BUENOS AIRES – Public Responsibility Framework Strategy Panel
Wednesday, November 20, 2013 – 15:30 to 16:30
ICANN – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ladies and gentlemen, we'll be starting shortly. If you would like to come up towards the front, nobody bites up on the panel so you can come on up towards the front, if you would like.

NII QUAYNOR: Well, good afternoon. I like to welcome you to the session on public responsibility panel. I'm Nii Quaynor, and I happen to be the chair for the panel. The focus of course is to be an enabler for the growth of the domain name industry. We wish to examine existing efforts in capacity building as well as development area in general. And we like to advise on how to strengthen those existing programs and tenor of them. But I would like to see them flourish. At the same time, we'd like to ensure that the public responsibility department's programs also advance. And we would like to make a proposal, define the framework of the activities, the focus areas, potential partners, sources of funding and so on for this kind of activity within ICANN. Next, please.

These are the panel members, and you can see they are from all over. Quite diverse. Some of them are well-known in their community. Some of them are new, fresh, but also very active in the same area. And some of the familiar ones are Tim Berners-Lee who might be joining us on the conference call. Likewise, Blake is familiar, and Bob, I'm sure you also know him quite well.

In addition, there are others such as Raul with extensive experience in the -- with the UNDP which will be some good value for us. We also have Nevine who has been doing a lot of work in Egypt in a related area. And we have Soumitra who is also at Cornell and also with keen interest in this area as well. And they may be calling in to also interact with you. Next please.

The panel's work began in October and will conclude in late January. The output is a short report, very high-level report, with, of course, a public presentation of what we found and present at least some principles and explore what options for a way forward.

Looking at existing documents in ICANN, you will notice that there are several public interest, you know, you might say mandates in there, and all of these are the basis for which we want to expand the program. We've also taken a look at the regional organizations and the regional strategies and the engagement that is going on, at least of these three groups, and we would like those to be important part of our consideration. We also see some common themes among the regional strategies, and the first important one is the stability of the Internet, the DNS system. We also see attempts to improve competition and, of course, consumer trust in offering choices as a common theme is among the regional strategies. And then also the core operations, how to improve them for the purpose of our communities and overall

want to create a very healthy, active ecosystem. And those are strong themes that we see from the regional strategies.

We are interested in knowing what the focus areas have been so far in ICANN's efforts in this area because recall, we don't want to lose any of the good things that ICANN has been doing in this area. So we must at least have a strong inventory of what we have been doing so far and, of course, we need to determine who we are targeting. And there's a wide range and you can see depending upon what role we are asking ICANN to play, that will also determine the kind of targets that we're working with.

The questions moving forward is, what should the target areas be? And we would like you to tell us. How do we target these audiences we have and which stakeholders should be added to the target list? It is not our intention to say anything because we just started, but we think you know and you have a lot of experience which we'll value as opportunities. And so we are only here to ask you to tell us frankly how you want us to move this forward. And if you can tell us what targets, which audiences, and what stakeholders we need to reach out to, that would be very, very helpful. If you can go as far as telling us what role you want ICANN to play and give us even objectives, we'll be very, very grateful. So I think with that, I'll -- I say welcome, and let's see what we can do this afternoon. So the mic is open, and we would

like you to tell us what you wish us to do in this area. Please, go ahead.

THERESA SWINEHART: So -- oh, sorry. Do you want to go ahead?

>>   [Speaker is off microphone.]

THERESA SWINEHART: It will take me five minutes to wake up. So on one of the other strategy panels that was looking at ICANN and its role and responsibilities within the Internet ecosystem, more in that space, there was a strong focus also on not expanding the mission and mandate of the organization. So really adhering to that. And one of the topics that had been raised in that had been looking at that dialogue from the perspective of ICANN has different roles and how to look at its responsibilities in the Internet ecosystem in the context of those roles. And to look at how to -- how to discipline in that area. Now, this had to do with more the -- ICANN in the Internet governance sort of ecosystem, on that front, but I wonder whether there's been any discussion in the context of also this dialogue and as one is looking at who to target and why -- where one defines the limitations of ICANN's role and then where there's the windows of opportunity for creative partnerships in other institutions or other organizations or other stakeholders. So

I just pose that as a question from a theme that came up in one panel, if it comes up --

>> And I just want to state that's Theresa Swinehart for the record.

