

FY23 Action Plan

1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

1. Security

Strengthen the security of the Domain Name System (DNS) and the DNS Root Server System

Engagement with Network Operators

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
1.1 Support the development of technical capacities and the building of regional networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders	Promote the deployment and operation of a healthy and secure domain name system	Organize one (1) hands-on DNS Operations and/or DNSSEC workshops	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders get trained on DNS Operations or DNSSEC * New networks validating DNSSEC
		Speak at or organize four (4) events on DNS related standards, technologies, and security best practices	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders learn about ICANN and its crucial technical role in DNS related standards and technologies
		Promote the initiative “Knowledge-sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security (KINDNS)” to six (6) regional network	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New network operators understand the importance of a well-built and configured technical DNS infrastructure

		operators, and target one (1) network operator to join it		* New network operators joining KINDNS
		Promote DNSSEC Validation with six (6) network operators and support them in the implementation	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New networks validating DNSSEC * Higher DNSSEC Validation rates
		Target the attendance of two (2) network operators group (NOG) gatherings and feature on the agenda	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders learn about ICANN and its crucial technical role in DNS related standards and technologies
	Raise awareness on Emerging Technologies that touch upon the DNS	Organize one (1) session or speak at an event about an emerging technology that has a direct impact on the DNS	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders learn about ICANN and its crucial technical role in DNS related standards and technologies
1.3 Contribute to the resiliency of the domain name system through deploying IMRS instances in various locations as appropriate	Promote the deployment of IMRS instances	Target five (5) new IMRS instances, and follow-up on pending instances.	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New IMRS instances in diverse locations

Engagement with ccTLDs

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
1.1 Support the development of technical capacities and the building of regional networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders	Promote the deployment and operation of a healthy and secure domain name system	Organize three (3) hands-on DNS Operations and/or DNSSEC workshops	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * New stakeholders get trained on DNS Operations or DNSSEC * More ccTLD zone files DNSSEC signed
		Promote the initiative “Knowledge-sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security (KINDNS)” to three (3) regional ccTLDs, and target one (1) ccTLD to join it	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * New ccTLDs understand the importance of a well-built and configured technical DNS infrastructure * New ccTLDs joining KINDNS
1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders	Raise awareness on DNS Security Threats	Organize two (2) workshops on DNS Security Threats	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * New stakeholders understand the DNS, its security threats landscape, and whom to reach out to
		Speak to three (3) ccTLDs on DNS Security Threats	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * New stakeholders understand ICANN and its work on DNS Security Threats * New stakeholders are aware of the ever evolving threat

				landscape of the DNS
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Engagement with CERTs and LEAs

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders	Raise awareness on DNS Security Threats	Target 3 LEAs and engage 1-on-1 with them on ICANN's work and the DNS	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* More LEAs in diverse countries understand ICANN and its work on security
		Organize one (1) regional DNS Security Threats session for regional Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)	1 July 2022 - 31 December 2022	* More CERTs in diverse countries understand ICANN and its work on security
		Speak at or organize two (2) events on DNS Security Threats	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders understand ICANN and its work on DNS Security Threats

Project 1 - DNSSEC Deployment and Validation in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
1.1 Support the development of technical capacities and the building of regional	Promote the deployment and operation of a healthy and secure domain	Assist the .AE ccTLD in deploying DNSSEC	July 2022 - December 2022	* .AE and امارات DNSSEC signed
		Assist Etisalat UAE with enabling DNSSEC	January 2023 - June 2023	* Etisalat UAE network validates DNSSEC

networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders	name system	validation on their network		* Explore possibility of encouraging Etisalat operators around the globe to enable DNSSEC validation
		Assist Du UAE with enabling DNSSEC validation on their network	January 2023 - June 2023	* Du UAE network validates DNSSEC

Project 2 - DNSSEC Validation in Pakistan

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
1.1 Support the development of technical capacities and the building of regional networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders	Promote the deployment and operation of a healthy and secure domain name system	Organize; in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA), a webinar on DNSSEC for executives of network operators in Pakistan	August 2022	* Network operators understand the importance of DNSSEC Validation * Network operators consider enabling DNSSEC Validation
		Assist four (4) network operators in Pakistan to enable DNSSEC Validation	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New networks validating DNSSEC * Higher DNSSEC Validation rates

2. ICANN's Governance

Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
2.1 Support and grow active and informed stakeholder participation from the region	Facilitate and encourage Internet community members to take part in ICANN's policy development and processes	Keep an eye to ICANN PDPs and processes, flag to the community, and encourage the community to take part in them	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* A better informed regional community on ICANN's PDPs and processes * More active participation from the region
		Support the Middle East Space sessions	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Regional community making their voice heard
		Organize four (4) thematic webinars to update the regional community on policies, processes, and constituency work	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Increased awareness on ICANN's different work items
	Promote ICANN programs, platforms, and publications	Promote courses offered on ICANN Learn	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* More regional learners utilizing ICANN Learn courses
		Disseminate publications authored by ICANN's Government Engagement Team and	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* More understanding around ICANN government engagement and policy

