFRALO. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much, and hello, everyone. Welcome again to 28th AFRALO-AfrICANN session. And of course, thanks to everyone for joining this session. Just a brief background, this is a session that we'd normally hold during every ICANN public meeting, and of course, this particular one is the 28th of it, so it's had a lot of history, and of course, we always try as much as possible to come out with the statement from each of those meetings.

So I'd like to thank all our guest speakers who have actually [inaudible] to be on this call, all our participants, those who are members of At-Large, AFRALO, and of course, ICANN community members, and newcomers. You're all welcome to this session. I look forward to good deliberation. It's the third day of the ICANN meeting and I hope that this session will be one of the good ones that you've had.

I'd like to recognize the presence of all the speakers. Maureen, Göran, Eddy, León Sanchez, Mandla, Ihab, I'd also like to note that he sent us his statement. Of course, [he's got another meeting] to attend this meeting, but we really appreciate that he had us in mind and sent us a note. Thank you, Pierre, for attending and of course, on behalf of myself or my colleauges, I say welcome to everyone.

So that is it, and of course, without much ado, I would like to just ask Maureen who is the ALAC chair to give us opening remarks. You have the floor.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Hi Seun, Maureen's audio dropped. We are dialing out to her. We'll let you know as soon as we get her on.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thank you. I guess that goes to Göran. Göran is the ICANN president and CEO, and of course, whenever we hold this meeting, Göran is always available to talk to us. And if we have any quick questions for him, this is an opportunity for us to ask him a few questions. He always likes to be asked questions. Göran, you're welcome. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you. And thank you very much for inviting me again. As always, excited and thankful for the opportunity to be here. Before I go onto the topic, which is a little bit more about DNS abuse, I don't know if you've

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seen the announcement we did last week together with the ITU-D, together with the [Kenyan] minister of ICT, that we are doing our first investments really in Africa to build two datacenter clusters for the [inaudible] root server.

The first one will be in Kenya. We'll be doing another one, the location will be revealed very soon. And I made this promise to you, I think, six to eight months ago, a couple of meetings back, and now it's finally happening. And we do that because we want to be able to better support the Internet users in Africa, which is a very large continent and that's why we're placing two as a beginning there.

Also recognizing that sometimes, actions is better than words, and by doing investments we show our commitment to the region. And I was desperately looking to find the actual press release, but I will ask someone from my team to post it in the chat as well.

I also posted something in the chat that is completely new, hot off the press, which is a thing we do to be able to see if we can prevent some bad actions happening on the Internet in relation to the war in Ukraine. So please have a look at that as well.

Anyway, the African community [inaudible] I give you a complement that over the years, you also developed yourselves a lot when it comes to the issues you point out. I've read the statement about abuse and I think that's very timely, pointly, and I appreciate the comments that have been made.

ICANN Org has a very important role in this. The role is sort of twofold. One of them is to facilitate the discussion within the community, because in a multi-stakeholder bottom-up process, it is the community who makes the decisions and [inaudible]. The other thing is to provide facts and tools for the ICANN community, and sometimes beyond. So the community can be effective in its work to make sure that the information is there timely, but also—which I will come back to—to provide those tools that fight different types of abuse. [inaudible] we did develop the Africa regional plan for 2021 to 2025 which consists a lot of those things there DNS security threats is a part of.

A couple of things that we talked about before, just to point out, that it's not like we start from [inaudible] in this one, is that—so one of the most important tools we have is what we call the domain abuse activity reporting system, or DAAR in short, where we on a monthly basis look through the landscape of DNS abuse to see how DNS abuse in general and an aggregate level is developing over the years.

This is not only for the top-level domains under ICANN's purview but we have a greater interest from country code operators from around the world to participate and assist. They actually get a service for free. I know it's not the end of all services. They still need to do a lot of work by themselves. But together with the country code operators, we can then establish a fairly good format to see how the question of abuse evolves.

The domain name security threat information collection and reporting—another fantastic name—or DNS TICR—if you looked at the

press release we sent out, when COVID came around, everybody realized when there's an interest, there's also bad actors, and we set up a system where we can through our databases look at what we call fraudulent domain name registration, because we saw a big spike in registrations using words like COVID, corona, vaccines, and we wanted to make sure they weren't fraudulent.

And what we do is we go through a system and then we tell the registrars to have a look at them and take them down if they're fraudulent. I'm not using the right words right now, but you get the feeling I can read more about it on the web.

It was very successful. We saw a lot of registrations in the beginning, but very few that actually become something that the registries did take down. And I think that says something about there are existing systems to fight abuse already in the system without taking the fact even a few DNS abuse could be very bad for the Internet users of the world.