NII QUAYNOR: Well, thank you very much. We welcome the inputs. We are sure that the ecosystem requires us to address some of these issues.

CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thanks for the opportunity to speak here now. It's Cheryl Langdon Orr, for the record. I see a lot of potential moving parts here and I wanted to come up to say a list in bullet points may not be doing us as much justice as a more dynamic diagram. Particularly for those who I have worked with over many years who are not working in English as their first language and in many cases presentation skills come along with the language that you have. Anything that appears to be in a hierarchical order seems to be exactly that, an order of prior to or importance. And of course I can tell you what the At-Large community would say if I was to give a priority of importance that had registries and registrars as number one and particularly youth at the bottom of the spectrum. I think it's really important that we look at how we present our material here. You've got a very short amount of time to do a very important piece of work, and I think you've got

to target the message very effectively the first time out. We -- and I'm here very clearly speaking on my own capacity, but I have recent memory from that of the At-Large community that I've been engaged with and I do not see that on the list. So it would behoove me to mention that it is part of ICANN and I would expect, therefore, part of who you are targeting. And I -- I need to just mention that women should go simply across all of that as should youth because that is your future and that is 50% of your population, in any of those sectors, that that simply means you should target perhaps women in business, when women in business is appropriate. You should target youth when youth in a particular feature is -- it needs to be just part of the DNA across all of these things.

And I just want to say one other thing. I see no reference to those who are not already engaged. I see a listing, in fact, of people who are, to some extent or other, already engaged and already being targeted. We need to do a better job. There is a couple of billion more people to be engaged with this. And I think that catch-all summary might be a little bit appropriate. And when we go down that pathway, we probably need to also add in a classification of disadvantaged, however disadvantaged is in this context defined. And I'm thinking there you should use terminology like "access to" rather than try and drill down to too fine a level, and I hope I haven't wasted too much of your time.

NII QUAYNOR: No, thank you very much. This is what we want to hear.

CHRIS CHAPLOW: Thank you. Chris Chaplow. I was at the Durban meeting in the strategic planning session and brainstorming session at the Durban meeting and probably because I was sitting in the wrong place I ended up in the group that was discussing ICANN acting in the public interest, which is obviously a difficult one and you've got a tough job ahead. Slightly prepared for it in a way because it's been on the agenda at our CSG breakfast on the Tuesday morning so -- but towards the end of the discussion, in fact, we'll have to dig out the notes. I think there is the -- in the -- if you go to the public forum section of the strat plan, there's a 15-page document with all the bullet points. You can dig them out from there.   But I was surprised Peter Dengate Thrush actually commenting at the end, oh, it's impossible for ICANN to act in the public interest because the public is everybody. And looking at -- so really to a point looking at who we are targeting, I think it is heading in the right direction. I just think it's got to be multi-dimensional. I think you have got to look at it as you would look at a sort of marketing plan and look at all the different -- or groups, if you like. And as Cheryl pointed out -- well, I suppose that's not groups, is it, but governments and women in the same group, so just bullet points in line, I suppose. So look at different

groups. Obviously include men as well please and so on. But you know where we're heading. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. Not to worry. Academia goes everywhere also. Perhaps some more -- you know, reaction from you. Anything else you want to tell us? Yes. Please.

