Middle East and Adjoining Countries Regional Action Plan – Fiscal Year 2022

1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

1 July 2021

ICANN

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1   Purpose

To ensure that ICANN's regional engagement work in the Middle East is aligned with ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, the Middle East and Adjoining Countries Strategy Working Group (MEAC-SWG) developed the Middle East and Adjoining Countries Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025. The regional plan went through a public comments process before it was finalized in mid-May 2020.

This document is the second year Regional Action Plan, reflecting the different anticipated projects and activities between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022.

2 FY22 Action Plan (1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022)

2.1   Security

STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THE DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM (DNS) AND THE DNS ROOT SERVER SYSTEM

Goals	Actions	Activity	Outcomes	Metrics
1.1 Support the development of technical capacities and the building of regional networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders

1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders | Deliver training, workshops, webinars, online courses, and share information and white papers around topics related to DNS and DNS security | Conduct four hands-on DNS Operations and/or DNSSEC workshops | * Increased DNS Operations and/or DNSSEC operational knowledge

* Potentially two (2) more ccTLDs DNSSEC-signed

* Higher DNSSEC validation rates | * Workshops conducted

* Number of trainees

* Feedback received

* Growth in ccTLD DNSSEC signed zones

* Growth in DNSSEC validation |
| | | Target four regional events to speak about DNS Security and Threats | Better understanding on the importance of DNS Security and ICANN's role | * Number of individuals and organizations engaged with on the topic

* Number of engagements |
| | | Conduct two DNS security threats related workshops | Better understanding of the domain name industry and how to tackle DNS related security incidents | * Workshops conducted

* Number of participants

* Feedback received |
| | | Promote ICANN's Domain Abuse | Increased knowledge and understanding | *Engagements with ccTLD |

		Activity Reporting (DAAR) project, and target two regional ccTLDs and/or IDN ccTLDs to be part of the project	of the DAAR project	operators on the topic * Feedback and views received * Number of ccTLD and IDN ccTLD operators considering DAAR
		Target two ccTLDs to deploy DNSSEC, and two ISPs to enable DNSSEC validation	More DNSSEC validation regionally	* Number of entities engaged with * Increase in regional DNSSEC deployment and validation
		Raise awareness and promote "Knowledge Sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security (KINDNS)", and encourage two regional operators to join the initiative and implement its recommendations	Better understanding on the importance of DNS and naming security	* Number of entities engaged with * Number of new members from the region * Number of entities who have implemented the KINDNS best practices
	Fulfill IMRS instance deployment requests and encourage deployment of the same in diverse geographies	Follow-up on pending IMRS instances requests, and work on any new requests	A new IMRS instance in a new location	* Number of organizations engaged with * Number of new IMRS instances requests and deployed

2.2　ICANN's Governance

Goal	Action	Activity	Outcomes	Metrics
2.1 Support and grow active and informed stakeholder participation from the region.

2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder model and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels. | Facilitate and encourage community members' participation in ICANN's multistakeholder processes | Flag to relevant regional stakeholders the different policy development processes and related working groups, and encourage them to take part | Diverse regional participation in the different ICANN multistakeholder processes and working groups | * Updates shared with community on PDP issues

* Growth in community members participation in the different ICANN processes

* Public comments submitted |
| | | Support the Middle East Space; both face-to-face and virtual | Better community engagement in the Middle East Space preparatory process and discussions | * Engagement with the Middle East Space organizers in preparing for the sessions

* Number of Middle East Space sessions

* Number of statements submitted |
| | | Hold Readout Sessions for ICANN71, ICANN72, and ICANN73 | Better community engagement in the Readout sessions including taking an active role in providing updates on different topics

* Community members | * Engagement with community members in preparing for the sessions

* Readout sessions held

* Community members provide updates during the sessions |

		updated on key ICANN issues	
Coordinate with members of ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs) and active regional community members to engage in outreach activities.	Organize four engagement activities with ICANN community members	Participants learn about the different SO/ACs at ICANN and how to get involved	* Communications with the SO/AC on potential opportunities for engagement * Plan for the engagement activity * Activity held * Feedback received
Promote ICANN programs such as the Newcomers program, Fellowship program, NextGen program, and the ICANN Learn platform	Share information about the various programs and speak about them at relevant events and engagements	New faces participate in ICANN through the Newcomers program, Fellowship program, NextGen program	* Engagement opportunities with new communities * Information shared about the different programs * New ICANN participants
	* Encourage regional stakeholders to enroll in ICANN Learn. * Make some relevant ICANN Learn courses a prerequisite in some of the regional engagement activities	Participants enroll in and complete ICANN Learn courses	* ICANN Learn courses promoted as part of the engagement activities * Number of course series assembled and offered as a prerequisite for some of the engagement activities * Number of attendees of each series of courses

| | Organize and participate in events that target new audiences | Organize the MEAC-SIG, and participate in two (2) national and regional IGFs | Participants learn about ICANN and how to engage in its programs and processes | * Identify a host for the MEAC-SIG (if not being organized virtually)

* Develop agenda with the MEAC-SIG partners

* Announce application process for the MEAC-SIG and work with the Steering Committee on selecting participants