We also have something we called KINDNS. Sometimes I have to admit the acronyms we come up with are amazing. It's the DNS ecosystem security and knowledge instantiating norms for domain name security to come up with ways and talks to the ICANN top-level domain operators and other actors how they can build up systems and processes to fight security issues on the Internet.

So why do I mention this? Because all those things come from input from the ICANN community and dialogs such as this, which we have to get [inaudible] because you actually give us the ideas. ICANN's role is such that we can take those roles on but also important to recognize

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when it comes to policy work, that belongs to you and the ICANN community.

So I would like to encourage you to give us more ideas, more interactions, push us sometimes so we can continue to do what we do. With that, I would say thank you very much [inaudible] and I'm sorry that I have two dogs that don't appreciate me speaking at all. They're my harshest critics. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much, Göran, and of course, good to hear that what you promised a few meetings back is finally happening in Africa. Thanks to you and your team for keeping to it and making it happen. And of course, thanks for the news of the commitment with regards to the amount that was set aside to support and ensure kind of emergency funds to ensure that Internet remains up globally, and of course, we do hope that this would continue to keep things moving within the regions which are in war, and of course, globally as well.

Thanks again. I'd like to just hear that Maureen is back, and I'd like to take Maureen's remark now who is the chair of ALAC. And after that, the CEO of AFRINIC and of course, we'll open the floor for questions before we got to the next round of guests. Maureen, are you on the call? You have the floor.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes I am. This is Maureen Hilyard, ALAC chair for the record. Thank you again, Seun, for your invitation to your 28th meeting. It's been going for quitter a while. I want to welcome you all to ICANN 73.

What I wanted to do is because it's our first meeting for 2022, I wanted to acknowledge my team members, Raymond Mamattah, Sarah Kiden and Dave Kissoondoyal who were on the ALAC, and I wanted to say what a sterling job they're doing representing the AFRALO community not only on the ALAC but on many of the working groups within At-Large bringing the African voices to the discussion. And it was great to see Sarah on Hadia's session this morning.

But of course, you've also got Aziz and Abdeldjalil who have been with you for a long time. And of course, I can't forget Daniel Nanghaka who is the chair of the At-Large outreach and engagement working group. They do a great job as well and I'm really looking forward, hoping that Daniel keeps well this year so he can continue his work.

But I think that AFRALO has once again been proactive and Göran's already mentioned the policy statements that you've produced for this ICANN meeting, the topic of which is not surprising when it is being introduced by Hadia who did a brilliant session this morning, and I missed it because my Internet dropped and hasn't returned, which is why I'm on the phone at the moment. But Hadia has shown great leadership in her role as chair of the Capacity Building Working Group, which is now looking more at training of our community members on important issues such as the DNS abuse paper that you're presenting today.

And I'd like to thank Hadia for the wonderful webinars and workshops she's coordinated with her small but very enthusiastic working group. But I also wanted to thank Barrack Otieno for being the ALAC liaison to the ccNSO for the last four years. We were going to make a change to the role last year sometime, but circumstances were such that it's been delayed. But during this time that he's been on as ccNSO liaison, which I must mention he actually took over after I had been in that role for several years, but he's been a really good informational link between the ccNSO and the ALAC over those four years.

At the end of ICANN 73, this role will be taken over by Lianna Galstyan who is currently the vice chair of APRALO but in her day job, she works with the registry that runs the Armenian ccTLD .am.

So like Barrack, she will be able to view her role with experience in both the At-Large and the ccNSO camp. And I just wanted to say thank you, Barrack, for undertaking that liaison role so capably during your term. I hope that you will remain a part of the At-Large community which we've valued all these years anyway. So thank you so much.

So Seun, I really just wanted to say those thank you's, and I'll stop here and wish you well for the rest of your meeting. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much, Maureen, and of course, with regards to your team, for all [inaudible] for ICANN, of course, and for the end users, thanks a lot, and of course, we appreciate from our ALAC members in the region, as you said, and of course, all our members who actually

participated [inaudible] filling one role or the other to us protecting the interest of end users in ICANN.

I would now—I hear that Eddy is pressed on time because he's actually on a plane or something, so I'd just ask him to take the floor now or make his remark before we then reopen the floor for questions to the first guests. Eddy, you have the floor.

EDDY KAYIHURA: Thank you, Seun. I'm very sorry for [inaudible]. I hope you can hear me well.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes, we hear you. Thanks.

