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DURBAN – Africa DNS Forum Day 2
Saturday, July 13, 2013 – 08:30 to 17:30
ICANN – Durban, South Africa

UNIDENTIFIED: Hello.   Bonjour [French 0:11:26 – 0:13:28].   Sorry for any [French 0:13:29 – 0:13:59] So we are going to begin now. Where is Mary from [Ner-a-la 0:14:04]? Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: Good morning colleagues and welcome to the second day of this great workshop. I hope you are getting enough from the – from all the presentations and discussions that we are having here today. We are looking at that presentation.   And I'm starting at how ICANN defines accreditation.

And by ICANN definition, accredited or accreditation, means to identify and set many more standards. I wanted to – many more standards for the performance of registration functions, to recognize persons or entities meeting those standards, and to enter an accreditation agreement, and to enter an accreditation agreement that sets forth the rules and the procedures applicable to the provision of registry service.

So we'll bear that in mind. We're not going to go into theory, mostly theory, but bear that in mind while we go ahead. So accreditation in that ways… I also try to define the registrar. It refers to a person or entity that contracts with registered name holders, or those we call the

registrants, and with the register operation or the registry, and collects registration data.

I think it's important to note what the register is supposed to do. Accreditation data… About the registered name holders, and submits registration information for entry in the registry database. So what would the registry expect from the register? For us, as registry or registry operator and ccTLD operator, we'll be expecting that we are dealing with a legal entity, as the register must be a legal entity.

He has a financially… The entity has financial muscle to carry on the work of registry service, because money is involved and registrants or name holders do send in their money and they pass it through the registrar, to the registrant. Especially at the registry that runs three arm model as we do in NIR.

A registrar is also expected to have the infrastructure. Sorry, the spelling of infrastructure there is wrong, but that is the [laughs] that is infrastructure. Then rumor resource… And it must be stable, security, it must be security. The data collected must be secured and available to assist law enforcement agencies whenever they require that.

And for us to be able to continue with data, WHOIS database so that the registry will have accredited. They must be data integrity, and data security. Those are the things we expect. So what do we do? To get the best register, the registry must develop policies, ccTLD must develop policies.

I know Neal is going to talk about policies. It must develop guidelines. Policies that are clear, policies that are not ambiguous. Policies that are

of best practices. And the guidelines that will rule accreditation, the guidelines that will accredited registers, must set minimum standard.

The standard on which the registrar should not fall below, and if any registrar falls below that standard, the registry or the cc… I hope the interpreters following me. Is he? I hope I'm not too fast. The registry would be able to call the register to order, that you are falling below standards. Then the registry must be consistent for you to get the best – must be consistent.

And when organizations or companies will be registers find out that there is consistency in policy, there is consistency in guideline, there is consistency in standard, it makes everybody work hard and work together, and your registry – it will not be difficult to get registrars accredited.

Next, I've talked about what to do. And the next thing is, how do we do that? In case of NIR, what we did is that we had an executive board that will – that we formed committee that we called accreditation committee. This committee is made up of the Board of NIR, executive board of NIR.

And we made sure that no registrar is a member of the accreditation committee. We form committee, and we develop criteria, categorization – we categorize our registers. We also determine when and how they meet, the approval process. Then we communicate, communication is very, very important.

And then we monitored. Monitoring is also very, very key in accrediting register. Okay. And why do we have to do all that? We must be held

accountable for the data and information of the registrant. We must be transparent. Transparency is key when you are doing – when you want to accredit. The registrant must know the process, it must be transparent.

So that's why we need to do all that, to make sure that we are transparent, to develop integrity and trust. If business community trusts the registry, or the cc – they'll do business with the ccTLD. Then we must protect the consumer. Consumer protection is very, very important. Those are the values of accreditation.

And what we require, what we would be expecting from applicants or the registrants or in accrediting… We know that ICANN has its own process of accrediting register. For us, in Africa and cc in particular, when a registrant or an applicant has… When a registrar, sorry not a registrant, when an applicant or a registrant applicant has been accredited by ICANN, I think that is the first thing, it passes our evaluation criteria for that, subjecting that applicant to all the evaluation processes, because we know that ICANN has a standard.

Okay. We also require legal status. Is the applicant registered at corporate – incorporated? Is the certificate of incorporation still valid? Are there some impediments on the legal status of the applicant? Please, that is company... Please company profile, we'll look at the company profile. We look at infrastructural readiness.

We also require insurance cover. We require payment of fees. I'm continuing with the validation process. The accredited… I already told about the accreditation committee, you know that the register is the

member. They meet once in a quarter, recommends to executive board of NIR, and a provisional approval is given.

After that, training it is important that registers accredited should be trained. And then we do a final review of documentation, then we give full accreditation and grant access to the registry so that they can come in. I think… The other thing that I want to bring to our attention is who are the registers in NIR.

If you see the pie chart there, we have categories, we have platinum category, we have gold, we have silver – sorry. The second, the seven is silver and not gold, it is silver. The third one is gold too and standard 22. We have requirement for each of the categories that the applicant will want to be accredited.

As I said, consistency is very key. When you are consistent then you find out that the community will trust you, the business people will trust the cc and do business. Okay? Then in terms of global cover, we have more of Nigeria's registrars. We took the policy from the one that we're not going to restrict application for registration, accreditation of registers.

We're not restricting to Nigeria. In Nigeria, you can be in Nigeria, you can be – not in Nigeria. But as long as you meet criteria, no problem we can accredit. As of now, we have more Nigeria accredited registers than the foreign one. I'm looking at global versus local, and I think for us in Africa, we should not reinvent the wheel.

That's my message, that we shouldn't reinvent the wheel. We should think global. We should act local. We should view capacity. We should create assets. What do I mean by that? If an applicant register is

already accredited by ICANN, I don't think you should subject that applicant to other evaluation.

Thinking global, making sure you do your brand at global level. And at local, make sure that your local business is a part of the industry. View capacity, make sure that… In NIR, we're even going training, we're taking it online now. Why do we need to do that? Because of our global registers. And then we create assets for small businesses, big businesses, and those that will want to play in the DNS industry.

Just as we had yesterday, when Neil was talking about register. How do we build Africa registrars with access to finance and balance? Well, he was saying about accrediting but I think collaboration, MOU, and being able to bring them into the industry is very, very key. So they should be accessed. Then access to insurance. The insurance companies don't even know about – too much about the DNS industry.

How do we bring them? We create access so that they will become part of our program. Whenever we have program, invite them to be there so that they will see the business in there because the businesses they are going to do like the insurance cover. And then online presence is also very, very key in building African registrars and law enforcement requirement, just like the new ICANN accreditation program, we should also adopt that at our level.

Standardization of accreditation. What the message leaving with you today of cc [appraisals 0:28:00] that when Niger has accredited a register in Africa, Ghana should accept that register as register. South Africa should accept that register as register. Let it not be that you go

from Nigeria to Ghana to be accredited to South Africa, to be accredited to everywhere to be accredited.

That is the message I want to leave in concluding this – my presentation. So thank you for listening, and that's [? 0:028:36] and the president of Nigeria Internet Registration manager [? 0:28:40].   And that's their website to that. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you [Nira 0:28:52] for the presentation. Merci. [French 0:28:54 – 0:29:01] Sonny is not here. You can talk with… Okay. No problem.

UNIDENTIFIED: …at Sunday for line. I think his boss is running late. The value is immeasurable. You need to understand whom you are dealing with. Who is the person you are dealing with? Who is going to collect data on your behalf? Who is contacting the registrant on your behalf?

Who is… What… Who is going to market your service or your services? Registration of domain name is a business. And the business person, the relationship must be in such a way that there will be mutual trust between you, the CCT appraisal or registry, and the registrants, or the register.

The registrant must trust the registry that when they get the data is confirmed. They must trust that we have the infrastructure to be able to give them service at all times. They must also be convinced that they will have 99.999% up time, and the service – the quality of service must be good.

So why do you have to accredit? What is the value? You are looking at, especially this the first that will run the 3R model. You are looking at you as the primary or the operator, and the person that is – we are service person, because the accredited register is your service person that will take this service to the last mile.

So you are also ready to… You are looking at, will the person protect the customers? Would this person have the models and the ability to market the product? Would the register be able to speak on behalf of the registry? So all those are things that, when they collect money from registrars, registrants, would the register be able to transfer the money to the registry?

So there are financial issues, there are legal issue, they are consumer protection issue, they are integrity issues. There are also trust issues. For that reason, accreditation is very, very key when you run 3R. Even when they are not 3R model, I think it is dot DE that you can just come and become a register.

But the accreditation is very, very valuable. It is very, very good. It is very, very key. It is very, very important. So we have seen it happen in NIR, that when you are accredit register, they know that they sign an agreement and there are rules, there are regulations, there are conditions, there are minimum requirements they must meet.

And when they have gone through that, they will be serious business and they will want to see that they also grew their business. And relationship of the register and the registry is very – is the one that must be cordial at all times.

So the evaluation, I mean the accreditation is very, very important. And then, you know, sometimes when the registrant is in trouble, they will not call the register. They will call the operator, that is the cc. So you must know it is important that the cc, or the operator, the registry knows the registrant so that businesses that are brought in by the registrant and registrars are not only good but they are consistent, they are ongoing, and the registrars will be to market our services.

I think I will stop there for the time being, maybe get questions and answer them.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you. So after this transition, we have [Alat Keshiva 0:34:01] from [Lexus Energy 0:34:05]. I don't know if you have something to add to…

UNIDENTIFIED: Just a few brief points from the registrar's perspective.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: Just a few of [? 0:34:16] of accreditation, speaking from a registrar's point of view. One is the relationship. You've got a direct relationship with the registry that leads to accountability. The registry is accountable to you as a registrar, and you are accountable to the registry, and the same leads to the registrant.

You are accountable to the registrant, and you've got – you couldn't contact directly the registry, you know exactly what the issues are so that accountability is all three. The support has a direct line to the registry. Any issues you can go directly to the registry. There is a lot of cooperation.

The registrars are usually open to working with the registry, and they assist in growth. Cut off any middle man. There is quite a few of them require a large deposit, which a lot of registrars complain about, but it's usually allocated as credit for registrations and renewals. So the large outlay is usually pays itself off over time.

Any issues or suggestions that you as a registrar feel, you can take it directly to the registry. And we find that it usually does lead to results. And most importantly, there is a trust and credibility. Once you are accredited, you then put to display the logo. The registrant or a potential client sees that and it leads to trust.

It allows the registrar to understand the specific registry's policies and expectations and work with them. And as a registrar, we feel our duty, we would like to be credited directly with each registry that we deal with. That's a few of my points. Thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED: We'll come back to if there is question. Okay. Now we are [French 0:36:08 – 0:36:13]. Okay.

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NEIL DUNDAS: Good morning everybody. [? 0:36:34]. Welcome to Durban if you weren't here yesterday. My name is Neil Dundas. I'm from the ZA Central registry. Thank you. And I'm going to quickly talk through some of our accreditation, registrar accreditation experiences for ZA and possibly some of the principles that govern how we approach registrar accreditation.

The ZA Central registry was previously known as UniForum SA, it's a nonprofit organization, and it was – have been tossed with the administration with second level domains and ZA namespace. We work very closely with the ZA Domain Name Authority.

We currently have about 880,000 registrations in the ZA namespace alone. It is represented with about 95% of the total registrations in ZA, and a large proportion of the domain name registrations on the continent of Africa. We have significant challenges that lie ahead for us. They include the transition of other second level domains into the registry, such as [? 0:37:46]… and others.

And the big ones are the launch of new top level domains that we've applied for in terms of the new gTLD process. For those that are not aware, that includes names such [k dot – k dot ? 0:38:01] and dot Durban, and then the big one, dot Africa. Which, by the way, we heard last name we had passed initial evaluation, so we're very, very excited by that.

Sorry I just want to get… There we go. Just some rough statistics from the Central Registry.   We have, as I said, 875,000 names in the [signatory 0:38:30] names in the namespace alone. Of which 45% are held under the legacy registrar that was the old system we had, email

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interface. We've subsequently migrated to a full EPP system, so we have a mechanism of accredited registrars.

And in that EPP system, we have roughly 55% of the names are held, are administered through accredited registrars. We've seen quite significant growth in the [? 0:38:59] namespace over the past 12 months. There is a quick glimpse at the last three months in April to June, you can see that we've grown with a rough average of about 15 to 20,000 additions to the namespace, month to month.

And the majority of this growth comes from the EPP registrar side. Just some more statistics here. You can see… The way we approach our registrar accreditation process is that we have an online portal where registrars, or applicants to become registrars, would apply, they would submit their information.

And then they would enter a formal accreditation process with the registry. A glimpse of that, as of today, is that we're sitting with 289 accredited EPP registrars. We have 117 in testing. In other words, these are registrars that have commenced their operational testing and evaluation process on the registry. That's essentially the technical part of accreditation.

And for the 126 of these applicants are still in the application phase, so they are undergoing legal and financial evaluation. That's verifying their identity, insurances, and those type of things. Seeing that they've paid their deposits and their accreditation fees. Accredited registrars versus international registrars, we're sitting at about 17.6% of our accredited registrars are foreign based, so they are not in South Africa.

So that leaves you with about 82% of our accredited registrars that are based here in South Africa. You can see, the registrars that we've accredited are quite well spaced throughout the world. The single largest country with the most registrars is the United States. They have 13 accredited registrars, but the European Union as a collective, has over 25 accredited registrars.

The US, as a single country, holds the most… The registrars from the US, as a single country, holds – who administers the most domain names, with over 26,000 [signatory 0:41:24] domain names being administered by US based registrars. And strangely enough, unfortunately, we have only four accredited registrars outside of South Africa but based on the African continent.

We've also got an overview of how are registrars are spread throughout the country of South Africa, in the different provinces. And from these dynamics, we can see that the majority of our accredited registrars are based in [? 0:41:59]. We run about, Johannesburg and in the Western Cape in the region of Cape Town.

The province of KwaZulu-Natal, the province we're currently in, is third – has the third largest amount of accredited registrars with 25. [? 0:42:17] has 113 registrars in the Western Cape province, 81 accredited registrars. And the statistics you're senior dynamic, they are generated from the portal, the accreditation portal.

