
ICANN75 | AGM – Africa Space
Monday, September 19, 2022 – 16:30 to 17:30 KUL

MAGALI JEAN:

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PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much, Magali. Good morning, good afternoon to all our participants. I'm Pierre Dandjinou, I'm the VP for Global Stakeholder Engagement taking care of Africa with a team of three, plus also our technical engagement colleague from OCTO. We are here to actually support the ICANN, I'll say, activities in Africa.

Of course, this is also the time of the year that we actually would like to be reporting back to you on the Africa strategy, which the African community actually helped develop. So most of our activities, of course, that we do in Africa are based on that strategy that you actually crafted and you highlighted your priority or the priority for the region.

Of course, that strategy also has been developed, considering the ICANN's own strategy, which is a strategy that we certainly know about. So definitely we do have our goals that are there, and we went into details to see exactly what we might be doing to achieve two or two things in Africa which is, of course, about

promoting your participation within ICANN, and be it about in the policy development and also the coordination thing that we do.

One of the things you also requested back then was the capacity building in Africa. It's a pleasure for me to have you here, and in fact, I was actually discussing with Sally that, well, we do have enough Africans coming here, and when we compare to say, 5 to 10 years ago, it was a little bit difficult to have more than 50 Africans at this meeting.

So things are happening, and I would like also to thank most of our fellows that are here that we met this Saturday. Hopefully, we'll be discussing again with you and make sure that you use the opportunity here to put questions, but also to navigate through the different avenues of ICANN. Mine is quite simple here, I mean, job, which is to, of course, welcome you. We are also, I will say, blessed to have ICANN management here, and I would really like to thank Sally.

You certainly met her today, but she's also has things to say. Thank you very much, Sally, for coming here and meeting the community. Sally is our director, she's a Senior Vice President. We are happy to have her. Of course, Adiel, which is from OCTO. You'll hear more about what they're doing, but it's about technical engagement.

Of course, our CEO and president himself has promised, he has some constraint in a way, but he promised to make sure that he eventually pop in by the end of this gathering to say a few words to us. Then I would like to actually ask Baher Esmat, who is going to be kind of welcoming you remotely. Baher Esmat is the Managing Director of the ICANN Hub, I will say, Office in Istanbul that, I'll say, cater for Africa and the Middle East.

He has things to tell you, so it's quite important to listen to him. So, everything is fine. I would like Baher to quickly take us through what the office, Istanbul office has to offer. So, Baher, if you are ready.

BAHER ESMAT: Thank you, Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Yes. So, please, go ahead.

BAHER ESMAT: Please. Yes, thank you. I hope you can hear me. Good afternoon, everyone. This is Baher Esmat for the record. I'm joining you from Istanbul today, and I'm very pleased to be with you despite participating remotely, but I'm always pleased to join the Africa space session and to listen to your discussions and interventions.

As Pierre said, I'm the Managing Director of the ICANN regional office for Middle East and Africa which is located in Istanbul. As some of you know, the Istanbul office was established several years ago as part of ICANN's internationalization strategy aiming to ensure that the ICANN organization continues to work more effectively to serve the needs and the priorities of the region, the Africa and Middle East region.

Currently, we have 24 staff members in the region, 19 of which are based out of Turkey, and five are working from different parts of the region, primarily in Africa. We have four out of five remote staff working in Africa. The regional team represents various functions within ICANN, and they provide wide range of engagement, support, and other services, aiming to support our engagement work in the region and our engagement work with the different stakeholders across the community.

I know that you're going to hear more from the Africa GSE team on the regional plan, I just want to note that our priorities as a regional office are informed by the objectives set out in the ICANN's five-year strategic plan. They revolve around areas like DNS security, ICANN's multi stakeholder governance, unique identifier systems, and the geo-political track.

Without getting much into details, I just wanted also to highlight that our team in the region do provide a lot of support to the

engagement activities that vary from technical engagement and technical capacity building all the way to engagement with stakeholders from governments, policy makers, private sector, and so on.

Just to give you one example of the projects that the officers and the team in the region supporting in Africa, it's the Coalition for Digital Africa. This is an initiative that some of you have probably heard Göran Marby, our CEO, speak to in previous meetings. I think if he's going to join us today, that he's going to also say something about this initiative.

This is one of the key projects that ICANN Org initiating in Africa and for the African community. So I look forward to the discussion today and to hearing from you about how it could continue to serve your needs. Thank you again for the opportunity to join you today. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you. Thank you very much, Baher, for those words. Now, I'd like to turn over to Adiel for his welcome remark to you. Adiel.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Thank you very much, Pierre. Always happy to join you at this forum. I will probably start by remembering our colleague Paul Muchene. Again, he was very active in this particular community.