BAHER ESMAT: For the record, I'm Baher Esmat. I'm with ICANN. So one of the things we've been struggling with at ICANN, especially in developing countries, is that we -- you know, we get requests for -- you know, to participate in activities projects, initiatives, that may not fall directly under ICANN's remit. And we find ourselves in a situation where okay, whether we should or could participate in those initiatives or not. And oftentimes we say well, this is not our area and you -- you know, we direct the requester to go and talk to other folks. So I think what one of the things, you know, that we need to consider is how ICANN could broaden its engagement scope while at the same time maintaining its mission, remit, and all this. We're not trying and we're not willing to expand our mandate or scope of work, but there might be merit in engaging in broader activities that, like you know, broadband, take an example, broadband in Africa and developing countries is a big thing and obviously it's not an ICANN thing. But we can't be talking about developing domain name industry while

we have major problems with infrastructures, content, and so forth. Thanks.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. Just out of curiosity, have we left out some groups that we should be targeting? Just, you know, to get a sense of whether we're nearing closure or we're diverging. So if you have any views on that, that would be -- that would be useful. In the meantime, we do have all of our colleagues on the -- on the phone, so I -- they are also welcome to at this point maybe make some comments. So that's fine. Raul, do you have anything you want to say?

RAUL ZOMBRANO: Thank you very much, Nii, for putting me on the spot. I want to comment on the target groups. And I agree it should be multi-dimensional, and the work with you in the UNDP, for, example is targeting people who are disadvantaged. That's our main goal. If you look at the data on Internet, we know that the access is already 2.5, 2.6 billion people, which means that most people are not connected. And we should target those people. We should actually make them connected and hopefully deliver some services to them. So we see that's a very important population in our work.

Women, of course, are essential. As you know, women face a little challenges when it comes to Internet access. Not only access but also cultural challenges, economic challenges, so on and so forth.

And youth, in most developing countries, youth are the majority of people and they are the future of those countries, and they're actually quite active in many countries where you can see innovation happening on the ground by these young people who actually want to make a difference. So all those different stakeholders are part of our goal.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. Nevine, are you on the line?

NEVINE TEWFIK: I do like to support the opinion of the colleague who has been discussing the idea of broadening the areas of engagement of ICANN. And I think at this point this becomes a necessity if we want to make ICANN better known to new categories or new segments of the people, particularly in developing countries, and making it an entry point is to get engaged in a larger development issues a little bit further than the ICANN mandate but where we could also include a lot of issues related to ICANN. We have mentioned before in our first session the importance of what your entity is doing in each of those groups.

Again, the other thing that I would like to stress very much would be the importance of the engagement of young people, youth. And again, I would like to reiterate the message that there must be a kind of program officially dedicated to the youth in ICANN. And I hope this would be feasible in the near future. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Bob, how do you chime in on all of this? How does it feel?

BOB HINDEN: Well, I think, yeah, we had a very interesting session before this, our private session, and one of the things -- the ideas that we came up with or brainstormed around was to sort of -- most people, when they think of the public interest, you sort of think of things externally. But I think we concluded that there's a set of external things but there's also maybe adding a public interest test to the things that happen inside of ICANN when, you know, for example, maybe as part of when new top-level domains are done or at the part of the decision process should be do they serve the public interest. And, you know, I think that's a -- to me that was an interesting idea. So I think it's, you know, we're trying to look broadly at how we'll apply this, the public interest question, not just maybe bringing people in to ICANN but making ICANN's processes in general more focused on this.

NII QUAYNOR:	Do you have more to share?

TIM BERNERS-LEE:	I just wanted to tell you that completely with this -- I think the public -- with the public interest should drive every aspect on ICANN's operation, not just one department within it. So I think that's going to be a separate push that we need to make apart from the question of how funds with be dispersed to worthy causes.

NII QUAYNOR:	Thank you. That was Tim Berners-Lee. Is Soumitra on the line? Okay. Some more opportunities from the community. Rinalia, can you help us out here?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM:	Nii, you put me on the spot. Thank you. I think you heard me yesterday. This is Rinalia Abdul Rahim. I'm a member of the At-Large advisory committee. I think you heard me yesterday when I said I had great difficulty in trying to grapple with the concept of public responsibility leaving out the word "framework" first and just focusing it on capacity building. Because I think that when you think about ICANN and its public responsibility, it's not just about going out there and doing something. Looking at it as similar to having some kind of corporate social responsibility outlook, but rather to look at itself in terms of how it is structured

and how it is doing its work and whether or not it's carrying out a public responsibility. Because, within its remit, it's supposed to look after the global public interest.