EDDY KAYIHURA: Thank you again for this invitation. This is one of the sessions where I endeavor to be present and meet, even if it's online, collaborate and discuss with the different members of the community, not only Africa but globally.

So yes, I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Göran on this new infrastructure that is coming up in Africa. It was an interesting development and I even saw some of the press that made even more than what it was. So it's sometimes interesting what the press can say. But thank you so much for delivering on the promise.

So as you know, AFRINIC is still part of this community, and providing services not only to members but for the names we normally operate on the ccTLD, we provide support to the ccTLD secondary for a lot of countries and we provide the service at no cost. So it's one of the things that we do with pride and honor to be able to contribute also to the stability of the Internet.

We also collaborate with the reverse DNS, intervene in the reverse DNS. And today, I also kind of insisted to be part of this meeting even if this trip came in, to also appreciate the power of community. I have seen some of you followed some of the challenges that we went through and not totally finished, but I was very touched to see how the community and most of you were part of the naming community, but you're also part of the members community, and even seeing the—how can I say? The support and the expression of encouragement through a very difficult time, I think that this is also contributing to the stability of the Internet and I believe that this community being able to collaborate and work together is really important. Sorry for this, I think the noise around me is not as friendly as Göran's dogs. So I'll stop here. Appreciate, again, the support, commitment and encouragement, and we're also very keen to do more in terms of engagement with our base, with our membership and any suggestion, comment or advice would be welcome. Thank you so much.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thank you very much, Eddy, for that remark. I would just open the floor for any question or comment to our guest speakers before we

move on to the next couple of speakers. I see some questions in the chat. Seeing no hands up, so maybe Claudia can help read out some of the questions, and of course, please direct it to the person that it was asked of. Thank you.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Thank you. The question and the comment is what is the second country that will host the root servers apart from Kenya? Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you. We will disclose that in, I think, a week or two. There's nothing strange with it, just goes through the support process for doing that and some other things came in-between. So bear with me. It'll be in just a couple of weeks.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Claudia, is that all?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Yes. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Thank you very much. There was a question at a previous session to, I think Eddy, but the person is not yet on the call. So maybe [inaudible] why is AFRINIC Board chair and CEO all male, why is there no female. That was the question. I thought I should ask. Maybe the

person will see the recording and get their response. So Eddy, are you in a position to answer?

EDDY KAYIHURA: Yes. I plead guilty and I think we still need a lot more women on the Board. We've actually started some activities to have more women in our community involved, and even engaging Sudan which is one of the countries where we see a lot of women involved into the ICT sector, but at this point, I can just say, point taken, and we are actively working on it. I can see some women on this call. If I come to you after, it's not my fault. But it's a situation that I hope we address soon. Thank you very much.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you, Eddy. Sorry to put you on the spot there. There you have it. We hope that women will also apply when the calls are held for these open positions. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our three speakers in case they're not able to stay on this call through. And of course, we then move on to the next guest speaker, León Sanchez, a very good friend of us, and apart from the AFRALO-AfrICANN session, he always makes time to attend our AFRALO monthly calls. And of course, he's been a source of support for us whenever we ask for this support. León, the vice chair of the Board, welcome, you have the floor.

LEÓN SANCHEZ: Thank you very much, Seun. I'd like to thank you, as usual, for having me here at the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN session. As Seun has said, it is a

major event for me. I try to not miss it. and I think I haven't missed the AFRALO-AfrICANN joint meetings so far. So it's good to be here again.

Göran has said how Org supports the different efforts that are underway in the community. And the role of the Board in some way is to facilitate his job. So we facilitate the facilitator, so to speak. And in this sense, I've gone through the statement that you are about to review and issue shortly. I think that the plan that you are suggesting there, the initiatives that you're suggesting in terms of educating end users with regards to DNS abuse, are definitely something we should support and carry out.

You might have been in the DNS abuse session that was organized by Hadia, and other At-Large community members and other members of community, and we were discussing—I think it was with Judith, that a very important part of fighting DNS abuse or other threats is to educate people, to have them know what they need to be on the look and to care about and take care of, because otherwise, they won't be able to put in measures to protect themselves and to identify what could be a threat or what could harm them with regards to DNS.

So again, I think it's very important to educate people to push for these initiatives, to reach out, to take advantage of the structure that we have through the various ALSes that we have in Africa and elsewhere. I wouldn't think to limit this only to our African colleagues, but I would think of being a wider initiative to be pushed to every corner of the world. So I comment you for this initiative, I applaud that you have designed this statement in the way that it has been crafted, and as

usual, you can count on me to support you, help you. I'm always a click away or a message away from anyone and I promise I always get back to you.