He happened to be a part of my team as well. So a little bit of thought for him while talking about the region. I'm not sure a minute of silence is-- so yes, let's have a minute of silence for Paul. Thank you.

So as I was saying, for us from OCTO department and technical engagement in general, we are pretty much happy to contribute to the execution of the Africa region roadmap. When we look at that roadmap, there is a lot of emphasis on capacity building, for instance. Capacity building, generally, it is about technical capacity.

Unfortunately, Africa is one of the regions where we still have a lot of ccTLDs that are not signed, for instance, on the DNS point of view. Not only that, we also have few DNS instances which are still struggling to have a very smooth DNS operation. So, one of the things that we have done over the past few years is to work with our colleague from GSE to reinforce our resources in the region to be able to address the needs.

For sure, we haven't put enough to address all the need, but I think what we have done over the past two years has helped improve things, have helped increase the reach in term of capacity development. Over the two years, we have organized and delivered more than 50 training across the region on DNS, on universal acceptance, and on internet governance in general

when it comes to the technical aspect of it, and we'll continue doing that.

We are going to get additional resources to cover [00:15:03 - inaudible] and work with or continue working with Yazid. In general, for us in the technical engagement team, our goal is to ensure that ICANN technical remit is one, well understood, two, work that we do within the OCTO team is also well known by the community in general.

In addition to that, we use the opportunity that we have to engage with the technical community in general to provide resources and tool that can help improve the landscape of the DNS operation in the region. What matter for us from technical perspective is the security, the resiliency, and the scalability of the Internet in general, and the DNS play an important role there and we want to be able to help and assist as much as we can to improve the landscape.

For someone that has been active in the region for decades, we need to do things differently, we need to engage more and understand where they need are and provide what is needed, not just some cookie cutter that is general, but really get close to operators, get to understand where they're struggling and providing resources for that. We have been doing that.

In fact, the OCTO29 document that we have published last year is a direct result of that because we have noticed that in many cases, the problem is not technical. It's not that people don't have the technical capacity to deploy DNS, for instance, but it is structural. It is about having well-defined, well-written, and step-by-step guideline on what to do beyond the pure technical thing.

So that document, for instance, has been well received by people because it addressed some administrative aspect of deploying DNS, but it also addressed, of course, the technical aspect. We will continue reinforcing that working with Pierre and working with our colleague from GSE in the region.

The other thing that I mean, privilege that we have in the technical engagement team is that because of the original scope of the team, we are able as well to leverage experience and knowledge from other region and apply in our region. So it is a unique opportunity to benchmark with other region what they're doing technically, and also use things that work elsewhere to be able to very easily implement them in the region.

The ask that I will have going forward is more feedback from the community on how we can improve what we are doing, more feedback on where the specific need are in term of capacity development, technical capacity, preferably linked to the DNS, of

course, and feedback on tool that we are putting in place. I have been talking about kindness during this ICANN meeting.

It's one of the tool that came out from our engagement work how we can tailor that, how we can get it more close to you in your region, in your country, so that we all work together for a secure and resilient internet generally. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you, Adiel. You heard him. There are few ask from you, so, of course, I guess you'll be able to further talk with him. Yazid, for instance, who, of course, by this time, you all know that he's one of the tallest guy here, and also, I'm certain that you will notice him. So thank very much, Adiel.

With that, of course, we are, like I said, blessed to have our director, Sally Costerton, who took time to be with us. So Sally, I'd like to turn over to you.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, Pierre, and thank you so much for inviting me to be with you today. It's always a joy coming to see my colleagues and friends here, so many of you that I've known for a long time, I celebrated my 10th year working for ICANN last week, and in some ways, it feels like yesterday, and in other ways, I can't remember a life before these kinds of meetings where we gather

together to try and improve the environment in Africa for existing internet users to create awareness for future internet users.

On that point, I think you all know this, but my primary goal working with Adiel, working with many of my colleagues that Pierre has already introduced you to and many others, including Baher, it's about working, we help you to expand the understanding and the knowledge of the stakeholders in Africa whose lives are affected by what ICANN does, and help them to understand what we do, where we are, how to become part of that, we help to train them, we use things like ICANN Learn, our newcomer programs, and I know we have some of our fellows in the room today, and I hope our NextGenerators, you are so welcome to be part of our family, and it's so great to be able to have so many of you here a long way from home.