So that is why I introduced yesterday the idea that, in this particular work or strategy, we should look at dimensions of how ICANN is being accountable, being transparent in its work. How do we enhance that? And right now, ICANN has this accountability and transparency review team about to come up with recommendations to the board. And we need to think about how do we enhance that? Because I'm not sure how well that's going to be enforced within ICANN itself.

And also there is another strategy area, which is operational excellence, which goes in tangent with -- in parallel with this strategy. And, to me, I think that, if ICANN is serious about its public responsibility, then it must be excellent in its operations. So, to me, I think public responsibility is a much higher level than the other areas of the strategy itself. And I don't know if it's too late. But could we refrain? So that's my input. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. We'd like to have more inputs, because we are just at the beginning.

Marilyn?

MARILYN CADE: Thank you. My name is Marilyn Cade. I may be repeating a bit of a conversation that I've had with a couple of you. But, going back many, many years to 1996, 1997, and 1998, when we were thinking about what system or organization might be taking on the coordination of functions that had previously been done by someone who was so highly respected for his integrity and so revered by all of us for the decisions and the work and the thoughtfulness that he put into laying the ground work that we'd been built on, everything about Jon Postel -- and I just wanted to say that one of the things I've noticed, which kind of leaves me sad, is that I don't hear enough about our recollection of the -- almost the foundational spirit that we came into ICANN with.

And I think that we came into that foundational spirit with an assumption -- or at least I did -- that we were going to work in what was a shared space and that acting in the public interest in the decisions that we make on policy and on everything has to include an aspect of acting in the public interest because the Internet is a shared space.

I went through a very sad period during many of the decisions that were taken on the new gTLD development of policy because we began to talk about commercial opportunity. And I look at the role we play in this space as being more about creating an environment where we can be accountable and transparent for the decisions and the actions that we take that enable the

Internet and the world wide web to continue to grow and flourish but that we're not about competition and creating business opportunity, per se.

So I think we're missing right now something. At least I see this.

So many of the new people who came to ICANN because they were drawn in by the new gTLD program, have absolutely no understanding of the history that created ICANN or the fundamental responsibilities that you have when you operate in a shared space. Many of them don't understand why we're spending so much time now talking about the threats and risk in the external ecosystem, because they don't understand that that, basically, is going to prevent them from even being able to do business and that they have a responsibility to work to make the fundamentals work right. So I'm really thrilled to have the work of your strat plan panel.

I guess I'm going to say one other thing. We need to think hard about the language. Public responsibility means something to governments that it doesn't really resonate to business users. Business users. And I don't think contracted parties probably quite grasp that.

To me, if we can think more -- and maybe we just do it with a footnote, if we end up agreeing with it -- that acting in the public interest when we make decisions that affect the shared space,

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you.

NIGEL HICKSON: Thank you very much. Nigel Hickson, ICANN staff. I'd just like to applaud what you're doing in this panel. I see it as critically important. I wasn't going to say anything, because I had my opportunity to say things through other venues. And then Marilyn said something about public responsibility and people coming into ICANN.

And, certainly, I joined ICANN through a deep belief in what ICANN does and what the Internet means for the wider community. And part of that is the public responsibility I think that we all have.

And, to me, having worked in the U.K. government for about 25 years, the public responsibility was deeply ingrained in that we were responsible in whatever we did to the public.

And I think, in that context, ICANN is responsible to the wider public in various ways. And ICANN touches much -- touches a constituency much, much wider than just registrars or registries

or business users. It touches Internet users. It enables what everyone strives for to take place.

And, when I have the privilege to talk to students, when I have the privilege to talk to young people in the European region about what the Internet means for them and the possible threats to the future, they don't -- they don't necessarily want to understand what ICANN does in terms of the domain name system. But, when we explain to them that we have just, you know, some slight sort of locus in terms of keeping the open -- keeping the Internet single and open, then they really relate to that. Because keeping the Internet as the Internet is what they strive for and which I think so many people strive for. So I think your work is tremendously important. And I applaud you.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. I need more.

THERESA SWINEHART: This is Theresa again. And I'm on ICANN staff. I wanted to come back to one of the points on the public interest responsibility on the internal part I think that Bob had mentioned and had been referred to earlier.