So we've got a very good overview of what is happening in terms of the accreditation of registrars, and how the domain names are spread in the geographical representation. Market share, this is a measure in terms of domain names. We have, as I mentioned earlier, the legacy system

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there is just under 400,000 domain names administered through that system. And then the balance administered through accredited registrars, which is over 50,000 international registrars.

So those are the registrars that are accredited outside of Africa. Okay. This is a brief overview of our, how the EPP system and how we've implemented our accreditation mechanism or structure. As I've said before, we have a legacy system that we've had for many, many years, since 1995. And in 2010, we implemented – 2009 and 2010, we implemented an EPP system which meant we could start accrediting registrars and dealing directly with these accredited registrars.

So the way in which we dealt with the legacy registrar, or the legacy system, is we dealt with it as an incumbent legacy registrar itself. It speaks EPP to the registry, and by simply allowing domain names to be transferred off the legacy registrar to the other EPP accredited registrars.

But you can't transfer back to the legacy registrar. That's quite a novel way that we've dealt with a legacy issue, and it has worked fairly well. We see roughly between 25,000 and – between 25 and 50,000 domain names transferred from the legacy system to EPP registrars each month.

The next challenge we face is the introduction of new second level domains in the ZA namespace such as [? 0:44:29]… There again we will use the concept of a default registrar for these namespaces, basically bringing the names into the registry under the administration of a default registrar.

We determined a limited functionality registrar, so you wouldn't be able to do much under that registrar except move your domain name off to one of the accredited registrars. And that should be putting in place policies and procedures to ensure that domain names are eventually seated under fully accredited registrars, and that people are dissuaded from keeping them on these default registrars.

And this is the big challenge we face, and it's something that [Mary 0:45:12] touched on a bit earlier. Is when we bring in the new top level domains, dot Africa, and [dot job 0:45:18], and Cape Town and Durban, in terms of the registry agreement we would have with ICANN, we would be obliged to deal with ICANN accredited registrars.

So it brings an entirely new dynamic in terms of how the ZA Central Registry would need to deal with the registrant community. And one way that we've decided to bring on board, or on board the existing South Africa registrar base, these are, you will remember, EPP compliant registrars so they are technically qualified and doing a lot of business with us, and they are currently not ICANN accredited.

The way that we can bring them on board in terms of the TLDs is through a proxy ICANN registrar, which the registry will be put in place and in time, we will work with the existing ICANN accredited registrars to ensure that we develop a suitable reseller base within the African continent.

So that these up and coming small registrars that are evolving in the African continent, can have some form of connection to the registry and can participate in the domain name ecosystem without having to go

through the rigors of an ICANN accreditation. Just a brief overview of why we would accredit.

And I think this is just a repeat of what has been said before, but essentially you would accredit registrars to protect your registrant community. So consumer rights protection are an important aspect there. You protect your registry systems. You provide an understanding of your policy framework and your processes.

You evaluate the business competency and stability of your registrar. And of course, you evaluate the technical competency. It's very important that your registry policies are well documented, so that registrars are able to access the service, to understand your systems prior to applying for accreditation.

We would do an accreditation process through evaluating four primary areas: legal evaluation, business evaluation, technical and security evaluation. And basically the technical evaluation, we look at some of the EPP commands, we look at the EPP interface itself, WHOIS zone publishing, how the fee system and the billing systems would work, and then obviously the registration policies of create, update, transfer, and delete.

This forms part of our IT league where we monitor the success, again, of these accreditation tests electronically and automatically, and feedback is given dynamically back to the registrar so that they can monitor their progress through the accreditation process. If the pass all of the accreditation tests, the technical accreditation tests, essentially we are satisfied that they have the technical competency to be a registrar.

They would have also then have… We would have also by that stage have verified their identity, and the formalities of signing the agreement, and paying the deposits would have concluded. So that, in a nutshell, is an overview from the ZA registry side. Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED: [French 0:48:49 – 0:49:17]

VICTOR NDONNANG: Thank you Chair. My name is Victor Ndonnang, I'm from Cameroon. I'm an IT consultant and also a founding member of ISOC Cameroon chapter. Also a member of [French 0:49:36], we sponsoring this even too. Before going to my presentation, I will first share with you my story with ICANN.

I think my presentation is directly linked to that story. I registered my first domain name in 2005. It was [henry 0:50:05] dash consulting dot com. At that time, I used the credit card of a friend who was studying in [UK 0:50:14] at that time. And night after, we lost contact. And we was going to renew the domain name, I was not able to contact him and asked him to use his credit card to renew that domain again.

And I lost it. At that time, I was not aware about – not knowing ICANN or not about the existence of ICANN. And then in 2006, I was invited by AfriNIC to party for a meeting concerning [court of lemon 0:50:52] and [? 0:50:54] Africa. And [? 0:50:58] also parties to that meeting.

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And she briefly present to us, ICANN and what ICANN do. So and invite us to participate and see how we can improve the domain name role in Africa. So I went back home, I was – my financial capacity was not – it was not possible for me to go to the next ICANN meeting. I wait until 2008, AfriNIC also invited. And in that time, there was also an ICANN meeting in Paris.

I understand that my state, to participate to that – to the ICANN meeting. I was impressed by the number of participants, the several workshop went on and meetings. And I really would be lost, but I say I have to continue. And then 2010, I was in Brussels, and there was also an ICANN meeting there, I say I have to extend my stay and also participate to that meeting.

I follow fellowship meeting every money, I was not a fellow. And the fellowship program just asked me to apply for the fellowship. And I went back home. And when I was applying for the fellowship, what I wrote in my application was, I want to become the next African ICANN accredited registrar. It was a big dream.

I was thinking that it was easy, and since then, nothing happened and there is no new ICANN accredited registrar in Africa.   And my presentation is to see… I asked myself, "Why?" Since 2010, four years, or 2008, four year, no new ICANN accredited registrar in Africa. And I went through accreditation agreement document, and I realize that it is not easy for an African company to fulfill requirement of that document.

And my question today is, can one size fits all… [? 0:53:53] the ICANN accreditation registrar is designed for every company in the world to

fulfill requirements. And the second question is, can we need an ICANN, an African registrar accreditation agreement. So I will just go… I was just using some numbers and presenting advantages of becoming an ICANN accredited registrar.

Things that we have been talking about improving the number of domain name registration African, also the use. But how can we improve the number of domain name registration, when domain name is not accessible to end user, to registrant? There are many other registries that accredited – ICANN accredited registrar benefit.

So they can save, discount up to 40% or more, when new gTLD become live. They also enjoy registry promo. We have been talking during previous meeting about marketing the domain name in Africa. People are not using because it's not sexy. They were thinking just technical thing.

We are to make that thing sexy and people will use that. And we don't have [phone 0:55:32], how can we promote and marketing the domain name if we become physical, the support of registry. But registry we only deal directly with accredited registrar.

And becoming also an ICANN accredited registrar, bring – give to the company a chance. Moment was talking about yesterday out loud, African don't trust the internet. It was a very strong statement. They don't trust because when you approach an end user, asking that end user to register a domain name, and he cannot see a direct relationship to the industry, the entity -- we give you the accreditation.

We cannot really trust your business, and the registrar participate directly with the industry policy development. It has been a cause, since many years, for more African participation into ICANN, but it seems that we have been participant to let's say four ICANN meeting… Many African are just part At-Large groups, but they are very few African, we are part of the GNSO supporting organization because there are no – there are very little register in Africa.

And GNSO develop policy in part, the current work of ICANN which is domain names, and we are not there so we cannot influence the development of those policy. And it would soon there will also be new gTLDs, and to access those new gTLD you have to go through an ICANN accredited registrar. And we cannot have growth in our country, in Africa, if there is no – there are no more company we can make – or access domain name easily.

I will… My second slide about financial requirements, or consideration of what is going to become an ICANN accredited registrar. For me, technical requirement is not a problem. We can build our capacity, but when it comes to money, one dollar in US is not one dollar in Cameroon. It's five 500 CFF francs. And when you ask 3,500 dollars to a US company, it is not big money. But in Africa, it is big money.

When you have a yearly registration fee for 5,000 dollars, it is small money for Western economy, but it is big money for a sustainable company in Africa. And also, I got through the accreditation document and I realize that the company I have to prove the working capital of 70,000 dollars. For us, in Cameroon for example, to create a sustainable company, the starting capital is let's say is 2,000 dollars.

And 70,000 dollars is a very, very big amount of money. And at the end, it's about insurance. The insurance environment in US or in Europe is not the same in Africa. And I also met a small research, and I realize that the existing accreditation based in Africa now, they become accredited through an European or an US based company to fulfill that requirement, because it was not easy for them to provide such an amount of insurance.

And my question is, what about those who couldn't? If I'm not ever to have a company, to build relationship with a company in US or in France, will I be able to go through my accreditation process? I will go to my next slide. So, how can we help – have more accredited register in Africa? This document is online, it's on Africa on ICANN website so everybody can go through it and read.

And there is some paragraph, or section, that need to be reviewed if you really want African company to become accredited registrar. And last week, there was a call of creating an internet development form to help African company to become registered. But for me, I don't think is a sustainable way to help them become accredited register.

My last night, is just what I was talking – saying is, how can we talk about growth when domain name is inaccessible to end user? Because when you want to buy goods, is there no shop around, you cannot… We will not say okay, this I can postpone my need, the same thing is happening to the domain name.

When an African want to buy a domain name and put a website online, when it is so difficult to get outside of the domain name, should just postpone that need. And that is why we have a slow number of African

content online. So we can continue the discussion. Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED: Merci. [FRENCH 1:02:42 – 1:03:05]

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you, merci, and thanks a lot to [Barrack 1:03:08] for the invitation to give a presentation in this DNS forum about the dot [U Euro 1:03:16] experience in registrar relation. I would like to start my presentation with an African proverb.

This African proverb says, "If you like to go fast, go alone. If you like to go far, go together." I think this proverb represents extremely well the philosophy of the bottom up, our approach with our stakeholder community. As we always try to engage with as many stakeholders as possible in developing our policies in changing our policies.

And I think that dialogue and communication are always important when liaison with any kind of stakeholder. Could be a registrant, register, international organization, and so on. So before going into the registrar partnership and the registrar accreditation process at EuroDIG. I would like to go through a short introduction about dot EU and EuroDIG.

Let's go straight to the history and model. So, dot EU was an initiative of the European Commission back in 1999, and therefore it was basically framed in a much broader initiative. And one of the many

actions of the initiative was the establishment of an extension for Europe.

That's why the European commission basically published a regulation in 2002, to create the dot EU top level domain. And this regulation was followed by a call for special interests for which EuroDIG responded as well as the other company. And dot EU EuroDIG was chosen to manage the dot EU in 2003.

So basically we are registry under contract with the European Commission. We are the operational, let's say, hand of the European Commission to manage the dot EU top level domain. And yes, also to just catch a sentence, a phrase, of a famous song by The Police basically, every breath we take, the European Commission will be watching us because we are really highly regulated and big mama, which is in our case the European Union.

That doesn't scare us. On the contrary, it's a stimulus to do even better. So basically, the European Commission published the first regulation of dot EU in 2002. And then, together with the member states of the European Union, which at that time we were 25 member states, now there are 28 member states, and together with the registry, the appointed registry, defined so-called public policy rules.

On the basis of the public policy rules, EuroDIG was given the mandate to publish a series of documents which are the registration policy, the terms and conditions, the WHOIS policy, registry/registrar agreement, and the alternative dispute resolution agreement.

So these five documents are totally linked to the public policy rules, and the regulation of 2002. And we cannot, let's say, deviate by this regulations. On the contrary we can, and only can, stick to what is written in those regulations, and detail what is written in those regulations.

The registration model, which is again included in the basic regulation of 2002, it's a registry/registrar/registrant model, which means that we cannot offer direct registrations to the end users, but any registration has to go through a registrar. And this is really a compulsory rule for us, because it is contained in the regulation of 2002 which is not an European Commission regulation, but it's a regulation of the European Counsel and the European Parliament.

And therefore, from a logistical perspective, that's much higher than the following regulation of 2004. There are some key policy elements which are contained in the regulations. And first one is that registrations are on a first come, first serve with some exceptions that are linked to the phase registration model, and to reserve list.

Reserve list of domain names which were chosen, and I would are regularly updated by the European institutions and the member states. We also have a pre-planned order for registers and I'll speak about it a bit later. We have non-tier registrations up to 10 years, automatic renewals, and a fully automated system including a process for trading or transferring a domain name, which was fully automated and became fully automated on the 21st of November, 2012, after a long consultation process with our registrar community and the European commission.

EN

So the answer that you occurred with sunrise in 2005, and with the second sunrise in February 2006, the opening of the registration was set in April of 2006, that's when dot EU registration could be requested by anybody wishing to register dot EU domain name, with the basic rule that anybody, company or individual, must be resident in the territory of the European Union.

If we look at some facts and figures, we have now a bit more than 3.7 million domain names. We have launched IDNs, International Domain Names, to support the 24 – now, they because 24 as of 1st of July this year, 24 official languages of the European Union. And therefore we are having the scripts – we are supporting the scripts and characters of all the 24 official languages of the European Union.

We have launched [DNS sac 1:09:56] in June 2010. And we are the only European registry certified by the environmental management in order to [? 1:10:05], which is quite an interesting process to access that you are an environmental friendly company.

We have a dispute resolution process in 24 European Union languages. And we have registers in more than 41 countries at world-wide level, because to register a domain name, you must be a resident in the territory of the European Union, but to become registrar, there is not this restriction of being linked to that territory of the European Union.

We do provide support in the 24 languages of the European Union. And that's phone, email, and chat support in all the 24 languages. And we have a distributed office model with one quarter close to Brussels, and three regional offices in Pisa, Prague, and Stockholm.

EN

We are positioned quite well in terms of the top level domains at worldwide level, and these are the figures at the end of Q1 2013. And if we look at our registration growth, you can see it is quite stable. Since a couple of years, we have had worked to go for quality rather than quantity.

So that we really would like to move to the direction of having qualitative domain names. Domain names that are effectively used, and they result into active websites. If we look at the top 10 countries, by number of the dot EU registrations, we can see that most of our registrations in terms of registrant country, they are from Germany, followed by the Netherlands, France, and United Kingdom.

And United Kingdom has been having quite an exponential growth in the past 18 months. And let's go to the main part of the presentation, which is the planning with our registers. We have, as I said, registers in 41 countries. Currently we have 770 accredited registers. So this chart shows the distribution of our registers.