It makes a huge difference, and you are adding a lot of value to the exchange and the dialogue of the community as a whole here in this meeting. You are going to hear from my colleagues Bob and Yaovi in a minute, and obviously you've heard from Pierre.

I just want to make sure, many of you have come to me in the corridors and said, I want to talk to the Org about this project, this issue, which is fantastic, please do, please talk either to Bob, Yaovi, or Pierre in the first instance, because they can coordinate with everyone else, they know exactly whose job it is to do what,

so we can get you to where you need to be and understand what you need to know as fast as possible because we love you to come to us and say, we want to be involved with this. You were talking about this earlier, I can see you there, gentlemen over there.

This is what we're here for. So a great opportunity of being face-to-face is that you can see, you can meet, you can build some relationships, and you can carry those forward as you go home and back into the work that you are doing day-to-day. So thank you for everything that you do. I'm really happy to be able to say that I'm about to come and visit some of you anyway. I'm coming into Nairobi in about 10 days' time. I can't believe it's so soon, but it's very soon, maybe two weeks, for our 10th DNS forum.

This is something I'm extremely proud of that we've done as a community. We do them now well over the world, Africa was a very early initiator of the DNS forum, and I am really looking forward to reconnecting and spending a bit more time with some of you on the ground in Africa. Obviously, it'll be the first time certainly, I've been into Africa since before the pandemic.

This is a big opportunity for us to reconnect, and at that meeting, I'm confident we will, amongst other things, be discussing the Coalition for Digital Africa. Pierre has already referred to it, it is a big-- you heard Göran talk about it, you heard me, some of you will have heard me talk about it in the opening ceremony today.

All I would say in this meeting is that, how can I put this? This is the big moment for Africa. I know how much time Göran is spending with me as the executive sponsor on this, this is a big priority, and that means a lot of effort, energy, resource time is being placed on this.

So, I want to encourage you all to think about this as something where there are many programs that you are involved with around Africa, that might be all different organizations that you work for or your members of, where there may be existing programs that are focused on bringing more Africans online, that might be outside ICANN's direct scope, but are all about that broader project, the coalition, which is about using our convening power, ICANN's convening power to accelerate some of that adoption and to make a difference on this big and diverse continent.

So, please do talk to me about it, talk to my African colleagues about it, but it's a big deal. It's a major new initiative and we're dedicating a lot of resource, and that was all I had to say. Back to you, Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, Sally, for those words. Then we will now move on to reporting quickly back on what we've achieved for FY22, and then also give you our priority for FY23. I will let Yaovi

take us through this quickly so that we do have time for your questions and comments because we really want to also hear from you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Pierre. My name is Yaovi Atohoun, Director of Stakeholder Engagement & Operations for Africa. According to the agenda, we're supposed to spend 24 minutes on this, but Yazid and myself will try to do that maximum in 15 minutes because we want the session to be interactive. So the document also is on the schedule, is already on the ICANN75 website, this document, and I hope some of you had the opportunity to go through them.

So, we'll just use few slides to share what we have to share with you. So for example, we had on one slide, the lesson learned from COVID-19. We had the opportunity to discuss with the community and we heard the message that it was very urgent to come back to face-to-face meeting. So this is the summary of this slide.

We have started, as you know, having also face-to-face engagement, so like hybrid event since some months now, and then we also reflected this on this slide as activity. We called this session the Past Africa Strategy, and we used to report on what we have achieved, and especially for this five-year regional plan for Africa, it was worked on in coordination with the community.

We had many volunteers from the community. What the community and the Org agreed on is that we can contribute from the Africa region to the five objectives of ICANN. So during the fiscal year 22, for example, we are able to contribute to some of the goals. So this is the way we try to be reporting to you now, how ICANN region Africa is contributing to the global strategy plan.

We want just to mention the shared responsibility for upholding the security and stability of the DNS by strengthening DNS coordination partnership with relevance stakeholders. So that is one of the goals that the community, the Africa region, expect to contribute to the regional global plan.

Then what we have done, for example, we were able to contribute to some international organizations event in Africa, like INTERPOL, the region used to contribute to what is happening also in ICANN as a relationship with this organization. As Adiel mentioned, we are working closely together with our colleagues from OCTO on some key activities.

You remember there are some documents, especially the one for ccTLDs, how ccTLDs can deploy a DNS6. So we are able, for example, to have sessions with African ccTLDs to have more explanation of the topic. Also, we added also another goal, we

are able to contribute to the goal, which is the mitigation of the security trust.