So Seun, with this, I don't want to take more of your time. Of course, I will remain in the session if you allow me, and thanks again.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much, León, for those remarks. Let's go to the next speaker, Mandla, ICANN Board member from Africa. We are always happy to have her on our call. During a previous session I joined, Mandla was actually communicating in French. I've not been able to do that and I think she's done it within few period. I hope that'll be a challenge to me.

Mandla, you have the floor and you're welcome.

MANDLA MSIMANG: Thank you, Seun. I won't assault everybody with my French again, I'll stick to English. But thank you again for the invitation today and the opportunity to make a few remarks at this 28th meeting of AFRALO-AfrICANN.

Before I start, I wanted to say I liked Eddy's answer and we can refer a lot of capable African women to him. I'll limit my remarks to just a few. Not strictly on the topic of the statement, which is, as usual, a very good one, but also on the matter of Africa's engagement at ICANN.

The session you talked about earlier, Seun, was the Africa Space meeting this afternoon which was very interesting, and the findings of the survey on ICANN's African engagement were presented. It's an important thing to understand how we engage and how best we can participate in the broader multi-stakeholder model community if we are to implement the African regional strategy and the associated plan.

So the findings that were presented as well as my time on the Board so far have confirmed that the African voice in the multi-stakeholder model is an important one if the impacts on the policies and processes that ICANN community develops and participates in are to have an inclusive effect. And if the specific nuances of our varied communities— because obviously, there's lots of different subcommunities within Africa—are to be considered in giving effect to the security and stability of the global Internet.

So although we've had difficulties in connecting properly during the pandemic and those difficulties are very real, we need to make sure that we as community members continue to support AFRALO-AfrICANN in continuously increasing African participation. That means that we need to make sure that we're involved in issues like what we're discussing today and issues ranging from universal acceptance to DNS abuse.

And I think the approach taken and the statement that is being discussed today—I won't go into it too much because I know we're going into it in detail, which is to address DNS abuse from a capacity building perspective. Focusing to an extent on end users and building awareness, I think that approach is particularly important.

As usual, the statement is very insightful, and I look forward to discussing and unpacking it today with you and seeing what advice was given for ICANN and the broader community, At-Large community included. Thank you, Seun, for inviting me and I look forward to the discussion.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much, Mandla, and of course, we're always happy to see you and hear your voice. Thanks for your contribution to ICANN. Of course, to the Internet development as a whole.

We'll move on to our next guest, Alan. Earlier on I extended the apologies of Ihab for him not to be able to attend. So we will move onto Alan, member of the ICANN Board. A lot of you would be familiar with Alan. He's been the AFRINIC CEO as well. And of course, a very long member of the community within Africa and of course, globally. Alan, you have the floor. Welcome.

ALAN BARRETT: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, wherever you are. Thank you for inviting me. It's a pleasure to see you all on my screen today. I do hope that we won't be restricted to seeing each other through screens for too much longer.

So DNS abuse is a very important topic and there have already been several discussions about it within ICANN, including a plenary session earlier today just a few hours ago.

Many of the discussions about DNS abuse have been very technical, targeted at experts, and I applaud the AFRALO-AfrICANN community for turning that around to address end users instead of experts so that end users will be more aware of how to protect themselves and how to report problems.

I'm sure the discussion about the statement today will be very interesting.

ICANN has several activities relating to DNS abuse, and I would encourage you to read about the DNS security threat mitigation program, the domain abuse activity reporting project—DAAR—DNS TICR, the domain name security threat information collection and reporting project. So these are just three projects that ICANN is undertaking that you'll be able to find if you search the ICANN website.

Finally, I'd like to say that I think education programs should distinguish between the kinds of abuse that are within or outside ICANN's remit. For example, anything involving content is outside ICANN's remit even though it may be abusive. It's still important, should still be a subject of education, but I think it's important to distinguish what is or isn't part of ICANN's remit.

I'll end there. Thank you very much. I hope to see you again soon.

SEUN OJEDEJI:　　　　Thank you very much, Alan. Good to hear from you. That completes list of guest speakers. Before we go to the topic proper, I would like to—if there's any question, comment, reaction to our speakers. Staff,

anything in the chat that needs to be read out? Bram, you have the floor.

BRAM FUDZULANI.   Thank you, Seun. It's not something that was presented, but I think I just want to take advantage of the leadership that is here, the Board members. I have raised this with León in one of the AFRALO monthly calls on what the ICANN leadership is planning, especially after sending one of the Board members to go learn about how the global IGF conducted a hybrid meeting, has there been any official communication from those lessons and [any report] going forward from the ICANN?