And as you can see, most of our registers are based in Germany, followed by the Netherlands. At European level, we have extremely good distribution of registers. And we have also, excuse me, we have also sort of a requirement in our [contrary 1:12:47] to our European Commission, which is to have at least one active registrar in each of the European member states, European Union member states.

And that's why, for instance, when last year, we learned that Croatia was about to become the 28th official new member state of the European Union, we had started working with local registrars and asked

them to get accredited with dot EU, to make sure that there was community of local registers of frame dot EU in Croatia.

And currently, we're quite happy because we have four accredited registers for Croatia. And they are extremely active and they've been extremely active in promoting dot EU as of the 1st of July, when residents in Croatia became eligible to register a dot EU domain name.

If you look at the distribution of our registrations based on the country of registrar, so the previous one is also based on the country of registrant, and this is based on the county of registrar, we can see that even in this case Germany, the Netherlands, and France are the top three countries.

And they are followed by USA, because USA registrars, they have an incredible vast network of resellers in Europe. And therefore, in some countries, many people purchase dot EU domain names by resellers of US registers. And those resellers, we have been having – we have good relations also with those resellers because we like to keep the dialogue open also with them, although they are not directly accredited with us.

If you look at the market share of our registers, we can see that if we take the top 10 of our registers, they account for a bit more than 37% of the dot EU registrations. And if you look at the top 100, that percentage goes up to 83%. And then if we look at the top 500, the top 500 accredited registers against the 770 total registers that we have in our portfolio directly, they account for 99% of the registrations.

And that's because… And that's quite typical of new registries. At the very beginning, when dot EU was launched, many companies get

accredited as registers and they open several other accounts to give themselves more opportunity to register dot EU domain names in the first place. There has been… We have been looking at the consolidation of those accounts lately, from September last year.

So basically we moved down from number, which was around 900 accredited registers to 770 registers, because many companies, including US companies, they have decided to close some accounts and consolidate those accounts because the time of the sunrise, the time of the launch was gone, and they realized that it was better for them to consolidate their portfolios.

As for the accreditation procedure, it is quite simple and especially not [lingual 1:16:16]. If you go to the EuroDig dot EU website, you can have the, let's say, instructions all together, accredited in the 24 official languages of the European Union. So our website is in 24 languages, and therefore to get accredited as a dot EU register, you have this information available in 24 languages.

As well you have in 24 languages, the registry/registrar agreement, and as well as – as soon as you decide to move forward like that, you have a dedicated support in your language, again, as far as it is European Union official language. That can assist and provide you extra information. We have a pre-payment model, and this was something that was – this cast and agreed with the European institution, a pre-payment model which is basically serving as a sort of financial accountability of the registrars towards the registry, but also towards these registrants.

The pre-payment model at the very beginning was 10,000 Euros. And last year, after we began quite a long consultation with our stakeholder

community, it was decided to decrease it to 5,000 Euros. And those 5,000 Euros are deposited in a special account which is somehow blocked as a separate financial account of EuroDIG.

And registrars can use it when there are financial difficulties, or EuroDIG even can use it, the registry can use it in case the registrar doesn't settle their invoices, which we send them on a monthly basis. A couple of years ago, we started what we called the start-up program, which is a special program to push for new companies to become accredited registrars, in some countries where we saw there were some financial difficulties.

So what we have done, is that at that time we learn that there were some companies around Europe, in countries like Slovenia, the Baltics, Croatia, itself, but also Portugal. And they wanted to become accredited registers, but they couldn't afford the pre-payment level of 5,000 Euros. Therefore what we have done is to decrease the pre-payment level for the first year to 2,500 Euros.

So those companies wishing to become accredited as dot EU registers, and who cannot afford the 5,000 Euros payment, they become accredited for 2,500 Euros for one year. And after the first year, they should move to the standard pre-payment level, which is 5,000 Euros. And we have seen that this approach has really helped about 20 companies to become accredited registers with us.

And in the last 12 months, many of them have started to move to the pre-payment model, or after having tested the, let's say, their experience as dot EU accredited registers, they have decided that was

not their primary business, so they withdrew their account. We also have a voluntary code of conduct, which any registrar can sign up.

And it's a sort of quality label for register to be seen as, let's say, more keen on certain policies and rules, especially towards registrants and towards some elements like privacy rules. I was just told to speed up, so the last part is partnering with registers. And as I said, the proverb, the African proverb, summarizes quite well what we have been doing.

So we have been providing our register network, our 33 registers with a lot of support, not only in terms of dedicated account management in their language, but with also extremely vast consultation mechanism, including advisory boards for registrar online service. And we dedicated marketing initiatives to support our registers to promote dot EU, because they are the primarily channel for the dot EU to be promoted.

And the marketing has been quite important for us. We've been refining it over the past five years, and we have been receiving a lot of [our position 1:21:02] from our registers for the efforts that we have been made together with them to promote and support their actions.

And I'd be happy to explain by email if anybody is interested in any of these slides into details, more into details, especially the last still. And again, I thank you for the opportunity and I remain available for answering any question now or by email at any time. Thank you.

[Applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much [? 1:21:40] for this presentation. I think if there are question, you are asking… Merci [FRENCH 1:21:48 – 1:22:13]

UNIDENTIFIED:	First [laughs] okay. Okay. Bonjour. I will speak in French please. [FRENCH 1:22:30 – 1:23:44]
UNIDENTIFIED:	Merci. [FRENCH 1:23:47 – 1:23:50] Okay. You can speak please.
UNIDENTIFIED:	Okay. Good morning everybody. My name is [? 1:23:57], I'm now with Africa dot com. I have a question, and I think we've talked about – we actually started talking about this at the [? 1:24:10] meeting about African registers, and register operators coming together.
	And I'm glad that we have this topic here as a forced one that we have to discuss. To me, the question is already out there, but the answer we need to try to get the answer. And what I'm trying to get is the fact that, we have registers all over Africa, and we are talking about cross-border accreditation, so at this point now, the question is, in the global community we have ICANN that those accreditation of registrars for global TLD…
	In Africa, we have individual companies doing their own accreditation, now we want to take it to the next level. Great. Now, the question is, where should this reside? Should this be done with ICANN or should we take it to AF TLD?
	Because if you look at the tenant – the responsibility of the AF TLD, strictly membership is for registry operators, even though there is a clause for associated members, membership. So as a registrar, where

should this accreditation, cross-border accreditation, where should it reside?

And if we need to form a separate constituent, I don't want it to be another association. I'd rather we form a separate constituent, a registrar community or constituent, if you want to call it, within AF TLD SO. Really the question is, where should this reside? Should it be within AF TLD? Or should it be another body?

But we actually need this. And within this forum today, I would like us to take this next week, somebody wants to become a registrar, and I want to sell dot cd or dot zz, like Madam President from [? 1:26:13] mentioned, we don't have to go through all of this process.

So where should this body, if you want to call it, where should it reside? Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Merci. [FRENCH 1:26:22 – 1:26:24] So we are going to go with this question. Question from [? 1:26:31]. Yes. Would you answer?

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much. If we have had cancellation of registration – accredited registrars, we are currently monitoring to encourage… There are some that are not active. So if you are not active, we have in our policy – if you are not active, you are not meeting, or you are requirement – the minimum standards, then you would be de-accredited.

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De-accredited, that is removed from the accredited registrants. So we have not been able to do that because we are building, we're encouraging people. We want our local businesses to become players, and not to be players in Nigeria, but global players. So if we are doing that, if we start – it might discourage some. So we are trying to encourage, so we have not had that.

We have not had the chance to say go, you are no more our register. In terms of accreditation and categorization, we have rules, and standards, and policies, that differentiate the platinum, from the gold, from the silver, and from the standard. In terms of pricing and in terms of deposit. In terms of insurance cover. So in terms of discount. So they are the conditions or the requirement that differentiate them.

The platinum would pay a higher deposit with NIR than the gold, or the silver, or the standard. Standard is the minimum, let my people go, let everybody take that. So that's what – why we created that standard, because not everyone would meet the requirement for the gold.

But it goes with some conditions. A standard level, the price, the discount we give is the lowest, and at the platinum level is the highest. I think the chairman accreditation committee of NIR is here, maybe you want to add something to this. Please, if you are seated in the room, can you talk?

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you. [CROSSTALK 1:29:19]

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UNIDENTIFIED: …committee for Africa. I agree. That's what I alluded to. I said that we should come up what would… Okay. I'm not supposed to stop. Okay. We should come up with that synergy, of how we should – this cross-border should work for us in Africa, to be able to develop our businesses to play at the global level.

African registers should become registers to dot EU, and dot anything, dot GTLD, dot everything. So I think we should do that. We are to decide, that's what we should decide. A TLD is a good platform, as far as I am concerned, but I don't know what do you think?

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED: I'll quickly respond to the very first question about consolation of accredited registers. We have been… We know that hasn't in our, let's say, register network there are about 200 not active registers. And for not active, what we mean is that they have not registered one domain name in the past months.

We have been touch regularly with all of them, to better understand what is the reason and if we can do anything to help. But we realize that 95% of those non active registers are basically double accounts of existing active, or very active registers. We do, of course, have a policy in case the register wants to terminate the agreement with us.

And even in that case, we'll do our best to facilitate this process in the ultimate interest of the registrants. And we had only one case when the

register, the accredited register, disappeared and therefore we had to, let's say, rescue the registrants who had to register not through the main name with that register.

But again, we keep the dialogue open with any active or non-active. And in case it is not active, instead of counseling, we try to again push for becoming active.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you [? 1:31:52] We are going to take two people's, in front of me. The first is Doug [? 1:31:59].

DOUG: Merci [FRENCH 1:32:00 – 1:34:05]

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Merci. [Ali Tareq 1:34:12], you can speak now.

UNIDENTIFIED: Hello. My name is [? 1:34:16] from both [? 1:34:18] registry of Sudan. My question is to [Mary 1:34:21] and [? 1:34:23], it's about, in EuroDIG, do you give them any help? I mean, in training, especially training in special infrastructure so to where… Do you give any help? Or do they have to come just strictly for the registration accreditation process? Okay. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you [Tareq 1:34:55]. So we are going to give answer to these two questions. [FRENCH 1:34:59 – 1:35:12]

UNIDENTIFIED: Just answering one of the previous questions about whether we had any accreditation cancellations for the ZA, we have not had one yet. But we've been encouraged to establish a form of a demerit system on our accreditation process.

So if a registrar steps out of line, or breaches a particular part of the agreement and it's not a substantive or vital breach, we would issue a warning and that would be recorded against the demerit system. And obviously we will then track to see where registrars have been delinquent. Thankfully, at this stage, we haven't had the need to remove anyone's accreditation.

But naturally, the policy and the registrar accreditation agreement will deal with those eventualities if it did happen. Just on the last question, in terms of what are the major thresholds to success in terms of what structure we should put in place, I think you answered that question in the latter part by saying it's about capacity building.

In our environment, we took a very deliberate decision from very early on, not to simply go with an off the shelf system or solution. We developed our own EPP solution, but that is not as important as investing in our own people, our own expertise, embolden because we are able to do that to take the process to the next step.

So certainly investing in your people, investing in their skills, and their abilities is a very large and a very significant barrier to entry and a

hurdle that you should overcome if you want to take the DNS further in your particular countries. Naturally you have to look at things like regular training for your registrars and your ISP community.

And I suppose lastly, for us it has been very important to document our policies and our procedures very, very well so that we can transfer and convey what is expected from our registrars, and how they can deal with certain eventualities if they are to occur. So documenting your policies, your procedures, your guides with processes, making these available to the public and to the registrars in particular, providing regular training, and then investing in your own capacity building is, in my mind, a recipe for success.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. Before a registrar is fully accredited, we don't really – we do face to face. We allow them ask questions. We allow them to express their difficulties, and we make sure that they understand our policies before we get through our accreditation. And after full accreditation, later we meet – we have forum for registers.

We also do training. IPV6 training when AfriNIC came, we joined them. We just done the DNS. Any training that is anything that is happening that is training. And whenever we go for functions, or problems, we invite our registers to come so they are part of us because if they are not well positioned, they can't do the job seriously.

So then I leave the – one of help, whether or not… The only financial help we have done, or any help we have done, is that we are allowed them to register for free. Those ones we want to give out for free, they don't have to pay.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. Very quickly. I just say that we have a similar process to the one that [Mary 1:39:25] just described. And since 2009, we have an e-learning platform for accredited and also non-accredited registrars, which they cannot [? 1:39:35], and they're currently 11. And of course this is [taken full on with 1:39:37] with an online tutor to explain our policy, procedures, EPP, and much, much more.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you. [FRENCH 1:39:50]

UNIDENTIFIED: Merci. [FRENCH 1:39:57 – 1:42:24]

UNIDENTIFIED: [FRENCH 1:42:28 – 1:42:41]

UNIDENTIFIED: I just want to declare there is an open question which is still outstanding. So if you could please, I would like that to ask, thank you.

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UNIDENTIFIED: Maybe you can assist with that Chair? FTLD will be having its annual general meeting of which you are welcome, and all the members. And we are governed by a constitution of bylaws, so we would have to put that question on the floor.

And see the implication of it in so far as the bylaws are concerned, then we can make a decision. But it is a good proposal. Thank you. So you are welcome for the AGM in the afternoon so that we can deliberate it more.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you [Barak]. [FRENCH 1:43:52 – 1:44:02]

UNIDENTIFIED: [FRENCH 1:44:26 – 1:44:30]

UNIDENTIFIED: …for those members list, I circulated a notice of the meeting and it had the agenda. So I have not received, or rather the secretariat has not received any additional items to be put up on the agenda. So we will proceed with the agenda as it is on the notice that was circulated on the mailing list.

So I will be putting it up in a moment. Please register, any binding decisions can only be made by full members. And I request that as we take around the form, or rather as we take around the registration form, make sure you register so that we can be able to move as far as our constitution.

I don't know where it is. Oh, I think it's somewhere there.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Has everyone signed up the registration form? I'm putting up the agenda. So far I have not received any apologies, unless any of the members has received an apology on behalf of our members, of our…

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. I think we have quorum. And the constituent requires at least seven members to be present for quorum. So with the sheet circulating, we do have quorum. And we can all the annual general meeting to order.