You'll see one activity was the survey that Yazid will be presenting very soon. So I'm not going to talk about all the five objectives here, just to mention that for example, when we take the-- improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance, there also the region, and we are able to contribute according to the plan we agreed on with the community, like the readout, for example, where activities supposed to contribute to strengthen the bottom up decision making model.

We have a group of community stakeholders, like the lawyers, and they used to organize event in Africa. We have a group based in Kenya, but covering Africa. We have also another group in Cameroon, especially for French speaking lawyers. So these two groups, they are doing a lot of activities and the ICANN Org is supporting them from the region.

Also, you see, the goal too is support and grow active, informed and effective stakeholder participation. We contributed to a lot of also activity like the CIG, the IDF at the regional and also at the national level. So because of time, I'm not going to present the two key result for the two resort.

That involves the unique identifier system, and also the last one was the geopolitical issues to address. So I just want to mention

that recently when the WTDC meeting was happening in Nairobi, so ICANN was highly present there to contribute to this activity. You'll have on the slide, because of time, I'm not going to go through them.

Just to explain that for fiscal year 23, for example, what we did is that we take for each initiative, we take some goals because we had a lot of goals when we want to contribute to this one. We had a lot of goals, but we selected just a few goals that we want to have for this fiscal year. Linked to that, we have some activities. Also, in a separate document, we have what we can use to measure this achievement at the end of the fiscal year.

So this is what you see in security, for example. We have also the governance, also you have some goals that are selected and also the key activities. The key activities that we plan do, especially we are working closely with some the SO/ACs on the region, and especially AFRALO. When they have their monthly call, we are with them and we are also doing some joint activities.

We had the idea and UA activities we are doing jointly with AFRALO so that we can have some improvement in the region when we talk about Email Internationalization and Universal Acceptance. We have also the unique identifier system, we have something to do there. We know that AFRINIC is doing a lot of activities in the region. So the plan for Africa is to have a session

during the AFRINIC meetings. We used to have it and we want to continue, and we have also the research and education network.

We have two men in Africa working in [00:32:27 - inaudible] alliance. So we want to use their events opportunity to talk to them, especially on universal acceptance. The Coalition of Digital Africa, we'll hear more about that, is also something important when we want to talk about this goal. The geopolitical also, we want also to use the opportunity of the meetings of the regulatory bodies.

For example, they have important meeting in the region, we have ATU, for example, African Telecommunication Union meetings. We want to use all these opportunities, and we are also selecting some ccTLDs for special capacity building for them. For the last one, which is the financial, we think that the regional also can contribute to that, and one way of doing that is to support the [00:33:20 - inaudible] Research Association for Africa.

We are having next month and it was announced that we have the Africa DNS forum, the 10th edition next month, and we hope that we'll be doing more there. So before I have my colleague Yazid talk briefly about the DNSSEC, we just want to remind again the DNS forum happening next month. So if you want to attend, you can do both onsite or remotely.

The study, again is also one achievement. You have seen that from the ICANN website, the records for proposal for bidders, and then the selection is now ongoing now. Then we will have also the Africa Engagement Forum plan for next year. So briefly, my colleague Yazid, also will do briefly, but before I want to give the floor back to Pierre because we have the CEO who try to join us. Thank you so much.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you, Yaovi, thank you for this presentation. Also of our priority areas for the FY23. Well, we are, like I said, blessed to have our CEO and president here, who managed to join us. So I thought we should just give him right away, the floor, so that he has his welcome remarks before we hear from Yazid. So, Göran, please.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you. They told me the party was here, so of course, I'm here. Yes, I haven't made a joke in about five minutes, and I have to make a joke then. You don't have to laugh. My staff stopped laughing at my jokes long time ago. Yes, look at her. So isn't that interesting that I had the absolute honor to be the ICANN CEO since more than six years. It's said that I'm actually very close with being the longest serving ICANN CEO in history.

It says something about how stubborn I am. This meeting, it's quite interesting that the region in Africa has been in every session in every discussion. That is not happening just because it's happening. My team and myself has over the years, tried to figure out new ways to engage and new ways to do things to do better in your region.

You're starting to see, and we are not there yet, but we are starting to see some of the things that we are putting together, listening to you working together with the community to do better. As you see, often when we talk about the next round or the SubPro, whatever we're going to call it, we talk about it that it should not be English, Latin scripts in the roots sample database, we talk about all the languages that, for instance, exist in Africa.

So I hope that next time we meet in Cancún, we will have even more sessions when your needs and your questions will be discussed, and hopefully, we can do even better. I would like to thank you for the input you've given me over the years, that's actually helping us.