* Feedback received

* Number of MEAC-SIG 2021 participants getting involved in ICANN

* Participate / speak at national and regional IGFs

* Number of participants engaged with at those events |
| | | Hold four (4) different engagement activities targeting new audience from various stakeholder groups | Participants learn more about ICANN and how to engage in its programs and processes | * Plan for the activities with the different entities

* Diversity of stakeholders engaged with

* Activity held

* Feedback received |

				* Number of participants * Number of participants getting involved in ICANN
		Target three remote engagement activities in two different countries where travel is being restricted	* More geographically diversified engagement * Participants learn about ICANN and how to engage in its programs and processes	* Plan for the activities with local entities and stakeholders * Activity held * Feedback received * Number of participants * Number of participants getting involved in ICANN

2.3   Unique Identifier Systems

> **EVOLVE THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER SYSTEMS IN COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH RELEVANT PARTIES TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL INTERNET USER BASE**

Goal	Action	Activity	Outcomes	Metrics
3.1 Support the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the region 3.2 Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation 3.3 Raise awareness about the next round of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), and inform regional stakeholders of all aspects of the program 3.4 Promote ICANN's role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the	Deliver training, workshops, webinars, online courses, and share information and white papers around topics related to the unique identifier systems, including the next round of new gTLDs, Universal Acceptance and IDNs	Share information about IDN related policy development work such as IDN TLD Variants, and encourage the relevant regional stakeholders to take part in such work	Input from regional stakeholders	*Communications on the topic * Number of organizations and groups engaged with on the topic * Feedback received
		Raise awareness around the different elements of the next round of new gTLDs (operational design phase, what a gTLD would mean for local communities, applicant support, etc.)	Increased knowledge and awareness about the next round of new gTLDs and its different elements	*Communications on the topic * Number of organizations and groups engaged with on the topic * Feedback received
		Identify and work with community members who can raise awareness of the next round of new gTLDs and promote it across stakeholders in the region	Increased knowledge and awareness about the next round of new gTLDs and its different elements	* Number of community members involved * Number of organizations and groups engaged with on the topic * Feedback received
		Organize the 8th edition of the	*Participants updated on	* Dates confirmed and announced

Internet's unique identifier systems.		Middle East DNS Forum	key ICANN related work *Strengthened engagement with regional community	* Progress made with the program committee on the agenda * Agenda finalized * Website kept up-to-date * Promote the event through different media channels * Event held * Quality of discussions * Number of attendees (including remote participants) * Survey conducted * Feedback received
		* Disseminate publications authored by ICANN's Office of the CTO and the SSAC * Disseminate publications authored by the ICANN Government Engagement team	* Regional stakeholders are better informed of technical underlying's of the unique identifiers system. * Regional stakeholders are better informed of what regions and countries around the world are up to in the context of ICANN and	* Amount of feedback received

			the unique identifiers	
Promote the work of Universal Acceptance to relevant stakeholders and encourage them to join the different Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) working groups, and work closely with the UASG and UA Ambassadors to support the work around local initiatives	Organize two workshops on Email Address Internationalizati on (EAI) and on UA for Software Developers	Increased UA technical knowledge among the software development community	* Engagement with community on the topic * Number of stakeholders engaged with * Number of workshop participants * Feedback received
		Support efforts to launch two UA local initiatives	* Increased awareness about UA at the local level * Increased efforts to drive more UA adoption at the local level	* Engagement with community on the topic * Number of stakeholders engaged with * Feedback received * Proposals for UA local initiatives submitted * UA local initiatives launched
		Target two new UA ambassadors from the region	* More UA ambassadors from the region who can support the work of the UASG	* Number of individuals engaged with on the topic * Number of applications submitted * Additional UA ambassadors from the region

		Present on UA related topics at two events	* Increased awareness about UA * Stronger regional involvement in the work of the UASG	* Engagement with community on the topic * Number of stakeholders engaged with * Number of events * Number of participants
		Collaborate with AICTO on webinars and capacity development programs pursuant to the MoU signed with them	* Webinars and capacity development programs organized around UA, IDNs, and DNS Security * Another channel to engage on UA	* Number of participants * Number of events organized * Number of new UA local initiatives * Number of media coverage

2.4   Geopolitics

ADDRESS GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES IMPACTING ICANN'S MISSION TO ENSURE A SINGLE, GLOBALLY INTEROPERABLE INTERNET

Goal	Action	Activity	Outcomes	Metrics
4.1 Monitor legislative efforts that could impact ICANN's mission or operations on both the national and regional levels	Monitor the developments of relevant laws and regulations in the region	Engage with various stakeholders to stay abreast of new laws and regulations that relate to ICANN's mission	More awareness and better understanding of laws and regulations that could impact ICANN's mission	* Number of engagements with stakeholders on the topic * Feedback received
4.2 Work with ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs) to expand outreach to the wider community and engage with all stakeholders in relation to ICANN's mission and policy making	Offer technical expertise to inform policy makers and other relevant stakeholders of the potential impact some regulations and legislations may have on the DNS and its global operation	Coordinate with community members to seek two (2) opportunities for engagement with policy makers and regulators to provide factual data on ICANN's role	Increased awareness about the role of ICANN among policy makers who may or may not be participating in ICANN	* Number of engagements with community members on the topic * Number of stakeholders engaged with

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