Who has the sheet for signing? Okay. All right. So I would like to call the meeting to order. We have an agenda. We did not receive any apologies. So we will proceed. We'll look at the minutes of the previous meeting. [Barak], if you can put them up?

UNIDENTIFIED: The last meeting that we had, was in Livingston in [Zambia 0:05:10] in July last year. And these minutes have been circulated. So I'm just putting them up for the record, our process. I'm not… We're not going to go through reading them, since they were circulated, but I would like to call for adoption of the minutes or corrections if there are any?

Nope. Someone move for adoption? You want to move for adoption? Adoption of minutes? Okay. [Mary 0:06:16] has moved any second that for the adoption of the minutes? [Habib 0:06:29] seconds. Okay.

So we adopted the minutes. Okay. That's… Note to the second item of the agenda, matters arising from the minutes. Unless you have, we have matters arising, is that right? Can you take us through?

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you. So… There are no matters arising really, but there are areas just to report on regarding the meeting that we had. There are a number of issues that we commented that we will do. Some of that we have started on, some that we haven't actually done, which will be contained in the update that I will provide later on.

I'll give the secretariat the update. A lot of the discussion was centered around operational issues. So I'm going to cover them in giving you an update.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you very much [Tarak 0:08:10]. I don't know from members, if there is an issue on the minutes, otherwise we move to agenda item number three, which is the chairman's report. Okay. So, I'll give the chairman's report.

Let me recognize the directors available here today. The manager, [Tarek 0:08:54]. I think that we have our host representatives, and the audience. Our host is [SADNA 0:09:07], the South African Domain Name Authority. We have several people that are attending our forum, and I would like to recognize all members present here, both full members as well as associate members.

EN

Everyone else, as of observant and no more protocol. So let me welcome you to the annual general meeting, and my presentation of this chairman's report. It's a great pleasure for us to be here in South Africa. First the DNS forum, which we have just gone through, in partnership with ICANN and ISOC. I think it has been one of our great events that we have assisted to organize, and execute.

Let me just give a brief background of organization. AFTLD, under the current framework, first ADM in Marrakesh, in June in 2006. At that time, an interim executive committee was elected. And we are calling our Executive Committee ExCom, so if I refer to ExCom, it is the Executive Committee. And it functions as the Board of Directors for AFTLD.

That committee was chaired by – we elected Mister [? 0:10:59] as our chairman. And [? 0:11:03] has helped us a lot to – help us a lot over the years to build the organization, and he left the office in 2009. At the ADM in [? 0:11:21]… And after that, we elected [? 0:11:26], the [Zed-na 0:11:30] from [Zed-na] to take over the chairmanship.

Since then we have had a number of ADLs. In 2007, we were in Cairo. In 2008, we were in Johannesburg. In 2009, we were in [? 0:11:45] then in 2010, we were in Nairobi. 2011, we were in [? 0:11:52] and last year, in 2012, we were in Livingston. It was in Zaire where I was elected as chairman after [? 0:12:08] retired.

So after we as an organization, we are guided by constituents and that constituent was debated by this house, and it was approved in Arusha, Tanzania, at our ADM at that time. And FTLD also has organization, is

recognized by ICANN as the regional organization representing the African region.

So this is the second ADM that we are holding in South Africa after the 2008 one, and we would like to thank our hosts, [Zed-na] for hosting us again this time in Durban. The current Executive Committee is seated in front of you, and let me just recognize each one of them. Mister [? 0:13:09] is our vice chairperson. If you can just raise your hand so that everyone is sure who is who.

And Mister [? 0:13:21], from the [? 0:13:24] is our treasurer. Mister Eric [? 0:13:27] is our director responsible for partnerships. Mrs. Mary [? 0:13:36] from Nigeria is our director responsible for communications. Mister – Doctor [? 0:13:44] is our director responsible for research. And our administrative manager is Mister [? 0:13:53] from Kenya. Thank you.

So I would like to mention that [Barak] became manager after Eric. Eric was our previous manager and when he retired, we engaged [Barak] to take over. So over the past year, if I can just give a report we have had a very productive year. And it is my pleasure to give some highlights of the things that we have been doing.

Of course, I forget to mention that we had our ADM in 2012 in July, in Livingston. In August, we participated in the ICANN Africa Strategy, I think that has been mentioned before. It's a major issue for ICANN in Africa. And Africa is the first region to have a strategy of this kind, but now there are strategies of this kind in Latin America and some being developed for Asia and other regions.

In October, we were in Toronto at ICANN 44. In November, we were in Cantu where we run the register operators caused the advanced registrar operators caused [a-rock 0:15:19]. In March this year, we participated in the ICANN multi-stakeholder meeting, internet governance meeting in [? 0:15:32], which formed the basis for the DNS forum that we've been holding this week.

In April we participated in ICANN 46 in Beijing, China. And it was in Beijing that we signed a MOU with [Za-De-CR 0:15:53] for running the dot Africa project. In May, we run the registrar operator's course in Nigeria. In June, we were at the African Internet Summit in [? 0:16:11].

And it is in [? 0:16:12] that our participation for the first time rose the idea of including domain names in the workshops that are held together with AfriNIC, our friend and the various other organization. [Afri-set 0:16:31] if I have not mentioned all of them. So the area is the African Internet Summit, now has a steering committee and the AFTLD has been invited to join the steering committee in a bid to include all the stakeholders in planning the next Africa Internet Summit, which will be in [? 0:17:04] in 2014.

So in July, this is the month of July, we are here at the DNS forum in South Africa, and we will attend the ICANN meeting that takes place next week, ICANN 47. During this ICANN meeting, we have regional top level domains organization, round table meeting with the CEO of ICANN, and it took place on the 17th.

So the agenda is still open if you want to send me items to discuss with this, which allows us to include the chairman and the other directors from the AFTLD. So we'll be meeting the CEO together with Center for

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Europe together with LACTLD from Latin America, and APTLD from the Asia Pacific region.

We will be running the registry operators course in [? 0:18:16] in October, and the registration for this will open shortly. In addition to these, we are setting up a secretariat in Nairobi and this is now at the first stage. And we have a project with ISOC as you must have read over the last two days, to study and support [sensibilities 0:18:46] in Africa, including [DN-S-ICK 0:18:51] registrars, registry automation, and what are they calling it?

Something to watch over the [sensibilities 0:19:03] as they develop. So membership. I put up the membership chart a short while ago. We have now crossed already the halfway mark for members from the Africa region. I think [Barak] to put it up. These are our members.

Recently we've been joined by dot TD, by dot KM, and dot SO from earlier, and the dot CG. We have received some documentation from the GM, Uganda, and dot VW Botswana. These have not been finalized for membership yet, we have some things to verify. We have seven associate members, and we have some pending applications for associate members from AfriNIC.

That has not been finalized yet. So we do have a growing membership base, as our ALAs, of course, to have every African sustainability as a member. But we do have a follow up process, which we tried to verify when we receive membership applications. We are very grateful to our members, they have shown quite a bit of interest in our activities, as has been demonstrated this week.

Our finances is in the positive region, they will be representation on the finances as the listed on the agenda. And the statement of finances will be made by our treasurer, [Habib 0:21:27], and it will be presented to you shortly.

What I can note is that we still don't have a regular membership permits flowing in, so we are still a little bit dependent on [? 0:21:45], on the money that we raise from conducting our activities. And it is nearly time that we need to have a steady income for supporting the activities of the organization from membership fees. So in that sense, I would like to thank our partners and our sponsors.

Those that sponsored our various activities during the year that the activities that I have already mentioned. And of course, for this meeting, we have – our sponsors were listed behind me, I don't have to name all of them. They contributed quite a lot to our successful meeting this week.

And they have made our past two days the success that it has been until today. Thank you. This is my report. I'll be happy to get a comment, a contribution, before we move to the next agenda item.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All right. If not, then we can move on to the next agenda item, number four, which is one of the things that we are doing with our partner, ISOC, is the ISOC Africa ccTLD and DNS program. And I'll give the microphone over to [Barak] to say a few words.

BARAK: Thank you Chair. I'm going to be very brief. We have studied the problem with ISOC. This year we are focusing largely on partnerships, so we are working on ccTLD observatory to collect data on what's happening in the ccTLD across the continent.

I think you also – the presentation that was done by center and LACTLD, it's a joint approach among all the regional top level domain organizations. So we are trying to develop an observatory to enable us to have more focused interventions, and we've not started the project. We are still working on some logistical aspects, but it should start anytime soon after this forum.

We are going to actualize that. The same includes the DNS program. So after this meeting, you're going to receive communication from the secretariat. We are going to be working jointly with ISOC on this ccTLD and DNS problem. And with that, I wish to make an appeal to all of us to respond whenever the communication comes and the questionnaires come, I think questionnaire from the secretariat lately.

The whole idea is to be able to collect data that will facilitate this program. So we require a lot of support from the membership and from all the ccTLDs to make this study a success, because any other program after this will be based on the statistics that we'll be able to collect.

We don't want to do generic training or general events, we want a more focused approach to solving the challenges that we have. Thank you Chair.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much [Barak]. I think that the issues around this program were mentioned this week, so I would like to open the floor if we have any comments on this, I would like to welcome them now. And of course, as I've already mentioned, our director responsible for capacity building is the vice chairperson.

[? 0:26:36] do you want to make a comment? Yeah. No, about the ISOC Africa ccTLD program. Do you want to make a comment? Okay. Thank you. Yes please, go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. My comment is that, recently there was a [? 0:27:03] … members, and the response was quite poor. Probably it could be because of the form of the questionnaire itself, so we should take some considerations that the questionnaire has to be brief, to the point. Not about 10 pages or 20 pages, because that could be the reason that most of the members did not respond.

You can have a number of questionnaires, but which are brief which someone can spend 10 to 15 minutes, yeah. Thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. Sure, I'm sure that organizing it would attend to that, yeah. Thank you. Okay. There are no other comments, then I would like to move to agenda item number five, which is the ICANN regional chair of the organizers, TOD organizations round table.

This round table has been – was initiated by comments from regional organizations in Beijing. What was observed was that the ICANN

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establishment was meeting with stakeholders, regional internet registers, RIRs, they met with the GTLD. But they didn't meet with the regional GTLD organizations.

As I mentioned, this is FTLD, LACTLD, APTLD, and center. So following that, the regional organizations did some considerations on the mailing list, and observed that there was need for the ICANN establishment to meet with the regional organizations as a significant stakeholder group. Following that, communication was sent to the ICANN CEO, and the ICANN CEO responded positively, that they would be willing to meet with the regional chair of the organizations.

So this meeting has been setup for the 17th of July in the evening from 19:00 hours, and they have already invited from each TLD organization the chairperson. And they wanted only two additional people, but there was a request to include at least four people.

So from FTLD, I will be going to that meeting together with the vice chairperson, Mister [? 0:30:31], the treasurer [Habib 0:30:36], and I will also be taking the manager, [Barak]. The agenda is very short, there will be – maybe before I go to that… ICANN has also invited the ccNSO, and I can see Leslie is in the – at the back. So Leslie will be leading the ccNSO too.

The agenda is very short. The organizations will be presenting their view, and they will give a presentation on ICANN regional strategies. As I already mentioned, Africa has a strategy in place and that has been implemented, and we have a vice president, Mister [Pierre ? 0:31:37]. In Latin America, the strategy has been put in place.

Its implementation has started and they also have a vice president, a regional vice president. And about two or three weeks ago a regional vice president was put in place in Asia, starting work on 1 July. So the last regional, region to be considered is Europe. It's very awkward for us to think of Europe as being last, but this is what is happening.

And they… As far as I know, they don't have a vice president yet, unless there is one in place. I don't know if you can correct me. No, no. Okay. So indeed, Europe is the last to be attended to in this case. But you are welcome to make a suggestion on what we should bring to this round table.

And if you have a burning topic, this is the time. I'm opening the floor for you to indicate. No? Okay. Yes. Yes that is what I just did [laughs]. Do you want me to repeat them? [Laughs] Okay. Let me just read directly from the agenda. So agenda item number one, regional TLD organization leader explaining they roles in the respective regions and area of collaboration with ICANN community in the different regions.

Agenda item number two, overview of ICANN's regional strategies and engagement with other regional organizations. So for… Now these are the two agenda items, yes. So I open the floor, if you want us to include an item that we can raise, this is your time to do so. Okay.

From the ICANN side, they are expecting Fadhi, the CEO, [Tareq 0:34:53], they… Now I'm hesitating because the chairman of ICANN said maybe he's not from Africa. Which I found strange [laughter]. That would be bad, he is an ICANN staff member. They will be David Olive responsible for policy, and the vice president's in the regions which I mentioned.

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Oh by the way, this email does mention Nigel as a vice president. Rodrigo from [quake 0:35:36], from Rodrigo from Latin America. [Quake 0:35:41] from Asia, and Pierre from Africa. And of course, yeah, ccNSO represented by Leslie, [Byron and ? 0:35:53]. Okay. If there are no comments, I can close this agenda item number five. Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED: I know that some of them participated in our program here. Probably when they want to raise them. Some of the high points of issues that were raised during the forum, or if it is not important. I know other regions, I don't know what the other regions have done that, maybe in the briefing. That is something that you may want to raise with ICANN.

Since the president was not around, we thought he would be, maybe he will come.

UNIDENTIFIED: …the other regions to speak?

UNIDENTIFIED: No. I mean, what transpired here, it would be one or two of the issues are conclusions that we reached as part of AOB, just give the meetings so that [? 0:37:06]… Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you. Definitely during the briefing on the our roles of FTLD, I will mention what we have done today and this week, included in our briefing for the meeting.

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UNIDENTIFIED:	So going on, on the agenda, we are now on agenda number six, which is the financial report for the year ended for the 1st December, 2012. [Habib 0:38:06], please.
UNIDENTIFIED:	Okay thanks Chair. The manager has the copy of the slides, because people will be able to understand the figures if they are displayed. Okay. I'm presenting the FTLD accounts for the financial year 2012. Which means before the POD starting from January to December 2012.
	The report has fall past acknowledgements, the council report, yes the summary of which – wait for it on the conclusion. Now, the closing acknowledgements are to sponsors and some of the members, for their contributions during the financial year 2012, and also material support. Now during the financial year 2012, we had the following sponsors: OIF, we had UniForum or the [? 0:39:24], we had AfriNIC, ISOC, and AAU.
	Those are the sponsors who supported us for the financial year 2012. Now in terms of figures, I should verify that these figures are exclusive of the bank charges, or transaction charges. UniForum supported us, US dollar 5,000, but less transaction or bank charges. We received 4,991. AfriNIC, they supported us in terms of Euros, but we converted – it was converted into dollars.
	It was a total 57,000, one for the nine and 21 cents. OIF supported us 10,682.96 dollars. ISOC supported us exclusive of bank charges, 9,978 dollars. And we received the UST 7,992 from AAU. The following acknowledgements go to Victor, who is the local host for the 2012 annual general meeting.