So, just to give you a little bit of it, I had a fantastic pleasure event this summer when I had the honor to go to Rwanda, Kigali, to be at the development conference where I actually made a pledge. It's interesting that this is the first time ICANN as an institution

makes a pledge to the ITU-D to work together to make sure that - to invest time and resources, but also competence into helping, I think it's 10 Country Code Operators to create new ecosystems around them.

Because one thing we believe, we have nothing to do with the content, Country Code Operators makes their own policies, but it's one thing that's quite important, if the ecosystem-- the Country Code Operate is so important for the ecosystem in the country, and we want to be there to help.

As you know, because we, I don't know if anyone of you were at my Q&A with my executive this morning where we talked about some of the goals I'm having for this year, and one of them is very much related to what we are trying to do and achieve in Africa, because we are launching, when we go down to IDF, we are launching officially a coalition partner project where we really want to go in and do more investments and do more research in Africa.

You've seen some of them and the work we do with the ITU-D is one of them. The investment we've been doing in root server clusters there is another thing, but there will be more things coming that we want to do to make sure that we contribute from an ICANN perspective. I'm very happy again, to go back to Africa when I'm going to, as I said, Addis Ababa, for the IDF meeting

where we have a formal launch of the Coalition for Digital for Africa.

I want to say something about the coalition that we're doing because we call it the coalition because it's important. I don't think that even-- I have a very gifted staff, I have really good people, but as an institution, I don't think that ICANN should or can come to region like Africa with so many countries and say, this is how you should do it.

What we really try to figure out is a way to work together so we can support local initiatives and local knowledge, because in the end, the African internet is for Africans by Africans, and we can only be there to help and support the way we do, but it has to be your local ways of looking at it that has to become how we measure those things going forward, and I feel very strongly with that.

That makes it not that easy for us, because sometimes it's easy for us to come in and say, we have a proposal, let's do something. We want to make sure that we do this together with partners, the word coalition is important. The last thing I want to mention is, and this is really a plea, you have a very important infrastructure in Africa, which is called AFRINIC, which you saw that we asked the CEO to come up this morning.

We have many engagements with AFRINIC, and I have a great trust in the CEO. I know how hard it is to be a CEO, and unfortunately, as you probably well know, he has a tricky situation. One of them, which is my plea to you, engage, be a part of that conversation with AFRINIC and be a part of that community.

I think that that will help a lot. It is an important thing, it is an important African resource, and I think that the AFRINIC staff is doing a really good job. So if I can ask you, please engage, Eddy is still here, ask him what can you help, you can be a community for them as well. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, Göran, for your time. So maybe you do have two or three minutes for any urgent question that the community might have. Let's take one or two question quickly, and then we'll just let Göran go. So I just said two, now we are more than two. Okay. Please Bob, his online question and then -

BOB OCHIENG: Thank you. Quick question online, how is ICANN planning to engage with the African technical institutions, [00:41:13 - inaudible] in the digital African program, the coalition program?

GÖRAN MARBY: I think I would run back and look at Pierre, or maybe I can ask you, Bob. Adiel, do you want to answer that question? This is good. It keeps my team on top of things.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Yes, as I mentioned at the beginning, for us, we are trying to beef up our efforts to support institution and operators from the technical perspective and specifically around the DNS. Although we focus on the DNS, we also partner with organization in the region to touch on other aspect that are critical for the DNS stability.

What we care about is the resilience and stability of the DNS, and there are other aspects of the internet infrastructure that are linked to that as well, like exchange points, like IP addresses with AFRINIC, [00:42:23 - inaudible], and so on.

So we are working to make sure that our support doesn't go only to ISPs as we have been doing for the past 20 or more year, but also bridge the gap toward other institution that play an important role in the DNS ecosystem in the region.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you, Adiel. Yes, TESPOK. I call it TESPOK.

FIONA ASONGA:

Fiona Asonga from TESPOK, Kenya, and I just want to appreciate the ICANN CEO for recognizing that AFRINIC is very critical and important to us. Mine is a suggestion. We need help from ICANN, but we don't need help in terms of coming in and telling us what to do, but there's a level of capacity building we seem not to be able to achieve across the continent on one of the ends of ICANN.

We are doing the name part very well, registries, registrars, and legal guys handling that, we have perfected that. Part of the reason we have challenges at AFRINIC is the level of capacity on the numbers, and so while there is been the ASO and the NRO coming into support, there's a lot more that needs to be done, which they cannot also do on their own.

We need to be able to see how to run awareness and capacity building programs the way we do for the name side, for the numbers side and not leaving it entirely to AFRINIC, because where we are at right now, we are in an awkward position where the CEO is not been allowed to report to the office.