And the review processes under the Affirmation of Commitments have been going on now since its adoption. And so that could be an interesting piece of material to help address and look at the

internal aspects that were being raised on the public interest responsibility in deliverance of that with regards to the organization's mission and responsibility. So I just flag that for the audience and others to also take a look at in that context.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Rinalia Abdul Rahim again.

It just occurred to me that there is something that we could look at. I'm not exactly sure about how to phrase it.

I just had a working group just now about internationalized domain names. And internationalized domain names is actually quite important because it allows for multilingualism on the Internet at the TLD level. That's what we're talking about right now.

And there is the issue of variants. And variants is interesting because, in many languages, it is absolutely necessary because they're equal, considered as substitutes.

The problem that I've encountered in dealing with this issue in ICANN is that it is not -- it is very hard to ensure consistency of user experience when they're using the Internet in their own language because of the technical difficulty. And people are saying that it's not the DNS. It is the applications. And I am told all the time that we cannot enforce consistency. We cannot enforce uniformity or standardization. But I think that it's really

important that we actually make that happen for the interests of the Internet users. And I think that ICANN has a role. But, because of its narrow remit, it's saying that ICANN cannot enforce this on others. It's a puzzle. It's a problem for me. And I don't know how to resolve it, but it affects everybody. And it is sort of like a public responsibility, if we're talking about the world. So I'm just throwing it out there. I don't know. Maybe you can take it on. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: We hear you.

TIM BERNERS LEE: This is Tim. We'd like to come back to that. Just the user space is important. We've just had a --- at W3C, we had a technical plenary -- technical plenary meeting where working groups come together like an IGF meeting. I think at the advisory committee, the discussion was very much online. (Garbled audio) But the web consortium, because it involves a higher level at the presentation level, it does have a huge interface. It does have responsibility for making sure that, when people use the web, that, for example, when you were talking about security and certificates and so on, whereas, the IGF has online protocols and other people may do formats for storing data certificates and so on, it's the W3C's responsibility for making sure that the user interface works out.

So also the W3C does have a tradition of internationalization. They're trying to make sure that it (garbled audio) works for the greatest extent possible for everybody in their language and culture.

So it may be that if you could bring that up at W3C and get the people to bring it up because there we have the browser makers, you bring it up in the (garbled audio) email potential list, if you feel that the browser experience isn't working with actual domain name. So complicated facts. But, certainly, I agree with you that we have to make it work so that's smooth for everybody no matter what, no matter what character set, no matter which direction you'd prefer to write your letters, your characters across the page. Thanks.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you.

Just to reiterate, we are looking to addressing needs and interests of the community as well. So you really need to be more engaged. So, whatever you have on your mind, it will be great for us to hear.

You know, because this is a good chance face-to-face for you to tell us exactly how you're feeling.

Any opportunity or anything you want to tell us would be very good.

REMOTE INTERVENTION: We have a question from a remote participant. I'm Riccardo Ruffolo, the remote participation manager. So Graham Schreiber on the Adobe Connect room is asking when can ICANN be more rigid and eliminate bad actors routinely conflicting with the RAA?

NII QUAYNOR: Okay. This is not exactly the focal point or the topic. However, let me find out if my colleagues may have a comment also.

Thank you.

We thank him for his comment, and we'll look for an appropriate forum to pass the question to. I think that will be okay.

Any more? Is Soumitra back on the line?

SOUMITRA DOUTA: Yes, I'm here.

NII QUAYNOR: Yes, please. Can you express yourself, if you feel like?

SOUMITRA DUTTA: No, I don't have any comment as of now. Thank you.

NORA ABUSITTA: This is Nora Abusitta. Just to give you a little background -- maybe this will encourage you to give us your feedback.

The two things that we wanted to ensure when we tackled this issue is, one, we do not want to disregard the existing programs. And, when we thought about that, we realized that there were many that we need to inventory that are already part of different ICANN departments. That's the first thing. And then the second thing we wanted to ensure is that, if we base our approach, it has to be based on the regional strategies. The reason for that is the following: The regional strategies came from the bottom up. They were extremely representative of the various regions. And they were direct requests of regions that identified their own needs.

