

# African Internet Summit 2014, Djibouti

## AFRALO Session

Wednesday 4 June 2014 – 11:00 – 12:30

Hotel Kempinski, Room Ile Ras Syan

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### Report

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In the framework of the African Internet Summit 2014, The ICANN African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) organized a 90 minutes workshop entitled “**ICANN new Season: a home for everyone**”.

The session was moderated by Tijani BEN JEMAA, Vice-Chair of the ICANN At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and AFRALO member and former Vice-Chair.

He opened the workshop by apologizing for not having the interpretation facilities in the assigned room. He said he understand that some of the participants will be penalized because they don't understand both English and French languages, and he promised to try his best to help anytime it is necessary.

He then explained that in 2012, ICANN had a new President and CEO who brought a new management vision breaking the silos and moving from thinking and planning in a vertical manner to a horizontal one.

This new vision was the first element of the ICANN new season, characterized by:

- Designing and implementing a strategy for the less involved regions (Africa was the first one, and then Middle East, Latin America and Caribbean, and now Asia Pacific region).
- Globalization of ICANN:
  - Split the headquarter into 3 parts: Los Angeles, Singapore and Istanbul
  - Creation of more regions with the appointment of a Vice President per region
  - Open new offices outside the states
  - Recruit more staff from various regions
- Montevideo Declaration (with all I\* leaders)
- Contribution in the organization of NetMundial
- After NTIA expression of intention to wave it's stewardship on IANA Functions and ICANN
  - Leading the initiatives of transition

Before giving the floor the panelists, Tijani emphasized that everyone has a say in the ICANN new season (Governments, contracted parties, Business sector, end-users, etc).

He then gave the floor to the 5 panelists to give their perspectives about the new season of ICANN:

- Pierre Dandjinou ICANN Vice-President, Stakeholder Engagement, Africa who spoke about the various regional strategies and especially the African one.
- Barrack Otieno Administrative Manager of the AfTLD who gave the ccTLDs' perspective
- Emmanuel Adjovi In charge of the Information Society in the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie( OIF) and member of the ICANN GAC. Emmanuel gave the opinions of Governments about the ICANN new season
- Janvier Ngnoulaye Chair of an AFRALO ALS and AfrINIC Board member who explained how the Internet End Users live the ICANN new Season.
- Towela Jere from NEPAD. She detailed her point of view about the ICANN new from a Regional Organization perspective.

The debate was animated and passionate and showed that all participants were very optimistic regarding the future of the Internet and its governance. They found that the few next years will be of most importance, and expressed their hope that the transition from the US government stewardship to a community one will be achieved smoothly and swiftly.