As a CEO, when you are restricted to do your function, then it means things are stuck. So it's up to us as the members in the community to get some things done.

Even as we are in that position, we need another entity that can come in and support us to build our awareness and capacity because there is another entity that is posing to do the function of the NRO and it's creating confusion, especially to start up ISPs, Internet Service Providers, and we have an ISP constituency within ICANN that can actually come in and work with us and help us to build that capacity within the ISP's connectivity providers because we have challenges of capacity at that level that are making it difficult for us as a community to be able to stand and support AFRINIC properly.

TESPOK as an entity, we've been fundraising for AFRINIC, we are supporting it always, but we realize where our challenges are, and even when we are saying ICANN to come in, the decisions are on us as the African community, as the members, resource members to really stand up against the challenges that we are facing and to really work with -- we need to work with the NRO, and I'm being very clear about the NRO, which in ICANN is the heir, so to make sure that there is an understanding of what these entities do for the internet ecosystem, because the lack of knowledge and lack of capacity has been made difficult.

Maybe if we are able, since we are here, this meeting, Pierre, I'm kindly asking, we can have another slot to discuss a bit more about this particular issue at this meeting so that we can be able to come up with clear concrete actions on how we can get ICANN

working with the exchange points, building capacity and awareness to the ISP connectivity providers so that then we are able to align as a region.

It is very painful when you see what is happening. It is very painful to see the effort that has been put in over the years going down the drains, to find when our governments are not helping. Not because they don't want, but they don't understand when ISPs do not understand, and the people who know what is going on are very few of us, and we don't have enough muscle to put up a good fight. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

I assume you have this applaud thing you can give or whatever. I do agree with you. So there are many things and the way I deal with all of this is that we have friends we put in the same ecosystem, and the ROs, we're all bound by the hip by IANA, but they were smart enough to set different bodies for policies around the world. So ICANN runs IANA, but then do policies for names.

ICANN runs IANA, but still have his own roots server, but there are independent root services as well. This balancing and ITF makes the protocols which means that-- and we are repository for it, all of this because we are friends and we work together, and together

we've been able to provide the internet for a very long time. ICANN is actually -- next year, we celebrate 25 years.

We have policies that are older than my youngest kid, and the fact of the matter is that when things like this happen, yes, I agree, we have to come together, we have to work, but there's one thing I'm also very cautious about, and you know I have to say this is that ICANN as an institution has what we're supposed to do, and I know that the ROs are supporting and helping, but if you go and speak to, you will know that we do things and we are there in the region as well, but everything else, I just agree with you.

I don't want to interfere in something that belongs to the African community policy because I don't want to go there and say, "Oh, I have a solution to it because I actually don't because it's your, I don't want to say problem, it's a hard word, but it's really you guys who has the solution if there is a problem. We can help with other things." Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you. Thank you very much, Fiona, and also, it's noted anyway, and as far as the Africa strategy is concerned, this is certainly something we should really factor in. Now we do have a choice to make here. We should be listening now to the report on the survey, the DNSSEC, which Yazid was supposed to provide. Do we have time for that? Because I still want the community to

really have question to ask, have comments? I thought I stopped this? Oh, that's Paul, and then Göran. So I give you one minute.

PAUL WILSON:

Just very, very briefly. Thank you. You may know me, Paul Wilson from APNIC. I'm the Chair of the Number Resource Organization, so I spoke at the opening this morning, and I just wanted to reemphasize that the NRO, the Number Resource Organization is here for the stability of the IR system and for the communities of all of the IR, and I believe I'm speaking for all of the members of the NRO that we hear what Fiona said, which was very important, and we definitely will continue to support the African community as we do all of the regional communities to ensure that the IR services that the missions of the IRs will continue, and that's absolutely, there is no question about our ongoing support.

Fiona mentioned some confusion about some organizations. I did want to make it clear that there's a group under the name of NRS for Number Resource Society, which has got absolutely nothing to do, and if you've seen anything of their content, it's got absolutely nothing to do with the NRO, and we would have nothing whatsoever to do with that organization. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Thank you very much, Paul. Are we ready to --Thank you very much, Göran, for your words. No, I will just -- no, we need to move on with the report, and then we'll take time for your question later. I'm sorry to rush you. So, Yazid, please, maybe in three to five minutes, in a nutshell.

YAZID AKANHO: Thank you, Pierre. I think I will try to go within three minutes to let people give their comment and ask their questions. So, hi everyone. My name is Yazid, Technical Engagement Senior Specialist for Africa and Middle East. I'm going to present very briefly, I think if you go to the ICANN75 schedule, you can easily access the presentation and go through the details.