So I thought maybe if there's a latest update, we could hear from the Board members. Thank you, Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you. León, are you going to take this, or any other Board member want to take this?

LEÓN SANCHEZ: Yes, Seun. Just to make sure I understood, the question is about when are we going to transition to face-to-face meetings again?   Is that correct?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes, and whether there were lessons learned from the IGF that were useful and you think would actually facilitate ICANN coming back to face-to-face. Thank you.

LEÓN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Seun. The plan right now is to of course hold a hybrid meeting in The Hague. We're all set for The Hague. The current status is that unless something very drastic happens on the way to The Hague, we are going to The Hague. So I really hope that we are able to make it and finally see each other on a face-to-face fashion.

In terms of lessons learns, I would say a list of things that we've learned from not only the pandemic but also the IGF, attendance, etc. In very brief context, I think that vaccination may have proven or has proven to be essential for those who attended the IGF face-to-face. We are aware that there might have been some contagion during the IGF, but I believe—the information that I have is that the numbers were very low and that not many attendees were impacted by COVID during the IGF.

Of course, putting in place the sanitation and health measures that we all know now like keeping physical distance, wearing a mask in closed environments, having good ventilation, the use of rapid tests in some circumstances, of course, having people attend who have been fully vaccinated, etc., those are definitely measures that I think would help transition in a faster way to a face-to-face meeting again.

Other than that, I don't know. Lessons learned are many, and I think that the most impactful may be those learned in terms of how to be

inclusive and meaningful for those who are participating remotely. I mean, we have always held face to face meetings with remote participation in ICANN. But now the challenge, of course, is to have those face-to-face meetings in a manner that provides the same opportunity and space for those who are participating remotely, in the same way that we are doing it right now. So that, I think, will be a challenge, but it's a continuous learning curve for everyone. Again, I think there are a lot of things that we need to learn.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Alright, thank you. Thank you very much, León. And of course, thanks for the response. I understand that you have another session to attend. I'd just like to thank you for joining us on this call. You very much are appreciated. I would just note that I think I skipped one of our guest speakers unintentionally. My apologies, Pierre. How could I have forgotten that? Sorry, for that. We're going to hear from Pierre who is the vice president and of course, the person leading the GSE team for Africa. We always enjoy the support of Pierre's team, especially a lot of AFRALO's activities. And of course, we also heard some of the progress they've made, and, of course, the outcome of the survey with regards to the strategy as well during the African session that we had earlier today. And so I hope that maybe Pierre can also say a few words on that if time permits him. Pierre, you have the floor. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. My name is Pierre Dandjinou and I'm the vice president in

charge of stakeholder engagement for Africa. And always happy to be invited and participate to this AFRALO-AfrICANN session during ICANN meetings.

Well, I think quickly, because you don't have much time for it, but the good news that our CEO and president brought to us in terms of the Internet infrastructure, especially the ICANN managed servers, cluster in Africa, and one of them already in Kenya, I think is quite important and [inaudible] for us, which certainly is going to assist in issues in our kind of reducing latency for communication. And that is going to be quite fundamental for Africa in terms of having a robust Internet connectivity.

But of course, this is also one of the steps that we are having, because we also are certainly going to announce another bigger program on that one with so many other partners, but that one is going to come — you'll hear more about teaching in coming weeks.

So these are good news. But I am not forgetting what you've been doing. And I would like to thank colleagues from AFRALO for your [inaudible]. In fact the different activities we are trying to implement in Africa. And also, you are welcome in our webinars. I'm certain that you must be a bit more kind of living through Zoom fatigue eventually, but I noticed that you actually continue assisting, supporting us in different places.

Of course, I would now like to ask to really increase the way we are working on the ground. Your declaration is fine, about educating users when it comes to DNS abuse, quite important issue. Göran and Alan

also mention what ICANN has been doing in terms of DNS abuse. And of course, we are here to support, should you really plan to go ahead with this sort of training for users. Definitely, we are here for that.

Before I stop, Mandla alluded to that one in our earlier meeting of the Africa Space, you know that Africa Space is something that's going to be much more holistic in terms of participation into ICANN from our African community. So that's where we really want to be reporting, of course, on the implementation of the Africa strategy but also giving room for our stakeholders to be able to voice their concern, share their best practices and successes, and of course, forming what I will say, a platform for African productive intervention, or I will say, participation, contribution to ICANN work.

So that's why we do have this African Space, which is replacing what we call our strategy session that we've been conducting for so many years now.