And I'd like to ask you a little bit about the different approach. Do you approach this with one program for all but then it may work for Latin America but it will not work for Africa?

Or do you keep doing what we're doing right now and you let every region identify for itself what it needs and how to fix it with help and assistance from ICANN?

MARILYN CADE: My name is Marilyn Cade. I'm the CSG officer for the business constituency in the GNSO.

And I'm going to -- my comment is addressing something that -- from a business constituency perspective, we don't agree with the interpretation that was just made. And I want to be clear about it so that it's not misunderstood.

We're very interested in the emergence of regional strategies. But the inclusion of all stakeholders in the different regions is at different stages of development.

I think that was tactfully and diplomatically said. So now I'll explain what that means.

When the regional strategy for Africa was first being developed, there was a significant exchange between me and Tarek where I said, "But it does not yet include businesses."

And Tarek kept explaining to me the names of the people from business that were included. But it was businesses interested in being a contracted party.

I give it just as an illustration and to say that, in fact, I'd be a little cautious about saying that the regional strategies are bottom up and that they are all robust enough yet in their inclusiveness. It would be strange if they could have been broadly inclusive because they're so young. So I do want to say, from a business perspective, we don't feel that we've developed enough input from business users into any of the regional strategies. It's very much a work in progress. And we probably need to be able and

working more closely with regional teams on whatever we can do to contribute to identifying and attracting business users from that region who have the time and the inclination to be involved.

But that's going to have to be done, Nora, with a bit of a global focus then customized into the region. So I think I'm trying to say it's not going to be -- it shouldn't be either/or. In some cases, certain companies drive all of their policy and activity around an interest area like ICANN from a centralized source or a regionalized source. And, in fact, the local businesses are forbidden to do policy. They must go back to the team.

In other cases, the business is located in that region or that country, and everything comes from the country or the region.

So it's a very diverse environment. I think also I'll say a word about small businesses. Small businesses around the world have very little time to be spending on policy issues that are not affecting their opportunity to develop jobs and pay bills, and I think we have to respect that as an organization. And we, who do have the privilege of working in this space, have to figure out how the regional strategy may be able to reach businesses through professional associations or other activities. I'll give an example that the business constituency and ICANN worked together with e-Instituto here in the region to take advantage of the e-commerce days and to plug a two-hour workshop about ICANN

Internet governance into something that business was coming to already. That worked very, very well in this region.

In Africa we're taking a different approach, as Nii knows, and we're working with Invicta to attract an interest to the ICT associations who reach then a community of businesses.

So I give those examples only to say I think it's early days but a much-needed set of activities.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you. How we doing? I'm hungry for information from you. So I'll keep the -- Baher. Any comment from -- he's not even minding me. Pierre, I see you right here. Yes, you have to tell me something.

CHRISTOPHER MONDINI: Hello. You convinced me. This is Christopher Mondini from the ICANN staff. I just want to pass along a couple of threads of interest that I heard primarily in various ALAC gatherings, the North America and also the general sessions that we had with them. And I haven't heard it called out specifically, but you asked earlier about groups to be interested in targeting or involving or reaching out to, and the groups that were cited were the disabled or differently-abled populations.   And this relates also, more broadly speaking, to accessibility issues for those diverse groups of stakeholders.

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And then that leads me to a second related point which as I know there are, I think as Nora was saying, other organizations, other initiatives, and I think the approach should be to look -- gather the threads of effort, look for best practice, look for easy ways to partner, amplify supports, the work in these areas. But accessibility issues and the involvement of the disabled, both in bringing them into our ICANN processes, and then also resulting in outputs that may enhance their user experience. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: Thank you. Pierre Dandjinou, VP for Africa. I wanted to -- actually toward what Marilyn was saying concerning the -- how we engage with the business, especially when we are developing the strategies. As far as Africa is concerned, of course -- sorry. Might be afraid of this mic anyway. Thank you. No, I was saying that while I just wanted to briefly reflect on what Marilyn was saying concerning the regional strategies and then also how we do engage with the business, you know, sector, because right now in Africa we do have a strategy document. We are rolling out the strategy and we sought to engage with the business sector actually. But one of the issues we are facing is, who is that business sector, especially in Africa. Are we talking about the ICT business sector or is it the business sector, you know? That's also

an issue for us. And even within ICANN, some of the people we're talking with, okay, they are just the individual doing business, they are not in any associations, so how are you really engage with those? I mean, this is also an issue, and I think we should all think about it.