So I'm going to present the results of the DNSSEC survey that we ran few months back. The survey was open to all organizations in the region who run DNS service, whether they are ccTLDs or they are other kind of organizations, maybe hosting name servers for customers like ISPs or even an operator running a recursive resolver server.

So the main objective here was basically to understand the state of DNSSEC deployment in Africa. Also, in the past, we had this DNSSEC show for quite some years where a work has been done and some ccTLDs were able to sign the zone.

For us it was also time to briefly assess the maturity and the real picture on the ground also. We believe that this will definitely help us in term of technical engagement, how we can also adjust what we provide to the community. Next slide, please.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Who is running the slides?

YAZID AKANHO: Yes, I asked for the next slide. Okay. So again, I want to go into all the slides, but overall, there were 46 respondents, and among them, of course, we went through different kind of questions up to 50, no up to 25 questions overall. Those questions were related to, for instance, the number of technical staff dedicated to the operations, the number of staff of the global team. Sorry.

Also, if they sign the zone file or not, are they running the operations via an external backend operator, or do they run all the technical operations internally? Are they also open to IDN registrations? Do they also have an IDN domain names? Also, one part of the survey was related to the kind of challenges also they are facing. So far, if I can just get the next slide or we can just jump and go to the last slide of the presentation.

So far, of course, we had different kind of answers. Among these 46 who responded, if I will recall, around 32 or so replied on

DNSSEC side, and I think only six or seven confirmed that they are fully DNSSEC signed. This is well aligned with the current DNSSEC ratio. On the continent, we are almost 37% of ccTLDs who have signed at the first level, and at the second level, we are probably around 4%.

So there is a lot to do, and this is even why the technical engagement also has been now splitted to the regional level to be the more closer to the region and provide the real needs to the stakeholders. Let's go to the last slide because we don't really have a lot of time. Another key information is related to the IDNs, and this is something quite important for many reasons.

Africa region is quite rich in term of local languages. We have more than 2000 local languages, but of course, so far we have maybe 10 to 15, which are quite well spoken, and this is really an interesting opportunity for IDN's promotion in the region. Coming back to DNSSEC as well, so far, and Adiel also mentioned that in his introduction, the technical engagement team is really available to support you.

Do not hesitate, drop us an email at octo@icann.org, and yes, we are open to work together with you. We are experimenting some new project with ccTLDs in the region, and so far, yes, we are having some interesting results. We are helping them in the test beds to help them get more confident in DNSc operations.

We have also supported a lot of partners in the region to understand why documentation is extremely important. One of the slides were talking about the number of technical staff actually, and we didn't show it, but most of them have one or two technical people.

So what happens when the technical guy leave the company and go to work elsewhere? If there is no technical documentation available, you are in trouble. So, such kind of things we are trying to explain the people what could be the impact in term of operations, in term of also stability on the service they provide.

So that's it, and yes, again, we are available, and please feel free to raise any concern you have, any kind of support you may need, as soon as it is related to the technical, we are available and we'll discuss with you and find the right way, the right approach to achieve. Thank you, and back to Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you very much, Yazid. Now, we only have eight minutes left, and I would like to thank the interpreters who accepted to this extra time. So maybe to Bob for one or two questions, and then we have one or two announcements to make. So please, yes, if you are ready to maybe accept two or three questions quickly from the floor.

BOB OCHIENG:

Thank you Pierre. We have four questions, I will read them quickly and then we can also have questions from the room. The first two questions are in French and is related to this presentation.

What is the situation of the DNSSEC deployment in Africa? How many have already implemented it? Second question, likewise, for the DOT and the DOH, where is it? That's Olivier Kouami who asks these questions. We have another question from Olivier Kouami. So what does ICANN want to do to promote the servers in Africa? Will the 54 countries benefit equally?

And we have a last question from Dave Kissoondoyal: since there are 54 countries in Africa, and we have been informed that there are only five resources, has ICANN any plan to increase the number of FTI to better serve the whole region? So I think we can get the answer from the OCTO and from Pierre to this question. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Quickly so that we wrap up with the answers.

BOB OCHIENG: We took two more questions from the room, and then we use the rest of the time to --

PETER LOUIS MMBANDO: Okay. My name is Peter Mmbando from Digital Agenda Tanzania. My question was still on the local content I asked early in the morning, and this session was recommended that it'll answer from the Nairobi office. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you for that. Any other question quickly, and then we wrap up with answers. Okay. Thank you very much. Quite interesting questions. Of course, we don't have much time for it. I will leave Yazid to provide some figures and then, but we are still around and we can talk anyway.