So basically, I'd like also to invite all of you when it works to our next engagement forum, planned for May, it's going to be in Nairobi. And definitely we are planning to have it like a hybrid meeting. So we are going to have a few participants on site. Most of them certainly will be online. You'll hear more about that one when we got all the go ahead from ICANN to really do this kind of hybrid meeting in Africa. And of course, our DNS Forum, which is going to come later on. And these are some of our flagship program right now.

With that, I'd like to really thank you again for producing this declaration that really is now becoming the kind of brand from AFRALO-

AfrICANN. I think that's great. And with that, good sort of ICANN 73 to everyone, and also good discussion about this declaration. Thank you very much for inviting me.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right, thank you very much, Pierre, and thanks for your support. And, of course, at AFRALO, we will be doing some training sometime this month, end of this month and next on universal acceptance. Thanks to your team for how they have been supporting us on that project. Of course, we hope that our members will also take advantage of the opportunity wen it starts.

I don't know whether there's any comment. Does anyone have questions or comments before we move on? Okay, I'm not seeing any hands up and of course, not hearing any voice. Thanks again to all our guest speakers. And we then move on to the next item on the agenda which is introduction of the topic. The two penholders for this topic, statement drafting were Hadia and Barrack. They also had support from other members of the community. We learned to appreciate their spirit of volunteerism and of course, for initiating the process and of course, doing the initial drafting of the statement.

Hadia or Barack would now take the floor to introduce the topic briefly. And of course, we then hand over to Abdeldjalil who would present the statement. Hadia, you have the floor.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. Thank you, Seun. I will start and I agreed with Barrack to start. So the statement basically discusses DNS abuse capacity development for end users. We see embarking on such an initiative as an important issue, as an important program or initiative to reduce the number of victimized end users, and also to teach users how to report fraud activities.

We also think that as far as users are concerned, the definition of DNS abuse does not really matter. Therefore, we don't need to get into this debate. We also regard collaboration among stakeholders as a very important element for the success of such an initiative. And in that regard, the ICANN At-Large community has a global outreach advantage not available to most stakeholders. Therefore, the AFRALO community sees an undeniable role for the At-Large community in relation to this capacity building initiative.

Also, one important element that we pointed out in the statement that could help the success of this initiative is a framework through which the community could work in an organized way. So we are suggesting that we all think together, how could we form a framework through which the community could work in an organized way? So I stop here and give the floor to Barrack if he wants to add anything. Otherwise, back to you, Sean. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you, Hadia, for that brief remark. I'm not seeing Barrack's hand up so I want to believe that he is a plus one from him to the brief remark from Hadia.

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We just want to hand over to Abdeldjalil. You have the floor.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you, Sean. Good evening to everyone. My connection is not very well. So I'm not sure if I can read this declaration.

Okay, the subject is the DNS abuse capacity development for end users. We, the African ICANN Community members participating in the Virtual ICANN 73 and attending the joint AFRALO/AfrICANN meeting on March 9,2022, discussed DNS Abuse: Capacity Development for End Users as an important topic for AFRALO. We hereby put forward the African position in relation to DNS Abuse as it relates to ICANN. The discussion was prompted by the majority of AFRALO members following a request on the AFRALO-AfrICANN mailing lists for topics to be discussed at ICANN73.

Following sustained awareness campaigns by I can org and the ICANN community, focusing on process and technology related DNS abuse issues. There is a need to focus on end users.

End users' DNS abuse capacity development is important to reduce the number of victimized end users and to teach users how to report fraudulent activities affecting them online. This capacity building serves two main ends; One is the public interest as it relates to ICANN's commitment to purpose and to act in the public interest of Internet users and the other is maintaining trust in ICANN as one major and essential player in the DNS ecosystem.

For the purpose of a DNS abuse education campaign, the definition of DNS abuse is not necessarily important. What matters is providing adequate and relevant information to end users about how to protect themselves online and teaching them how to report fraudulent activities. Successfully reporting fraudulent activities could potentially safeguard some user's rights, but more importantly would allow ICANN and relevant security practitioners to better protect the online community.

To embark on an end user DNS abuse capacity building mission collaboration among stakeholders within and outside the ICANN ecosystem and community members is essential. The ICANN At-Large community composed of members from across the globe has a global outreach advantage not available to most stakeholders which enables internet users to be addressed through multiple languages and channels while respective various. Therefore, the AFRALO community sees an undeniable exclusive role for the At- Large community in contributing to any end users' DNS abuse capacity development initiative.