[I-Set 0:41:00], there were a lot of us for the training in [U-gra-ga 0:41:05], and SCIS who were the local hosts for the training in Sudan. And also, center did support the TLD manager's visit to center, and we do acknowledge their support as well. As for the accounts, our bank account is still under AfriNIC, we acknowledge them also for their extended support.

But the plan is to move it to Kenya once the registration of the FTLD in Kenya is finalized. And this accounts report has been derived from the AfriNIC transactions summary, sent it to us, and also the invoices which we sent for whatever payment. Now for the case of members contribution is still poor, as the chairman mentioned, because what we did during the year, we sent out 23 invoices to all members but out of that, we received contributions from five members.

UNIDENTIFIED: [Barak] is having a challenge with… [BACKGROUND CONVERSATION 0:42:26] Maybe you have it on your machine, maybe we can project it from that?

UNIDENTIFIED: Sorry, we wanted to bring this up on the screen, we have a bit of a challenge for technical on the screen. Just bear with us for a few minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you for the patience. We have the file at last on the screen, so over to you to begin. Sure.

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UNIDENTIFIED:	I explained the first slide. The report covered to December 24…sorry. The report covered generally to December 24, it is finished the year 2012. Where is it? This one. Let's see. Okay. [Laughter] Still slide in there. That way?

Okay. The report I said has four sections, acknowledgements, accounting report in the summary form and the conclusion. And acknowledgments are the sponsors and the members for the financial and material support during the year. And the sponsors I mentioned are [? 0:55:21] UniForum, [Jose ? 0:53:23], AfriNIC, ISOC, and AAU.

And in terms of figures, they sponsored us during the year, UniForum was US 4,991 US dollars. AfriNIC supported us with 57,149.21. OIF supported us with 10,682.96. ISOC, 9,978. AAU 7,992. In terms of admin issues, when we had the training sessions or [each year 0:54:09], we acknowledge the support from [? 0:54:13] who is the local host for the 2012 Beijing.

[As-sep 0:54:17] who is the local host for the training for the [? 0:54:20]. SIS who are the local hosts for the training in Sudan, but also center supported us for the admin manager's visited to center. Further acknowledgement for the council report is for AfriNIC because the – our account is still under AfriNIC, and we hope that it will be moved to Kenya once the registration of FTLD in Kenya is finalized.

As for the report, it has been derived from the AfriNIC transactions and the invoices raised during the year. And as the chairman said in his report, the members contribution is still poor. Out of the three invoices raised to members, only five members paid. For income, we had a balance which we carried from 2011 of 8,317.

And the grants plus refunds, because we had some expenditure which resulted into refunds, was 96,470.99. And for member's contributions, we had 1,500, which is really disappointing. And basically we received the support from this report from [? 0:55:43], I try myself to be leading this area. Dot energy, dot SD, and we also received support from our associate member, [Lexus 0:55:55] energy.

And also, dot KE decided to find the accredited registration process in Kenya. So in total we had an income of one 6,027.99, this includes the balance we had from 2011. As for expenditure, we had expenditure of 11,013 – 11,013.99 for admin issues. And for the AG and the training we supported, we spent 76,687.

So the total is 87,700.99. And the balance we carried for this financial year was 48,587 with zero cents. So for the way forward, we are saying all members should contribute, at least the minimum amount we agreed in Zambia, that is at least 200 dollars, which I think is very minimum and every member should pay at least to cover the administration costs.

And for the non-member, I encourage them to join so that they can be fully associated with FTLD operations and benefits as well. Finally, [C-A-Bonga 0:57:20].

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you [Habib 0:57:25]. So this is our brief financial report. I should mention that what [Habib] mentioned finances are managed through AfriNIC, so these are not audited reports. We get audited together with the AfriNIC financial – finances.

This is one of the major issues that is really push us to open our own secretariat in Kenya, and it is our hope that when we open the secretariat, then we can run full-fledged financial system. And hopefully get properly audited reports. So I would like to open the floor if you have any comments and ideas, you are most welcome to make your interventions now.

Madam [? 0:58:37]. If you speak…

UNIDENTIFIED: …speaking French.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay [laughter]. Won't make you deal with English, so I'll speak in French.

UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, okay. Sure.

UNIDENTIFIED: [FRENCH 0:58:55 – 1:00:18]

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. I'll ask [? 1:00:21] to translate.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes. [? 1:00:28] says there are two points. The first point is, in the lists represented by [? 1:00:36] we don't see [dot NG 1:00:39] in the list.

And he said that dot [? 1:00:43]. Yes. Okay. So he would like for it to be in the list.

The second point is, the participation of the members, okay? He realize that the participation is not enough to allow us to work really. So what he suggest is not to fix the minimum participation, but to make it open. If a ccTLD wants to give more than what we are fixing, it can do it. Okay? It is just a suggestion he has done.

UNIDENTIFIED: [Habib], you can respond to it.

UNIDENTIFIED: Let me start with the simplest one, the second. The $200 we said is minimum, but you can pay more than that. That's what we said, okay? Yeah because there are some members who pay 500. And for the gist of the report, [Barak] has reminded me that Madagascar paid direct during the AGM, and this report was derived based on what was the transaction through AfriNIC account, so you make correction of that.

But again, what you are trying to do… We are having some problems in terms of the reports that we received from AfriNIC, because sometimes they don't give full details of who paid. We had even the issue of AU. In the transaction, it was reported AAS, and we're asking our self who AAS are? Okay? So sometimes confusion will be avoided once we have our own account of which we maintain.

Yeah. Thank you. And sorry for that.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you [Habib]. So the… There will be a correction to the Madagascar, is that okay with Madagascar? Yeah. Thank you. Any other interventions on this? So just to echo the report, 200 is minimum but members can pay more and other members are paying more. Yes [? 1:03:12].

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay [FRENCH 1:03:14]. Sorry?

UNIDENTIFIED: You can manage in English?

UNIDENTIFIED: If you can try to understand me…

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes we can [laughter].

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, okay. Okay so my question is, what you are strategy to take the [? 1:03:40] from every member in our association? For example, if in order to keep them, they have to pay his – it [? 1:03:59], what is your strategy to take it? Understand, I think. All right?

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay [laughter]. Basically the strategy should not come from the ExCom, the strategy should come from members because the members

are the ones who are making payments. So we should not dictate the strategies, otherwise they might be negative.

For instance, if we decided to consider the members – if we consider to support the members for the training, the full members would have paid. What do you expect? Expect a class for five members? It's challenging. So maybe you can provide some input. What should we do as a member? But not from the ExCom dictating attemts.

UNIDENTIFIED: You will speak English. [FRENCH 1:04:56 – 1:05:36] I don't know if I can understand, translate but I will try. Why… I have asked this question for the [? 1:05:48] because now we have many problem in – not many problem, but I think there is a problem to [FRENCH 1:05:59] okay. Trust in our association.

So if I take my… If I take an example from my dot, for example, just an example, simple example, I'm not sure because the response will operate the manager of my company, if I tell [FRENCH 1:06:31]… If I explain it to them, viola, so it – they will understand me exactly why it's important to pay.

D'accord. You, you must do something because I'm not sure if I have all… [FRENCH 1:07:06] Understand, understand, okay. Thank you. This is my…

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UNIDENTIFIED: [? 1:07:17] I'm going to ask you a question. Do you pay your [accusation 1:07:23]? That's it, why? Do you want us to get you advice? Or not to pay…

UNIDENTIFIED: I know there is because I ask this question. It is the problem, not from me exactly, but if you help – if you don't want help me, I can't pay because I haven't the [signature 1:07:54] to pay you. So together, together, together, we must receive how you can do to improve this.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. I realize that it did work in the past, sent invoice to each ccTLD to pay. Yes 23. Okay? But I don't think if he have response for this invoice. This is the real problem for us. If we sent invoice for – to ccTLD to pay, they don't pay. We don't know why.

So we have to look for a strategy to invite people or ccTLD to pay fees for [after them 1:08:42]. The real problem now is how to collect money. How? Together we have to think about a strategy and to propose if you have something, a proposal, we can go with. Okay?

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. So I think the question was, did you receive an invoice from AFTLD? Okay. Okay. Okay. How? Okay. Yeah, yeah. I'll tell you the strategy that we developed in Livingston was that we would send an invoice to every ccTLD who was a member, and it was our hope that when you receive this invoice, you didn't receive it.

Okay. So maybe that is the problem. He did not receive the invoice. Okay. So we were hoping that once you received the invoice, it would be the document that you would take to your accounts, or to your decision makers for you to make a payment to the AFTLD.

Are there other ccTLD's who didn't get an invoice? Sure go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you chair. I think one of the problems… We are having a serious communication problem, and the problem is coming from the membership. Some of us, or you, use different email addresses. We need proper contacts because we are sending information, and the information is not being received.

I think some of you may just be aware with the DNS forum, some of you I sent you 10 invitation letters, and the answer was, "We are not receiving it." I can confirm with the treasurer that the letter is here, and I was copied all the letters. So I think it is a question of we need to communicate with the secretariat, and we need to notify the secretariat which contact address we are using.

Otherwise communication is proving to be a challenge.

UNIDENTIFIED: It's an example. Okay, okay. Chris, do you have a point? Yeah?

CHRIS: What I just want to propose is, the invoice might be better because I remember receiving it, but if it doesn't remind… I must pay. It's not

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that I don't have – we don't have means to pay. We wish, we want to pay, but I need to apologize because I received that, it was between and then – if it doesn't remember – I only remember now.

So I'm really sorry, but we want to pay because we coming to training and all of that, but we wish to pay but if you don't remind me then obviously, it's normal. I mean, I'm not going to pay, it's as simple as that. So even the phone call and say, "Look, Chris, this – we've send you, I think, and you just make sure that…" We will do that. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much. So maybe we should have a credit of – a credit collection agents or something like that. Yeah, thanks. We'll try to follow-up the invoices and maybe try. But what [Barak] mentioned was that we do have contacts for each ccTLD, but sometimes the emails that we send out there is no response.

So yeah, we'll try to be more aggressive, right? Yeah, okay. Yes please [? 1:12:51]

UNIDENTIFIED: Mine is about moving the secretariat to Kenya. We've had this for the past few AGMs that we would be moving our offices to Kenya, and then that's when we can have our own independent account that will be open in Kenya. It's been awhile now, we have not got that feedback of where the ExCom, how far they've gone on establishing the secretariat office in Kenya.

So please if you could please update us on where you are stuck, or if there are any problem, let us know, please.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you for the intervention. It's, yeah. [BACKGROUND CONVERSATION 1:13:37] The issue is that this registration is at an advanced stage. I get a report once every two weeks on this, and I can indicate that for the last six months, we were required to pass a security check.

And so we've been going through a security check in Kenya for some time. And it's not a process that you can push [laughs]. When they are saying that they are investigating you, you can't say, "Please can you finish the investigation now?" So we have been going through a security check.

And I can report, at least from the secretariat, that we seem to have finish the security check about two weeks ago. And the next stage is for us to get the certificate of registration. So we are making progress, but it is for a long time, we have been going through a security check and it's not something we could jump. Is that okay? Thank you.

Yes please. Please introduce yourself.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you. My name is [? 1:15:08], I'm from [? 1:15:11] dot BG. So my contribution is, to [? 1:15:17] … like gTLD. So we consider we have a money problem, money. So if you have new [mama 1:15:28], like gTLD and so on, I think that we can grow.

And I think also that after they make to must go, and make face to face with our authority, governor authority, because then we can save our ccTLD to be accountable, like dot LML. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: There are very varied points. With respect to the gTLD, yes we actually making progress on this. And you can say that in the new framework which I have mentioned, that we opened up options for associate members. So we have gTLD registrars as associate members, and part of the reason why we did this was for fund raising.

But in addition to that, as I mentioned in the – in my report, we have signed a MOU with dot Africa, and the MOU has a detailed plan for supporting AFTLD from the funds, from the surplus funds that dot Africa will be generating. So this is one of the initiatives that we address exactly the point that you have raised.

And we are hearing some good news on dot Africa on their progress, but it's not for me to mention. I'm sure they will announce it [laughter], thank you. Okay. If we don't have any other interventions on this, we can move on to the next agenda item.

And I appreciate your input on this. The next agenda item is number seven, and it's an election of new directors. Our constitution in section 16 indicates that at the AGM, we need to appoint new directors, and in particular, it says that, "At every AGM subsequent to the first AGM, one third of the directors must retire." One third of the directors are to retire.

If the number of directors is not divisible by three, then the number nearest one-third must retire. So we have six directors. Am I counting right? Six directors plus a manager, and so one third is two. In 16.3, the director is to retire by rotation and those who have been longest in the office, since their last appointment or reappointment, but between directors who were last appointed or reappointed on the same day, the Executive Committee must draw lots to determine who is to retire, unless the directors in question agree the order of retirement among themselves.

So this is the guiding principle. And the longest serving directors are myself and [? 1:19:25]. I'll open it for debate because that's what this clause says, unless we agree among the directors. So there is room for agreement. And of course, it's up to the members to finally decide this for the election. And the directors are guided by you.

So in this agenda item, we are opening up for your input. The item is on election. Can I just open it up as the clause says, open it up for directors, for your comments. Thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED: There are no comments from directors. Can I open it up for the floor? Yeah. No comments from the floor? Can I open it up for nominations? Since I'm uninterested party, I'll handle it over to someone else. How do we proceed? I'm not a lawyer. This document was drawn up by a lawyer, so we have lawyers among us – ourselves, how do we proceed? Yes please.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, [? 1:21:51]

UNIDENTIFIED: Before the election, I would know, why this – we didn't have this on our website? Why? I didn't understand why.