To Nora's question, I will say that the -- there is no -- there won't be any -- I mean, one size fitting all of us, you know. And I also like to remind that the strategy thing, the regional strategy thing came as kind of adjunct thing. I think the idea was to respond to some of the needs, especially that's been expressed by Africa, and I mean, which is in terms of the level of participation, if it's ICANN or if it's not, what we are expecting. So that strategy was out there to help solve, I think. It was an adjunct thing. Now, how do we make all of this sort of, you know, a transitional thing. You know, that's something we need to look after, and maybe your committee will work on that.

The other thing that was -- I said I was not at the beginning because I was in another session. In terms of the groups, you know, the target groups, there were questions this week about what, for instance, ICANN is doing vis-a-vis the handicapped. You know, people -- disadvantaged people, how you go by what ICANN is really doing to -- is even this in the remit of ICANN or not. But maybe something we should also be including in your groups. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you.   Any more input?   I have space for one or two comments or questions. Raimundo. Tell me something. Tell me something.

RAIMUNDO BECA: Raimundo Beca, former ICANN board member and also the founder of LACNIC. I will speak about regionalization. You know, in the -- in the long Tunis Agenda the one solution I prefer is number 38 which says that it has to be privileged in the management of the Internet resources, the regionalization. And, well, it's not the -- it's not the coincidence that this happened and it was recognized by that because the power of the -- of the RIR system was recognized in the -- so it was the recognition to that. And to some extent ICANN has failed in taking profit of that resolution.   We know that many governments that signed this resolution didn't know what they were signing, but they signed it and it's there. And the -- and the issue that the -- that the -- the distance between -- between governments and registrants or users of the Internet is so far because -- because the governments are always looking at the local place and the -- and the Internet is global or it's regional. So the potentiality of taking profit of that is enormous, enormous.   And I think that the -- that the -- the experience and the -- and in fact, ICANN has very strong regional organizations. RALOs are strong. RIRs are strong. The regional -- the regional associations like AfriNIC -- what's the name of the --

well, the regional organization of country codes, they're very strong in Europe, in Africa, in Latin America, and in -- in Asia-Pacific. And they have been very, very contributed to to have the -- what is very strong for ICANN is the legitimacy because it has a -- because -- and finally, governments are so far from -- from being able to be global, and that's a very strong issue that ICANN has to use. Okay.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you very much. I think we are almost at the end. But I'd like to find out my colleagues on the phone, we have a comment or two. Tim, are you still there? Closing remarks. Nevine?

NEVINE TEWFIK: I have no comments.

NII QUAYNOR: Soumitra.

SOUMITRA DUTTA: Yeah, none for me too. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Raul.

RAUL ZOMBRANO: Just a quick comment on the future work. I'm real excited to be part of this panel and looking forward to delivering the goods and getting your input into account. So thank you.

REMOTE INTERVENTION: We have one final comment from the Adobe Connect room. So Ben Fuller says, to speak to the previous speaker from African -- I'm assuming Pierre -- it is sometimes necessary to create the infrastructure yourself. In Namibia we established a legitimate and legally-sanctioned industry association. This has the potential to use as a platform for getting both individuals and businesses participating in ICANN activities. The point is to start.

NII QUAYNOR: Thank you. And last comment from Bob.

BOB HINDEN: Yes. I was just going to say that I think it's been very good hearing feedback, you know, from the -- from you, that I think it will help us do our job a lot better. Thank you.

NII QUAYNOR: Well, on my behalf, I thank you very much for, you know, sharing with us these opportunities, and we will develop them and come back to you as we progress on this effort. Thank you very much.