To educate end users and raise their awareness the AFRALO community sees that ICANN needs to have the best understanding and data about DNS abuse as it relates to end users, Provide reliable DNS abuse information to the community and ensure Internet users have access to information that could benefit them, through different types of dissemination, which could include Sharing information through social media and ICANN's website, ICANN Learn courses, awareness sessions and webinars, Summarizing findings in reports for the community,

presenting at different relevant venues, publishing awareness material in relevant venues.

Also, create material required for end users' DNS abuse education, help create specialized training courses that could be provided by community members, Help create a pool of capable relevant community members and stakeholders that could provide DNS abuse awareness and education sessions to the wider Internet community, and listen to end users' experiences.

For At-Large and the wider ICANN community to contribute to the initiative we need to do the following: Put together a framework for the purpose of organizing the community and defining roles, collaborate with relevant parties, help create educational and awareness material, find innovative means that could help ordinary Internet users report DNS abuse incidents.

In the beginning it might be difficult to measure the success of such an initiative, but as we go along, we could learn means to identify the contribution of the program to users' online safety as well as its impact on reporting abuse.

That is it. Thank you very much.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you very much, Abdeldjalil. Over to you, Aziz, to lead the discussion.

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AZIZ HILALI:	Thank you very much, Seun. Thank you, Hadia for presenting this topic and the content. Thank you, Abdeldjalil for reading our statement. I would like to congratulate the entire drafting team and the translators as well. Thanks for all the leadership team in AFRALO. We can be proud of the work we do since 2010. This is a great tradition that we kept, even if the situation is sometimes difficult. Thank you all.

Seun asked me to ask the participants to ask questions. I don't know if we have questions online. I'm going to ask the staff to let me know about the questions arriving online. So if someone would like to take the floor, you can raise your hand and take the floor. This is time for questions.

I don't see anyone with questions. So that means that we all agree. We all agree with this statement. Do you have something to add, Hadia? Would you like to add something to that statement, Hadai?

HADIA ELMINIAWI:	No. Thank you so much, Aziz. Thanks a lot.

AZIZ HILALI:	Thank you very much. I'm going to give the floor back to Seun. Seun? Are you with us?

CLAUDIA RUIZ:	I think we lost Suen, actually. Yes. Not seeing him online.

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AZIZ HILALI:	Very well. Thank you very much, Claudia. So that gives me the opportunity to thank [Mandla]. [Ihab] couldn't make it. Alan Barrett, thank you very much, and our friend, Leon, and Pierre Dandjinou. The ICANN president, Mr. Goran Marby, you're always here with us, with the AFRALO/AfrICANN. And this is a great tradition. We're going to keep it going. And I'm going to ask all my African colleagues to defend the voice of Africa, thanks to those meetings. We do have to participate to many meetings—at the GAC, at the other levels. There is a lot going on.
	I'm afraid we lost Seun. This is the end of our meeting. We're going to adjourn early. Does someone want to take the floor before I close this meeting? No?
CLAUDIA RUIZ:	Aziz, sorry. You do have two hands up. One is from Olévié and then Abdeldjalil. Olévié, if you could take the floor, please.
OLÉVIÉ KOUAMI:	Hello, everyone. This is Olévié Kouami from Senegal. Regarding our joint statement, I don't have much to add, apart from the fact that we are very happy to learn about the news regarding the root servers coming to Africa. It's going to be a good thing. We just learned about it. Someone thought about Africa. This is very positive for us to have these servers in two countries. So we know that the first one will be in Kenya. We don't know the second country. Pierre explained that we will know it soon. I would like to know more about it. What was the process to choose the countries?

I would like to encourage our community in ICANN to promote universal acceptance to have more translation services. We have an new official language at the African Union. Swahili is a new working language for the African Union. I think that would be great to have it in our ICANN meetings with Swahili interpreters. That would promote universal acceptance. Thank you very much for your attention. Thank you, Aziz. I give the floor back to you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much, Olévié. Goran had to go. But yes. We did ask the question to Goran about the choice of the country for the servers and when we will know the second country for the root zone servers. It's going to be just in a few weeks. We'll just have to wait a little bit. We will know about that second country with the root server in Africa.

About languages, I think that ICANN is doing a lot since we started. Personally, 15 years ago, I asked for more language support. Every year we have a good evolution. We have transcription, which is very helpful. We see it on our screen. This is quite important as well. I'd like to give the floor to Abdeldjalil, then Adisa, then Pierre Dandjinou.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you very much to give me the floor. Regarding the statement, we'd like to congratulate all the members. We're going to ask you to communicate this statement around you. And for those who weren't present today, the entire community has to be aware in French, in English, in other languages about this statement and know about the

content of this statement. We have to work with end users in our respective countries.