UNIDENTIFIED: It is a good question. I should admit that the notice was a little bit late, and indeed when the notice was going out, it was just late by a day or two on the required 14 days – on the required 14 days. But so this has been in circulation for more than 10 days. It was not on the website. We have not published the agenda for the AGM on the website, but we send it out to all of the members.

And the requirement in the constitution is minimum 14 days. When this was going out, it was just a day or two. So it's been out there for 12 days minimum. And that's how we have normally circulated the AGM notice, it has not gone on the website. But the constitution is on the website. Is it? There is that odd version, okay.

So the new constitution, I'm being told, is not on the website yet. I have [Sunday 1:23:51] on the floor, please.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much, yeah. To the question you asked, I would ask the members who are to retire, the one third, are they eligible for re-election? Or do the constitution say they cannot be re-elected?

UNIDENTIFIED: Maybe I should keep reading the constitution. I'm sure we have lawyers among us who can help me out here. I'm not a lawyer…

UNIDENTIFIED: I wanted to help…

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay [laughs].

UNIDENTIFIED: I am not a lawyer, but…

UNIDENTIFIED: Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED: No, that's why I asked the question. The answer will dictate what makes that [? 1:24:39]

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes [? 1:24:46], the nearest to a lawyer we have.

UNIDENTIFIED: I'm not a lawyer, I'm quite close to being one [laughs]. Maybe for [Sunday's] point, the first point is as you would have noticed – I think, my apologies was I to join when the meeting had just started. Usually the proceedings require that if the notice, or any requirement for the

AGM notice has not been complied with, it becomes the first issue that the chair tables on the floor.

The member's then can condone that, you know. So it's not a big deal if the members are happy to say, "We condone the notice was late." But we… It's not like where we're meeting five times a year. You know? We probably meet once a year to do each year.

So I would propose that that be condoned, or be taken as condoned…

UNIDENTIFIED: You need to speak up. I can hardly hear you, so.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Yeah I'm a little bit short so this was not in front of me. So I'm saying that if the notice is late, the constitution says that we should have started by that when the meeting started to say, we have not complied with the notice period.

And ask if the members are willing to condone that lateness, which means if the members are willing to continue with the meeting regardless. What, though, complicates this is the fact that, in any case, we do not have an option to not meet five times a year. You know?

So I'm more inclined to propose that we condone that, and we continue with the meeting because if we do not, it's not like we'll be meeting later this year [laughs], or we'll have all the members later this year to meet. That's one point.

The second point has to do with election process. That assuming we condone this meeting to continue with election process, I think it would have been fairer to the members to have been notice that there would have been an election, so that people could prepare themselves.

I'm saying that there was – this was more of a DNS forum thing more than an AGM, or at least to some, they may not have been aware that it was going to be an AGM. I was aware, I was involved in the preparations and I could see the agenda, you see? So this meeting is to decide that if we need to postpone the elections, or probably run them by [? 1:27:28].

So that people will not feel that they are deprived an opportunity to contest the elections. Having said that, [Sunday's] point is also a valid one. Are the current directors willing to continue? Or let us say, the two longest serving directors, are they available to continue serving? Because if they are available, and there is no nomination for a new director, then again it makes no point to postpone the appointment of directors, we just confirm the current ones to continue until the next AGM, which is in 2014.

So that would just be my input.

UNIDENTIFIED: [Applause and laughter]. So it appears to be to have a lawyer among you. Okay. Thank you. I think [? 1:28:24] raised some important points. But before I raise – I say anything on them, that I can give the floor to [? 1:28:34].

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you chair. [Victor 1:28:39] just extended what I was saying. And I would just briefly say that, it caused him to question the legitimacy of the meeting, but with the power to do is also the power to undo. If there are all the members here present, and there is no constituent member absent, and nobody's objecting, that this meeting is properly constituted.

And [Victor] has not objected, he has only pointed out that the chair was not polite to have apologized, that he didn't issue the notice on time. If that particular order can be declared, then this meeting is properly constituted and can proceed into the election.

The election itself, being a matter that this body is properly constituted to deal with, if there is no objection, that is the key point, if there is no objection. Thank you chair.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you [Sunday]. So, according to the two interventions, we have really one critical item to attend to first. And the question is, do members condone this meeting? We have quorum so we can actually pass a resolution on this. I've already mentioned that I did notice that the notice that was sent out from the secretariat to members was below the normal required 14 days.

So the question that we need to deal with is, do we condone the meeting? Can we treat this as a valid AGM? Is there anyone against it? Is there anyone opposed to holding this meeting as a valid AGM? Is there anyone abstaining on this issue? I need to ask this carefully

because I'm not a lawyer, I need to make sure that we are on set ground here.

UNIDENTIFIED: Chair, I'm sorry, may I guide at this point. According to *Robert's Rule of Order*, it specifies how meetings should be conducted if it's not provided for in your constitution, you should not call for abstention on this type of matter.

UNIDENTIFIED: [Laughs] okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: Very carefully, not to call for abstention. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Sure, sure, thank you. Thank you for the correction. So, should I call a vote? Should I call a ballot? Or is a show of hands adequate? Yeah, so the bylaw gives us option to use show of hands for passing a resolution. So can I call you?

All those who support that we should treat this as a valid AGM, based on the fact that the notice was one or two days late, can you please raise your hands so that we can count them? Those who support the resolution that we pass this as a valid AGM despite the short notice that was made to announce the AGM.

Everyone who supports this meeting, can I have a show of hands? Translate. Is there anyone who can translate it on the floor?

UNIDENTIFIED: [FRENCH 1:33:23 – 1:33:28]

UNIDENTIFIED: I think that the question was must be, an election can be valid, not the AGM. The AGM is not the problem, but can we do the election without the AGM? So we here now, but we can talk – but because we are not prepared for the election, so we turn the process to the election.

So your question must be, do we do the election or not?

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Now the election is on the agenda for a meeting. The question has arisen is whether we have a meeting, whether this is a valid meeting. So if we can decide that this is a valid AGM, then we can move to agenda item number seven, on this meeting, for the election.

And then we can start asking questions about the election. So the very first thing to do, according to the guidance I have received, is that we need to decide whether this is a valid AGM. Can you translate for me?

UNIDENTIFIED: Mister Chairman, you are past that point now. The question is who objects, not who is for. Because if you are using who is for, there is really no power because that is what you are determining. Okay?

So the vote itself will not be valid, because there has to be legitimacy in the people seating before they can decide. So the question you have posed properly, who objects? If there is nobody that objects, then you will move on but not who is for.

There are two different things.

[Applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: [Laughs] No this is, this is actually a very good debate. So let me pose the question, if everyone agrees with the question. The question is who objects to this being a valid AGM? Am I correct now?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED: All right. Thank you. So can I have a show of hands, since the constituent allows us to use a show of hands, can I have a show of hands on how objects to this being a valid AGM? [Laughter] I mean [laughter].

Yeah. I'm going to pause here because I really need a good resolution on this. Who objects? Okay. So we have no objection to proceeding with this [applause]. Thank you. So then I can move on to agenda item number seven.

And again, because we as directors, we are guided by you, seek your guidance on this. Indeed, the notice was circulated, as we have noted. And maybe the question that arose from this is whether any of the directors… Since we're asking negative questions, right? Whether any of the directors does not want to stand down. Is that a negative?

[Laughter] Help me out here. Whether any of the directors who are scheduled to retire want to continue? Is that okay?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes Mister Chairman. You see the constitution says they must step down. That's what the constitution says, but my question was the other part. If they do step down, are they eligible for re-appointment? You see this process was put in the constitution to protect the organization with ending up with six type leaders who don't want to leave, like the typical African leaders who wants to stay where they are.

So that gives the opportunity for the organization to [CROSSTALK 1:38:28]…thank you very much, you have done very well, continue in office. Or thank you very much, we've had enough of you. So the question is some organizations allow you retire, and still offer yourself for re-appointment.

While some say, no you retire and that's it, we want fresh blood. So that's the parts that should be pertain particularly to us, then we can then ask the question whether you are willing to continue. But by virtue of what you have read in the constitution, you must retire so the re-appointment is now the issue.

UNIDENTIFIED: Let me just put up the process on the screen. So this is regarding which – and I'm not a lawyer, so let me just put it up. So the… We are on section 16.3, and the relevant sections are, yeah. The relevant sections are B, C, and my apologies in the constitution there is no D. So it is section E.

Can you put both… These are the two provisions that we are dealing with. Yeah, so they fit in. So B, [? 1:40:09] subsequent ADM to the first one third of the directors then in office must retire. So those they must. If the number of directors is not divisible by three, then the number nearest to one third must retire.

So we are six directors plus a manager, so we have two directors retiring, as I indicated. But C, let me just read it. Chris, if you could just allow me. The director is to retire by rotation of those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or re-appointment. But as between directors who were last appointed or re-appointed on the same day, the Executive Committee must draw lots to determine who is to retire, unless the directors in question agree the order of retirement among themselves.

And E, a member of the Executive Committee shall only be eligible for re-appointment immediately following the expiry of his or her first term of office, and thereafter he should not be eligible for appointment until the expiry of a further two years after the expiry of his or her second term of office.

If he or she is not re-appointed, he or she will vacate office at the end of the AGM at which he or she retires. I don't know if – it's legal language, so I'm… It's open to the floor.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, Chair. It's in English, there is nothing legal about it. If you scroll down a bit…

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: Can you scroll down?

UNIDENTIFIED: Scroll down.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, please, down.

UNIDENTIFIED: It's to the next page.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. That's it. We'll see what F is saying.

UNIDENTIFIED: A director shall hold office until his retirement resignation, decertification, or removal in accordance with the constituent.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Now you can go back. You will notice that item D is missing. Is it an error that you have seen before?

UNIDENTIFIED: [Laughs] The lawyer who was working on this is in here, so [laughter].

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. So please…

UNIDENTIFIED: I haven't… I didn't actually notice, I just notice now that D is missing.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Draw it to the attention of that lawyer that D is missing. But you see all these things, clauses, that should work together. What this is saying, would make me pose another question Mister Chairman. Is this your first time or second time?

UNIDENTIFIED: As chairman? Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED: As a director.

UNIDENTIFIED: Oh as a director.

UNIDENTIFIED: Are you on your first time or second term? Because you say are the longest serving.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. He's probably the longest serving, not the longest serving. Okay. First let me find the lawyer who drafted the constitution that was accepted by the member is 2009, he forgot the D. [Laughter] It was not focused on five provisions.

But unfortunately we have four, so that is – it was a mistake. Two, I think that's what I was going to floor next, with what – from what [? 1:44:19] just say is, is the question of how long the supposed longest serving directors have served on the Board.

And that takes us back to those nine in [? 1:44:35], where there was a firm and clear understanding of what this all meant. So we had an interim report of what – we called it in fact an interim report of the Executive Committee, that was elected in Marrakesh into those [name sakes 1:44:52].

And I was part of that committee, it should give us the president which I think is here, it was forever called an interim and no matter how much we tried to push it to be a permanent board, but we were told by our members it couldn't be a permanent one until the constitution was amended and it was approved by the members.

So in essence what it means is that, whoever was in the board between that time, 2006 to 2009, was not a director but was – it's called member, was interim. So when we started in 2009, that we had our first official report. So in a sense, if we take it from that angle, what this does mean therefore is similar a lot in [? 1:45:36] started last year, there are four longest serving directors.

And of the four, none of them have served more than two terms. They've all served a single term. So it's out of the four, that at least two should be ear-marked for stepping down. And of the two that should be ear-marked for stepping down, they have not in any case, served anywhere – more than a single term.

So they too shall be eligible to stand and be re-elected into the board. I hope this clarifies and I'm saying it importantly because I know that it creates some confusion when people say, we have been on the board for years.

And when some of us wanted to step down in [? 1:46:28] it was technical, it was thought by the AGM that you were never a director in the first place, it's only now that you start to be a director. So the main point is therefore, four are the longest serving, two of them should be the ones ear-marked for stepping down.

And I'm saying ear-marked simply because the question arises, why step down if there is no call for a specific election? I think it's important also to establish here, if there is any interest for people standing for election into the board, if there isn't then you can make your last decision that, well we won't hold elections, let the four continue until next year.

I'm trying to say now from a practical administrative angle, we're conducting an election for an organization like AGM, will be very difficult if it's done not face to face.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Thank you very much [Vicor 1:47:23] for the clarifications. As you know, I'm just standing to provide guidance. I'm not standing for an

interest. So I would want those interventions to be seen as guidance. It's… The AGM is every year for the tenure of directors is two years.

So next year, again, there will be the need for retirement. So that needs to be thought out, in place. All of these things are necessary for the stability of organizations. You don't want all of your directors to leave at the same time, and you don't want a scenario that you don't have the requisite experience within the organization.

The other thing you should be careful of, because as I said, this is guidance not interest, is that when you have officers and you don't go through that process of the retirement, you might end up with lethargy. We are the officers say, "Well, nobody really wanted to do it. We are the only ones available to do it."

And so the performance of your officers will reduce. You cannot optimally get them to perform because they are more like volunteers who decided to suffer when nobody will take it. So all those things are balanced. And that's why organizations will want to see clearly that there is an expiration of tenure, and a willingness to induce people to continue rather than the opposite of saying, is there anybody that can find intentions to take over from them?

No, it's not a coup, it's an association and you want to see clearly that the objectives of the association can be advanced. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, Chris. So I'll take this as the last intervention so we can move forward.

CHRIS: Okay. My intervention is more into like the… We should think of a kind of – a replacement sort of. I'm not saying that while you can… We are not, first of all, prepared so we're not exactly which work you do. But we understand that the time, when it comes, there is some younger who is coming up.

Because there you decide to say, well, I think we've got enough. We don't have somebody at that time, particular time, to know exactly what you used to do, which contact you used to have. And then so those kind of things, so you should also…

I'm trying to say that while this thing of new guys coming up saying, we need to really look at it. And then, saying that it's… I just want to say that in a way what we're saying that where there is nobody who have interest in what you have been doing, or at least maybe coaching maybe on a certain thing, that's okay, fine.

So if then if the constituent, then we're saying, okay, if then in an election we have agreed nobody has objected the AGM, and then we have gone into the point five. So which means, the two holders should just… Okay. They're not going on the side of the thing, meaning… What I'm trying to say is, we need to have a clear picture who are the two… Are they willing to stand a bit, and then we can see clearly on the table who are the ones that are left?