YAZID AKANHO: Thank you, Pierre. Thank you. So far out of the 54 countries we have in the Africa region, 20 are fully signed and operational, but yes there are two who, for unknown reasons, we are still investigating why they, let's say, deactivated the DNSSEC few days back, but hopefully everything will be sorted out very soon. Now, out of the 34 remaining, some are partially signed.

Partially signed means that, okay, they have started and they have maybe generated the keys, but they have signed the zone locally, but they did not establish what we call the chain of trust, let's say, to lock the key, right? So far they are two or three who are at this stage. Finally, we have two of them as per our knowledge who are in tests right now, and hopefully let's see how it goes in the next couple of weeks. This is what I can say in terms of figures for the status on DNSSEC at the ccTLD level. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much. Adiel.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Yes, to answer the other question from Olivier. He has one question. He had a question on the DOT and DOH deployment. At the resolver level right now, we don't have concrete figures. Right now, the resolver operators have activated DOH and DOT, but in terms of the public resolver, most have DOH and DOT servers when they are activated.

When the services being used, and as an end user usually see it with your different browsers and it encrypts traffic between you and the server and we don't have a precise view of how many resolvers in Africa have DOH and DOT for the moment. Hopefully,

we'll have those figures in the next coming days. That's for the first question.

The second question about the number of root servers in Africa. Keep in mind that before these clusters in Africa, practically every country in Africa had a copy of a root server, and the copy is effective and it serves the African people. So now we'll be able to maybe get a little bit better, but in terms of resiliency, there's not going to be much change.

So I don't think that that's necessarily a priority because it's at the local level that the servers deal with it and having it really improves resolution tremendously. So adding it doesn't make a substantial difference to resiliency, but it might be nice to have as many local bodies involved. It is not a bad thing. Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Okay, we're going to finish with the different announcement.

BOB OCHIENG: Pierre, there is a last question, if you can address quickly. We have [01:07:11 - inaudible] online. He's saying, how is ICANN planning to engage with the African Technical Institutions, AfStar, in the Digital Africa Program?

PIERRE DANDJINO: Okay. So that's about [01:07:27 - inaudible]. Well, he knows the answer anyway. Well, no, as far as ICANN is concerned, of course, we are certainly working with AfStars. One of them is the fTLD for instance. Of course, we'll be organizing this forum with fTLD, for instance. Probably what we might be looking into is way in which we reengage with some of those AfStars.

For the newcomers, AfStars for us are internet related association that we have in Africa, such as AFRINIC, such as AfNOG. So yes, we certainly need to reengage more with the AfStar in Africa. This point is taken, and we can further discuss this one down the road. So now for the announcement, of course, inviting all of you to Nairobi for the 10th Africa, the NS forum, which is going to be quite interesting.

So, if you could be there, it's also going to be, of course, face-to-face, but also online. The other things that we are going to launch, the coalition from Ethiopia during the IGF. So hopefully, if you are around, we are going to have a conference on this and high-level panel, so definitely there are things to come, and once we launch, of course FY23 is going to be kind of operationalizing the whole thing, and you'll be seeing all of this in Africa. We do have a last announcement, a quite important one, and I would like to let Adiel convey this to us. Please, Adiel.

ADIEL AKPLOGAN: Yes, thank you, Pierre. So this is an announcement that make me very happy. I just got the news that ICANN is launching a fellowship program award on the name of Paul Muchene. This award will be a fellowship award given to somebody already selected to the ICANN fellowship.

The person has to have a technical background, live and work from Africa region. So it is a section of the already existing fellowship, but this one dedicated to a technical person that is selected to benefit from the ICANN fellowship. So this is a good news and a good recognition for our collectives.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you very much, Adiel. We were privileged to have this announcement. Not yet there on ICANN's news, so thank you very much for this. With that, I would like to again, thank you all for having been here. We didn't have certainly much time to have interactivity, but don't worry, we are still around, the team is around, so we do have more days to kind of sit down and discuss some of the issues that you are having, we are here to support. So thank you again and good continuation.

BOB OCHIENG: Sorry, Pierre, before we close, I think we just send apologies for participant online. We have some people who have the hand

raised, so apologies for that. We had the special authorization to extend 10 more minutes, so our apologies, and then we appreciate your participation remotely. Thank you, Pierre.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Thank you. Thank you, and yes, just wishing all of us a good continuation of this meeting, this ICANN75. So thank you and bye for now.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]