And we could have more hubs, just like we had for our community to follow very closely the ICANN meetings. Sometimes Internet connections are difficult in Africa. But we have to have a pilot program for more, maybe, hubs in Africa. Thank you so much, Aziz.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. As you know, we do organize webinars. And they are in relation with the topic that was chosen for the statement—our joint meeting. I think we already had two webinars about DNS abuse. Adisa, you have the floor. I hope I do pronounce your name correctly. Adisa, we cannot hear you, Adisa. Go ahead.

ADISA BOLUTIFE: I would just like to say a quick thank you to everyone who has presented today. I think this session has been very information alongside the one we had earlier today as well. I think a lot of good news have come our way, as Africans, during this ICANN meeting. I would just like to appreciate the work of the leadership, both the AFRALO leadership and other ICANN staff on ground.

Basically, I think it's very interesting for me being a Fellow this year and hearing a lot of this amazing work that is going on within my regions. So this is just me saying kudos to all of you guys for your volunteering time. And yeah. That's pretty much it. I really don't have a question so thank you. You have the floor back.

AZIZ HILALI:

Thank you very much, Adisa. And welcome as a young fellow at ICANN. I'm going to give the floor now. Who is the next person? I think it's Pierre Dandjinou. Pierre, you've got the floor.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much, Aziz. I did have two questions. But I would like to say that … Yeah. That was in French. So yes. Two questions. Regarding the cluster, that was answered already. We'll have more details next week. Two countries. We know Kenya is going to get one cluster—one zone server. We'll know soon about the second country.

This cluster with several servers, this is a colocation. They could be managed with a datacenter. Let's not forget that Africa already had several root servers. Alan told us about it in the chat. We are talking about 150 servers already located in Africa. So we're talking about clusters. We're talking about something managed by the L-Root. It's the L-Root managed by ICANN. So some countries already have this type of servers. This is important to remind you of that.

Regarding the languages, I think that ICANN has a lot of technical tools to generate scripts. You need to have script if you want to be on the Internet. If already chose a language that can be useful in the continent, it's a good thing, yes. But now we have to set up a working group that is going to work on the script. And thanks to that script, we'll be able to use it on the Internet. This is what we need to do. So Africans have to

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work on those scripts that will enable to generate the possibly of having those languages on the Internet.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you, Pierre, for all your propositions. We will talk about it in our newsletter. I'm taking notes and I will propose these to the leadership. Now we're going to give the floor to Chokri. Chokri, you want to take the floor?

CHOKRI BEN ROMDHANE: Thank you, Mr. Aziz for this great meeting. We learned a lot. And we had this generous presentation on this big theme for Africa. I just wanted to carry on—to follow what Pierre just said and rebound on what he just said. In fact, yes. Africa will engage itself more with real projects. Africa has to act and have concrete acts. I always told my brothers in Africa to act and to start to go to the next step towards engagement. Now we have a lot of people who are interested in ICANN and who have expertise and that are ready to support Africa and the community.

What I wanted to say as well is that this pandemic has had an impact on the fieldwork. Like Pierre said, all the activities on the regional level that were planned or defined from 2019 were affected. I'm talking about the regional plan at the African level and the Middle East level and other regions, actually. The operational planning was affected in these different regions. So again, there was a severe impact on those activities.

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I don't know if ICANN will have to ask the region to review these plans or to start over these plans in order to favor the work on the field because all these activities had to stop because of the pandemic. All these capacity building in-persons were cancelled. All these actions that were defined on the planning were cancelled—actions or activities that were taking place on the field before. So there was an impact on those activities because of the pandemic. So is ICANN going to review those plannings and maybe do something about the engagements of the stakeholders, and then again, start over on those activities? Thank you very much for letting me speak.

AZIZ HILIALI: Thank you, Mr. Chokri, for these comments. We are now at the end of the session. But maybe Pierre has an answer.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: I just wanted to thank my colleague, Chokri, for his suggestion. But as of today, we have not thought about mandating or just amending the strategy plan, not just African strategy plans. We haven't made any modification to the strategies as of now. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. I think we are now going to stop right here. In the name of all the leadership of AFRALO, I want to thank all the speakers. I want to thank Goran, Mandla, Pierre, and the others. I have forgotten the names. I forgot the name of the person of ALAC. I'm sorry. Thank you to the staff and thank you for the interpretation. They do

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extraordinary work. Thank you to all participants. And I'm sure we're going to meet very soon—maybe face-to-face in The Hague. Inshallah, as we say back home. See you soon. Thank you so much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]