And though if then nobody is willing to come up, then we can have maybe 10 minutes or we agree among ourselves that if there is nobody then we say, okay, well because of side project of separate which have been going on, then we think that well, so and so should continue for the next tenure, or anything like that.

This is just a suggestion.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you Chris. So from the discussion so far, maybe we can move forward on the item is on the agenda, we have a valid AGM. We have noted that from [Vicor's] explanation, everyone is on their first term. So that means that they are eligible for re-appointment, which answers the question that was raised by [Sunday].

So I think to move forward, then, I can ask those of us who are scheduled to retire, and the exception was only Eric and [Mary 1:52:55], so everyone else, I need to ask you. Are you willing to stand? I'll stand on… Stand again starting from, sorry to put you first [? 1:53:13]. Are you willing to continue? Yes? [Habib]?

[Laughs] No, I'm asking you. [Laughter] Are you willing to continue? Okay. [? 1:53:36]? Are you willing to continue? Okay. [Laughter] [Carlos 1:53:43] that's me, yes, I think I can do another year. And now that we have that, do we want… What is it that we need to do next?

UNIDENTIFIED: If they… They are bounded by a resolution. Somebody will move the motion.

UNIDENTIFIED: No, there maybe someone who is interested to move? If there is no one that is interested to for election, then we can move forward. But if there is a nomination from the floor, then we'd have to have an election.

That's mine… That is correct, right?

UNIDENTIFIED: Mister Chairman, you are absolutely correct there. All the members who are eligible for retirement, well who are retiring, are to leave before election. They have now signified that they are willing to continue in office, so we are not asking them to do it out of compulsion.

This signifies the intention. So you now need a concurrence of the assembly of whether they should continue. But the question you will now be posing is, is there anybody who is interested in any of the offices? But that question you should not dwell too long on it. [Laughter]

The reason why you should not dwell too long on it, is that there was no proper preparation which would have given people the opportunity to plan for it. So you also need to not spend too much time on it, otherwise people could put up an agenda can upturn your apple cart. So you have to move fast on this aspect. [Laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much [Sunday]. So I'm on the right, right here. So I am opening it up not for debate now…

UNIDENTIFIED: No, we're not…

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. So I'm opening it up for nomination. Is there anyone else who is interested?

UNIDENTIFIED: Would just like to ask for the meeting to be adjourned for five or ten minutes because we are not informed, and we just need to double check this out [laughter].

If I may ask please Chairman.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. There is a motion on the floor. Anyone oppose the motion for adjournment for five minutes? Break? We'll take a break now. Okay. Coffee break now. There is coffee on there. The time now is… What is the time? 10 to five, so should we convene at five? Yeah. Thank you.

So we are adjourning now for ten minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED: We are at more than 10 minutes. Can we reconvene please so we can finish?

UNIDENTIFIED: Can we reconvene please so we can move forward?

UNIDENTIFIED: So we have… We are reconvening and let me call the meeting to order. While we were on adjournment, the Executive Committee held a brief discussion, as per the constituent to decide who is of the four are

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waiting to step down. And as already qualified, they are ready to move forward to reelection.

So I would like to announce the names, and that's [Carlos ? 0:02:35], that's myself, and [? 0:02:39], the vice president. And so what is left now is the election. And there was a call for adjournment, so the next step is to open up for nominations.

The first thing is that the two directors have put up their names for reelection, so we have two nominations. Now can I ask if there are any other nominations?

UNIDENTIFIED: Chair and the audience, I don't know if the [? 0:03:36] have already started, feelings that – looking at the constitution the way we have rate on the candidate of being a member of the board, thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: So you are self-nominating?

UNIDENTIFIED: I'm not sure how the process is, so if self-nomination is on the constitution or not. If not, then I will withdraw.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. The way that I understand it, self-nomination is allowed. So that means that we have one. Are there any other nominations?

UNIDENTIFIED: Mister Chair? I am still trying to go through the constitution, but I'm not sure self-nomination is allowed. The constitution says only full members can vote and can be voted for. What that means is that if anybody will be nominated, that person must be nominated representing full member, which are ccTLDs.

So let's be guided appropriately in that regard. So anybody who is standing up for nomination to be nominated, must be nominated by a valid ccTLD. Even if that is the only member… If that's the only person from that ccTLD present at this meeting. So people are standing elections on behalf of full members which are ccTLDs. And paid up. [Laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Yes, I'm fully aware of that. The person who stood to self-nominate is a full member. Unless I'm guided to… I check the constituent… I'm not sure if the constitution bars self-nomination.

UNIDENTIFIED: Mister Chairman, nomination would read cc and GC TLD, here nominate [? 0:05:57] … is the one making the announcement. It is not a self-nomination. But that was not a nomination please.

UNIDENTIFIED: It seems that I need guidance.

UNIDENTIFIED: [FRENCH 0:06:18 – 0:06:47]

UNIDENTIFIED: He nominate Chris.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. So we have from [MG 0:06:57], nominating Chris from dot CD for the vacant seats on the ExCom. Let me ask again, I was asked not to spend too much time on this item, so this is my last asking. Is there any other nomination? Okay.

I'm closing it. And now any interested parties so I need to ask someone else to conduct what process would be following after this, because there we have three nominations [? 0:07:47] representing dot N dot U, [? 0:07:52] representing dot CI, and Chris representing dot CD.

So I'm closing the nomination and I need someone else to take over my chairmanship so that we can process direction. Yes Chris?

CHRIS: I'm not sure if the constitution say… Can…

UNIDENTIFIED: You need to speak up.

CHRIS: Can I nominate as a comment for dot CD, is it allowed? Meaning that someone is standing on the second that? I'm not sure if that is allowed, but if that is the case, I'm not sure if it is allowed or not allowed.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes [Vicor 0:08:46]

UNIDENTIFIED: In the first place, you are not supposed to accept the nominations. You were supposed to excuse yourself and give someone else…

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: And then you take nomination…

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes. Actually I'm closing myself out. So somebody else can take over.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, if I may quickly ask, so out of the four, you are the one who has volunteered to step down and to stand for reelection with…

UNIDENTIFIED: [? 0:09:12]

UNIDENTIFIED: [? 0:09:13], of the four, okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: Have we confirmed that everybody we have here, or people who are eligible to vote here are full members?

UNIDENTIFIED: We took a register, so we know who the full members that are here are. And it is only those who are going to get a ballot.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Is it possible to write out who are the full members present here so that we know how many are here?

UNIDENTIFIED: Sorry?

UNIDENTIFIED: Is it possible to read out the full members we have here so that we know how many we have?

UNIDENTIFIED: [Barak]? Okay.

BARAK: So we have [? 0:09:53] from dot BI…

UNIDENTIFIED: No. Just read it first as the ccTLD and represented by.

BARAK: Okay. We have dot BI, ccTLD represented by [? 0:10:08]. We have dot CI, ccTLD, represented by [? 0:10:15].   We have dot MG, ccTLD represented by Nicholas [? 0:10:23] there. We have dot MG, ccTLD

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represented by Mary [? 0:10:31]. We have dot SD, ccTLD, represented by [Tareq] here.

We have dot [? 0:10:41], ccTLD, represented by [? 0:10:43] here. We have dot MW, ccTLD, represented by [? 0:10:49]. We have dot KM, ccTLD, represented by [? 0:10:53]. We have dot GH, ccTLD, represented by Eric [? 0:10:59].

We have dot GA, represented by [? 0:11:06]. We have dot CD, ccTLD, represented by Chris [? 0:11:19]. We have dot BJ, represented by [? 0:11:23]. We have dot GM, represented by [? 0:11:28] and Gabrielle. And then we have dot GA, represented by [? 0:11:35]. Sorry.

And then dot [? 0:11:46] yeah, represented by [? 0:11:47]. Okay. Sorry. We have dot [zed m 0:11:53] represented by [? 0:11:55].

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. So those are the members we have attending this event, and they are all full members. So we need to appoint the approval of the election officer. And it should also be clear that the goal and the practice has always been that we appoint people who are representing ccTLDs.

I think that's an important…

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UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. I was actually moving to that, maybe I was going to suggest that [Barak] becomes the returning officer, than I can move out of here and leave the process to be taken over by [Barak].

UNIDENTIFIED: I would propose somebody neutral, [Barak] does that [? 0:12:45]

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Who else?

UNIDENTIFIED: [Sunday]

UNIDENTIFIED: [Sunday]   [Laughter]   [Applause]   [BACKGROUND CONVERSATION 0:13:02 – 0:13:31]

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Treasurer, please confirm it's Nigeria financial, I need to make sure there is legitimacy [laughter].   [BACKGROUND CONVERSATION 0:13:42 – 0:14:02]

All right, ladies and gentlemen, let's get this business conducted quickly. Article 15.7 is what guides voting. Do I have one assembly please? Do I have an assembly at item – article 15.7, voting, A… [Barak]? Okay.

Please just a minute. Yes ma'am.

UNIDENTIFIED: Please, I understand that some people on the board right now are no longer with ccTLDs. Do they stand eligible for election or reelection?

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. The question is that there are people on the board who are no more affiliated with ccTLDs. Do they stand for election or reelection? [Vicor, Vicor 0:15:22]? There is a question that there are members of the ExCom who are no longer affiliated with ccTLDs, do they stand for election or can they be elected or reelected? Can you please assist there?

UNIDENTIFIED: Reading the constitution, and the aim and the spirit of the constitution is simply that each one, only full members vote. And a full member is a ccTLD in the region which is listed in the AMA database as so. That's one part.

Now when it comes to the ExCom, the people who are appointed or elected into the ExCom, those people who are from the ccTLD that are full members. Now what makes one a full member, the ccTLD have applied to FTLD for membership and who has been admitted.

So any person from a ccTLD qualifies to be elected to the ExCom.

UNIDENTIFIED: Suppose that person holds affiliation to that ccTLD. What is the procedure for disengagement? Do they automatically lose their seat? Or is that at the end of the tenure? What's operating…

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. It think it's… I'll double check. Maybe section eight of the constitution. If I leave [? 0:16:47], I no longer have a right to stand and represent [? 0:16:52] or in the ExCom, or even in the AFTLD and claim to represent them.

So if you leave the ccTLD, you leave – you are ineligible to continue. But you have left the ccTLD, you know.

UNIDENTIFIED: Chair [? 0:17:12] [Laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED: It's section 16.1. Just bring it up.

UNIDENTIFIED: 16.1 is appointment or removal of the directors.

UNIDENTIFIED: So this is… Again, it's subject to interpretation. It defines who can be a director. The Executive Committee should consist of not less than three, and not more than seven directors who shall all be representatives or full members. And full members of ccTLDs.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much [? 0:18:45]. So once a member of the ExCom loses association to a ccTLD, which is a full member, that means that member of ExCom automatically loses their seat on the ExCom. And that of course will be a vacant seat.

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So I hope… I mean the provision is very, very, very clear there, and I think we can deal with it as such. So the question then would be, are there still members of the ExCom who are no longer associated with ccTLDs? Administrative manager.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. In so far as I know, Doctor [? 0:19:35] has been representing dot ML, but I understand it's currently under the management, is it [? 0:19:44]? So I'm not citing if he is still directly involved in the day to day operations of the ccTLD, because as far as we know, it's [? 0:19:58] whose name is received as the current manager.

UNIDENTIFIED: The provision is not being involved. The provision is represent, they must be able to represent the ccTLD. In other words, speak on behalf of it.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. That's fine. But we also should make sure there will not come in future they did not endorse that representation. So that would be a question for the future, but I think at this point, I will request that this issue be handled administratively.

What matters of an understanding of members, that if the scenario arises, that member automatically their seat on the ExCom. Am I clear about that? So if we get correspondence from the ccTLD to which he is representing, and it say he is no longer represents them, then he loses that seat immediately.

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But the receipt of such a correspondence we take it that he is representing the ccTLD. I hope I am in order. All in favor of my ruling say [? 0:21:27]. Those against [? 0:21:32]. All right. Thank you. So we move on. Thank you very much.

Can we then go to the business for which I was put on the hot seat? Oh okay. Question there, please.

UNIDENTIFIED: My name is [? 0:21:47], I'm coming from [? 0:21:50], so I'm not representing TD officially, so am I allowed to – just… I have two questions. Am I allowed to vote or not? I saw that [? 0:22:04] number.

And the second question is, am I allowed to maybe take note of the rules or [? 0:22:13]… that will join the dot TD to AF then?

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. That's a very easy question. To the first question, the answer is no because you know that you are not representing dot TD. But to the second part of your question, the answer is yes, you can notes and go and report back home.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED: You're welcome. All right. [Barak] please, article 15.7. I would like to read from 15.7, can we have it displayed? 15.7A, 15.7 is voting. It

states, "Only full members should have voting rights in general meetings or in making resolutions in writing." Excuse me.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much. I've been guided here too, and I should share it with you, the policy of FTLD is that representation is part of who is registered in the IANA database. We don't wait for contact from the ccTLD to say who they're representatives are. Okay?

So let's be guided as such. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Alan, is he here? Is it the ccTLD contact in the IANA database?

UNIDENTIFIED: I don't know if I can answer you correctly. IANA database is as helpful as far as confirming that the entity that is applying for membership to FTLD is ccTLD managed. That's what they would check on the IANA database.

There is an element that you brought up of who represents that entity? You know? So I don't know, we can check that database as far as that is concerned. But I don't know if it will fully answer us in terms of who represents that particular ccTLD managed.

UNIDENTIFIED: I think that's clear to me. That's good, or no intervention. Okay. We can proceed. The problem is if you want to dot all I's and cross all T's

you will never make progress in an organization like this. So some decisions are taken, bearing in mind that it can be re-visited.

You only bother about decisions that cannot be re-visited. One of those decisions could be execution sentence. Once you kill someone, you cannot bring back life. So such situations, we exercise caution and you can wait ad infinite putting people on death row.

Or in this case, we are not killing anyone so we can proceed. So I think we leave it as such, and we can re-visit if there need be. So we'll move on with voting. So only full members should have voting rights in general meetings or in making resolutions in writing.

In terms of 15.2 and 15.5B, each member shall have one vote. So voting is going to be one vote per member. B says, "Where a general meeting is held on the clause of 15.5A1, unless a poll is demanded, voting at the general meeting shall be by whichever of the following methods is decided by the Chairperson of the general meeting. One, being voting by voice or two, voting by show of hands."

