Minutes of Meeting

MEAC-SWG Call 21 – Wednesday 31 January 2018

The twenty first call for the MEAC-SWG took place on Wednesday 31 January 2018 at 09.00 – 10.00 UTC. The call had 7 members and observers of the MEAC-SWG and 2 ICANN staff members.

On the call, we had Walid Al-Saqaf (Chair), Chokri Ben Romdhane, Michael Oghia, Nadira Alaraj, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Zahr Bou-Ghanem, and Zakir Syed. And from ICANN Staff, we had Baher Esmat and Fahd Batayneh.

The agenda for the call was as follows:

- What's in Store for the Next 6 Months;
- Middle East Space at ICANN61;
- MEAC-SWG Members Engagement; and
- AoB.

What's in Store for the Next 6 Months

ICANN Staff took the floor and discussed what they are targeting in the next 6 months until 30 June 2018. Projects that will be worked on includes the ME DNS Forum, a DNS Operations and DNSSEC train-the-trainer track, engagement with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and CERTs, and a meeting for the Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs.

ICANN Staff also spoke about the rotation of the ME DNS Forum PC where 3 members retired, and a call for applications went out to add 3 new members. A small sub-committee from within the MEAC-SWG was formed to evaluate the applications and select the 3 candidates. After careful consideration, the 3 candidates selected were *Wafa Dahmani*, *Rafik Dammak*, and *Nadira Alaraj*. There was a question from Zakir as to why the names were not announced yet. To that end, ICANN Staff responded that not all 3 selected members have confirmed their appointment, and that the names will be announced once everyone has confirmed their selection.

ICANN Staff also spoke about the current work on the MEAC-SIG where two new partners have joined; the Arab World Internet Institute (AWII) and the Internet Governance Project (IGP). The organizers (ICANN, ISOC, and RIPE NCC) and the partners are working together on the 2018 edition of the SIG, and one key thing they are working on is to solicit funds to run the 2018 edition.

ICANN Staff are also working on improving the different events they work on and host such as the DNS Forums, the MEAC-SIG, the Tunisia Academic Engagement, and others. They will be working on surveys and interviews with selected community members.

Middle East Space at ICANN61

Building on the positive vibes of the Middle East Space at ICANN60, the SWG would like to see another space taking place at ICANN61 in Puerto Rico.

Tijani explained how the Africa Space at ICANN meetings has evolved over the years where their outcome documents would be sent to relevant parties within ICANN. In many instances, they would receive a response, and would see their recommendations taken into consideration in one form or another.

The outcome document of the space at ICANN60 was sent to the board and the Jurisdiction working group, and each reacted with a response back thanking the group for the recommendations.

MEAC-SWG Members Engagement

The Chair utilized this slot to have SWG members/observers more involved in ICANN public comments. To this end, the topic of budget cuts was brought up, and those on the call felt that they must make their voices heard by commenting. Overall, those on the call had concerns with these cuts; especially if they effect ICANN's work and projects in the Middle East. Some encouraged those on the call to submit a public comment.

Any Other Business (AoB)

The call was adjourned.