C says, "A declaration by a Chairperson or the chair of the meeting that the resolution is carried by the requisite majority shall be inclusive evidence of that fact, unless a poll is demanded in accordance with clause C." And D, "At a general meeting, a poll maybe decided by one, not less than five members having the right to vote at a general meeting and two, the chairperson of the general meeting."

And E says, "A poll should be demanded either before or after the vote is taken on the resolution. The demand for a poll maybe withdrawn. And three, where a poll is duly demanded, it shall subject to this clause

D, be taken in such manner as the chairperson directs, and the result of the poll should be deemed to be the resolution of the general meeting at which the poll is demanded."

And finally, four says, "A poll demanded on the election of a chairperson, or on the question of adjournment shall be taken immediately. On any other question, if a poll is demanded it shall be taken as such time and place as the chairman directs, and any business other than that which the poll is demanded, maybe proceeded with pending the taking of the poll."

Having read all of those provisions, you will see that it gives powers to the chair of the meeting to direct how the poll would take place. So may I then ask how you want the poll to be conducted? Show of hands or ballot? All those in favor of show of hands, let me see your hands. Members interested that we conduct the vote by show of hands.

Yes you may approach the mic.

UNIDENTIFIED: Excuse me Chair. Just point of clarification, do we have three vacancies and three nominees for the three vacancies? Or do we have two vacancies for three nominees?

UNIDENTIFIED: We have two vacancies and three nominees. So okay. To make it easy, the constitution also empowers the chair to decide how the elections will go. May I put it to you that we do it by ballot? All those in favor of

ballot say, "Ballot." Those against say against [same sign 0:29:39]. They went for coffee. All right.

So elections will be by ballot. I'm going to ask the administrative secretary to generate the ballots now. Oh, you have already generated? And it is served to each member? All right.

So voting procedure, we have three people and we are electing two. So it is going to be a plural vote. You can vote for one, you can vote for two, or you can vote for none. But please don't vote for three. Am I correct? Should I repeat myself?

You can vote for two people, put two people's names on your ballot out of the vote. You can even decide to put one name, that's a valid vote. Or you can decide to put no name at all, that's a valid vote. But don't put the three names, if you put three names, it will be an invalid vote.

Yes we will put the names up now. All right. Elijah, you have the floor.

ELIJAH: Thank you Chairman. Normally when you want people to go for vote, only members who have paid their fees have the right to vote. Members who are not, you know, regular, it's not… No, usually this is the case.

I mean, you can attend the meeting as an observer, but you should not have the right to vote because you are not in line with the…

UNIDENTIFIED: No, no. The constitution doesn't say that.

UNIDENTIFIED: Excuse me?

UNIDENTIFIED: Our constitution doesn't say you must have paid your fees…

UNIDENTIFIED: Before you vote.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. It doesn't.

UNIDENTIFIED: But it defines what a member is, as those who are current in their dues.

UNIDENTIFIED: But I didn't… But the whole point is that you don't have to pay your fees, as long as you are a member you are entitled to vote.

UNIDENTIFIED: Could you elaborate a little bit on that, because if you are a member and you decide not to pay the fees, it means that there is no obligation for fees, so find another word for fees and translate it in this sponsorship or something else.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, Muhammad, we are not a fee based membership. We only started using fees two or three years ago. So the point is, you have to be a member by applying to be a member and you on the IANA database that your entity is securely managed.

That's the main requirement. Beyond that, you can pay your fees, or you don't pay your fees, but you are still entitled to vote in the AGM.

UNIDENTIFIED: I just looked at the constitution, and it talks about admitting full members. 8.1 specifically it says, "Admission as a full member, shall be open to organizations to which the management of an IOS 3166 contributor top level domain has been delegated by ICANN's IANNA, or is successful in tied to organization, and that operates under the law of the country for which the top level domain is being managed.

In either case, the delegation must be confirmable from the records kept by IANNA." So fees are not a requirement for membership, [Vicor 0:33:33] is very right. We therefore cannot disenfranchise member countries who are in default of their dues. The Chair so rules. [Laughter]

Moving on, it's time now for the elections proper. And [Barak] can we have the names put up? The names of the three eligible candidates? Again, I repeat we are going to count the votes and as I said... You want to say something?

As I said, a vote is valid is if it has two names, one name, or even no name at all. But if a vote has the three names, it will be counted as invalid. And to be elected, it is those directors that have... It is those candidates that have the most votes that will be elected, which must be more than half of the total numbers of votes cast.

UNIDENTIFIED:	Excuse me. Is it necessary to have just one minute for candidate to come here, because… Right. All right.

UNIDENTIFIED:	Thank you, thank you. I… I will repeat…

UNIDENTIFIED:	[FRENCH 0:35:13 – 0:35:20]

UNIDENTIFIED:	Thank you very much. The Chair understands your question. And since I am here as a representative of your trust, I should put the question to you. Is asking whether it is proper for the candidates to talk to us for one or two minutes, so that we can understand what they want to do?

All of those in favor of the candidates addressing each for two minutes, let me see with a show of hands. Thank you very much, you may put down your hands. All of those who think it will be a waste of time, let me see with a show of hands.

All right. I think we have very rough consensus here. So candidates, will address us for two minutes each, the chair so rules. [Laughter] So, very quickly, we have three candidates, and I shall be calling them in alphabetical order to come and address us. So I would call L-M-N-P-Q-R-S-T. Okay so it's [laughter] it's already in alphabetical order. For two minutes, I will call Doctor [? 0:36:46] of the dot MW to address us for just two minutes.

Our honorable chairman, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you Mister Chairman. Yes I'm from Malawi. I have been with the Malawi ccTLD since it was re delegated in 2001. I hold quite a few regional positions on a volunteer basis. So I have done a good job here, right?

I've been sitting as a chairman for one year on the FTLD, since Livingston. And we have a number of projects happening during this time that I would be happy to continue to work on. In Malawi, I chair the Malawi ISP Association, and as I sit on the – I manage the [MW 0:37:52].

I run the Internet Exchange. I am on the board of a few organizations that are involved in ICT. I've been also working with CCNSO for many years, I chair it for a long time. And I give that up last time because my number of volunteer hours exceeded my number of expectations, so I needed to off load something.

I'm on the Board of AfriNIC. I've been on the board for one year, so in the region, I'm on that as well. So there are a lot of things that I do that are related to cc's, and ICT in the region. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much [? 0:38:52]. I like to call on [? 0:38:54] …to please address us. He is from the [? 0:39:04] ccTLD. A round of applause for him.

UNIDENTIFIED: Bonjour. I have – speak in French or English [Sunday]?

UNIDENTIFIED: You had me in English, so please speak in English.

UNIDENTIFIED: [Laughs]   Thank you very much.   My name is [? 0:39:26] from Ivory Coast. I manage dot CI since the beginning, 1992. 20 years when I built CI. I am also a teacher, a computer science teacher in university. I build exchange point servers, and I try to build [FRENCH 0:39:50].

So I am, I manage capacity building about six years, you see what I have done for my six years. I worked also in ccNSO, I tried to put what I can. And I want to continue to work in the African countries to build capacity.   We have a lot of things to do, this is why I would like everybody to vote for me.

This is what I want to tell you. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much [? 0:40:40]. I'll call on Chris [? 0:40:44] from DRC, isn't it?

CHRIS: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED: DRC.

CHRIS: Okay. Please allow me to turn to you and to speak to you. Chair, please, if you will allow me to just move the mic. I'm not just bringing that, but I want to face you so that you understand that there is really a need also for new blood in the organization. Actually my name is Chris [? 0:41:12]. I work, I've got a management experience.

I work for the Incumbent Telecommunication which is out of South Africa, where I do introduction of the technology. So meaning when the technology come, we assist the technology being on the security side, we are mostly working.

And what I want to bring is a bit of experience in terms of saying, how then, from what have been running so long and what can my contribution be? Little bit that it can be, but at least to make sure that we moving forward.

I work for my… Also my ccTLD, which with experience that I do have, I can just explain within one minute. We had issue with the organization, probably 15 times we did not come to default. And when the project was assigned to me, I think within a year I make sure that I could put up a play and a program, that I could put it and explain it to IANA what was out of it, and what was out of prospect.

Moving now into the FTLD, I believe that I will also ensure that if there is some of the things which need to be move, can be moved forward, being on the need of some of the ccTLD shoes, and to assist them with, I can do that. And I thank you if the vote goes and you elect me. Thank you.

[Applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much. So you've heard the three candidates, and we will move into voting now. As I said, feel free to write the names of the people you want to vote for. You can also write the ccTLD, we will count it.

Whether you write their names, or you write their ccTLD, it is a valid vote. Note that you can write none, one, or two. And we shall entertain just one vote per member. And the procedure will be [Barak] will be calling out the names of the members, and you will work forward to put the ballot into the box there.

And after voting… After you have casted your votes, we will collate and then announce the result to you quickly.   So I just give one minute for the votes to be quickly done, and then we'll start calling you out to come and drop the ballots. One vote per ccTLD member please.

All right. [Barak] you may begin calling them to come and drop their ballots. Excuse me. Before you do…

UNIDENTIFIED: …I, we are going to start with dot BI, please come and cast your vote. Dot CD. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Please drop the ballot… Please drop the ballot open, we don't want to double…

UNIDENTIFIED: CI.

UNIDENTIFIED: Open ballot please. Don't fold it, please. Open, don't fold. We want to see that it's one. Just drop it like that, don't fold it. [Laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED: Dot MG. Yes, MG, Madagascar.

UNIDENTIFIED: Good.

UNIDENTIFIED: Dot MG. [Laughter] Dot SD. SD. DOT [? 0:46:06]. DOT [ZED M 0:46:14]. DOT MW. Dot BF. Dot KM. Dot GH. Dot [ZED A 0:47:01]. DOT GA. [? 0:47:24]

UNIDENTIFIED: So those are the ones, okay. K is not here.

UNIDENTIFIED: Can you please confirm how many names you called?

UNIDENTIFIED: 13 names. 13 names.

UNIDENTIFIED: 13 names is in consulate of what I noted. I will now count the ballots.

UNIDENTIFIED:	One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, and 13. May I request three volunteers who are observers to please come and join me, so I can tally these votes quickly. Yes, please, come back. Sorry? Yes, please, Madeline, please, come thank you.
	A round of applause for my volunteers [applause].
UNIDENTIFIED:	Excuse me. The vote is over because BG, I don't think my vote…
UNIDENTIFIED:	BG, been in…
UNIDENTIFIED:	No, no, no.
UNIDENTIFIED:	Is that correct?
UNIDENTIFIED:	BGA is not a full member.
UNIDENTIFIED:	So you can't… The member who don't pay the fees.
UNIDENTIFIED:	No, no, no. Fully registered member. [Laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you [Barak] for the clarification. So wait for your full affiliation. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you very much. The elections have been done. The counting has been done. And the counting committee has decided that there will be no announcement of what we counted, but we shall announce those you have elected.

Please put your hands together for putting on a very gallant show, and for offering but not being elected by you, Chris [? 0:54:23] from DRC. A round of applause for him. And for those you have elected, Doctor [? 0:54:34] of dot M dot W, and [? 0:54:38] of CI.

And on that note, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to do this committee assignment. I hope you won't call me next year, thank you [laughter]. [Applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: So can I ask [? 0:55:21] to join us please?

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. So we have just one item left on this item, and this is the election of the chairperson for the board because this is now a new board. And… Guidance, guidance. What does the constituency say?

[Laughter] Who elects the chairman, that's what I'm being asked here. The directors elect the chairman. Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED: Chair? The constitution says your jobs with ExCom is to elect both the chair and the treasurer.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, okay. No I just needed the direction [laughter]. Thank you very much. So I can then close this agenda item, and move to the next item which is any other business. And the constitution says that items for any other business should have been passed on to the secretariat before the meeting.

So can I ask [Barak] if we have received any other business?

UNIDENTIFIED: There is no other business that I received.

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, you are welcome to make a comment.

UNIDENTIFIED: It's not [? 0:57:29], I just want to remember something. We had agreed in our last meeting in Livingston for some point, I don't know what happened, especially we agree to making working groups. I don't know…

So what will happen? What will we decide for in last meeting in Livingston? You remember [Barak]? It's there in the minutes, I don't know why it be active now.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Actually we add an agenda item for minutes of Livingston, and then I called for matters arising. This is where this should have been presented. So since… We passed the agenda, maybe you can clarify exactly what it is that you have noticed, so that maybe we can note it for the next meeting, either for next meeting or we can deal with it here.

UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. Actually, the question you are raising, some of the issues touch directly on the constitution. We were to review our constitution. We resolved to review it to include new GTLDs, and IBN ccTLDs. I believe that's one of the issues you are touching on.

And then, we also resolved to reactivate the technical and research working groups to facilitate greater engagement and discussion on the proposals brought forth by other partners.

And in particular we were talking about the cc – the ISOC ccTLD and the [? 0:59:40] problem. Those are the two main issues that were raised, so one touches fundamentally on the bylaws, or the constitution, and the other one on the project that was presented before the floor.

And you recall, as I mentioned earlier, is that the project has not taken off properly, but we are in the process of operationalizing it. And of course, it will take… That's why I called upon the involvement of all of the members, in particular in the ccTLD and the [? 1:00:19] project. But I think in terms of review of the constitution, that's a matter that the ExCom will sit, and then it can come up with a way of examining the constitution in view of the issues that were raised in that meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you [Barak]. It would have been better if this came during matters arising. Okay. Since there are no any other business, I would like to bring the meeting to closure, and thank everyone for a very lively meeting. Our next AGM will be announced, I hope in good time this time.

And we are looking for a venue. The proposal that has arisen is to hold it during the AIS in [? 1:01:24]. But this will be confirmed once we have gone through the venue selection process. So we have… Yes I'm being reminded that we have [S Rock 1:01:47], I think we mentioned this a number of times today.

We have [S Rock], the Security Registry Operator [? 1:01:55] in Madagascar. Our host is here, and this will take place in the first two weeks of October this year. So it's been mentioned a few times.

So I would like to thank you very much, and thank you and good evening. [Applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: Just an announcement, all of the fellows, especially on the FTLD, ISOC, ICANN, the DNS Forum fellows, let's just meet at the back there for a short briefing before we leave.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]