		Policy Development Team		development
2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder model, and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels	Organize or Coordinate with partners, ICANN SO/ACs, and/or community members on engagement and outreach activities to raise awareness on ICANN and its roles and responsibilities	Target two webinars with the ISOC YE Chapter for the Yemeni community	1 July 2022 - 31 December 2022	* New stakeholders from Yemen participating at ICANN
		Organize the MEAC School on Internet Governance	October/November 2022	* Utilize ICANN Learn courses as part of the SIG * More awareness around ICANN and its work * Potential new active ICANN community members
		Participate in and speak at two (2) regional and/or national Internet Governance Forums (IGF) to raise awareness on ICANN and its roles and responsibilities	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders are aware of ICANN, its work, and its unique model of governance
	Engage with newcomers, fellows, and nextgen alumni, and seek to keep them engaged with ICANN	Promote the ICANN fellowship program and nextgen program; where eligible	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Push such programs far and wide regionally through mailing lists, 1-on-1 engagement, and events/talks
		Organize two (2) virtual	September 2022 - April	* Create closer relations

		sessions for regional newcomers, fellows, and nextgen alumni at the conclusion of an ICANN meeting	2023	with regional fellows, and encourage them to stay involved
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Project 1 - Collaborate with the Internet Center of Saudi Arabia

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
2.1 Support and grow active and informed stakeholder participation from the region	Facilitate and encourage Internet community members to take part in ICANN's policy development and processes	Continue to work with the Saudi Arabian government on joining the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)	July 2022 - December 2022	* Saudi Arabia joins the GAC, and actively contributes
2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder model, and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels	Co-organize engagement and outreach activities	Work with the Internet Center on organizing an event nationally, and feature on the agenda	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Event organized, and ICANN featured on the agenda

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(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
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	Organize seminars and/or speak at events on current work towards the next round of new TLDs	Raise awareness on the Operational Design Phase (ODP) at one event, and encourage regional participation	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Regional stakeholders obtain understanding on the work around the next round of new TLDs
3.4 Promote ICANN's role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems	Organize and speak at events, and share information about the domain name system	Raise awareness on ICANN's System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) by delivering an update at one relevant regional event	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Regional stakeholders aware on the SSAD and the future of domain name WHOIS
		Organize an event on Registrants Rights and Responsibilities	August/September 2022	* Regional stakeholders obtain understanding on registrants rights and responsibilities
		Organize the Middle East DNS Forum 2023	1 January 2023 - 30 June 2023	* Update the regional community on ICANN's work * Engage with regional stakeholders; current

				and new
		Disseminate publications authored by ICANN's Office of the CTO and the SSAC	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* OCTO and SSAC publications obtain more regional visibility and consumption
	Maintain open and effective communication channels with regional contracted parties (i.e. registries and registrars)	Interact 1-on-1 with six (6) regional ICANN accredited registrars	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Maintaining open and effective communication channels with ICANN accredited registrars * ICANN accredited registrars are kept informed on ICANN related matters
		Explore with the regional accredited registrars the need for a registrar accreditation specific training	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Understand the needs of registrars, and address them
		Socialize the concept of UA with registrars, and encourage them to consider making their operations UA ready	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Registrars understand the importance of UA to their operations, and make their systems UA ready

Project 1 - Promote the Work of IDNs and UA in Saudi Arabia

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
<p>3.2 Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation</p>	<p>Promote the work around Universal Acceptance of Domain Names</p>	<p>Organize two (2) seminars or speak at two (2) events to raise awareness on UA</p>	<p>1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023</p>	<p>* New stakeholders understand UA and its importance</p>
		<p>Organize one (1) training workshop related to UA</p>	<p>1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023</p>	<p>* New stakeholders understand the technical aspects of UA</p>
		<p>Encourage the deployment of a testbed between two (2) or more peers to test EAI interoperability</p>	<p>1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023</p>	<p>* A new EAI testbed</p>
		<p>Socialize the importance of UA and EAI to two (2) academic faculties, and the importance of including this topic in academic curriculum</p>	<p>1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023</p>	<p>* Stakeholders from academia understand the importance of UA</p>
		<p>Promote the UA-day of February 2023 to Saudi stakeholders</p>	<p>1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023</p>	<p>* Event promoted locally * Strong local attendance</p>
		<p>Support efforts to launch a new UA local initiative for Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023</p>	<p>* New UA local initiative</p>

		Target one (1) UA ambassador from Saudi Arabia	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New UA ambassador
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Project 2 - Promote the Work on IDNs and UA in Bahrain

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
3.2 Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation	Promote the work around Universal Acceptance of Domain Names	Organize two (2) seminars or speak at two (2) events to raise awareness on UA	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders understand UA and its importance
		Organize one (1) training workshop related to UA	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders understand the technical aspects of UA
		Work on organizing a UA hackathon	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Hackathon organized
		Promote the UA-day of February 2023 to Bahraini stakeholders	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Event promoted locally * Strong local attendance
		Support efforts to launch a new UA local initiative for Bahrain	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New UA local initiative

Project 3 - Execute the MoU Signed with the Arab ICT Organization (AICTO)

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
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3.2 Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation	Promote the work around Universal Acceptance of Domain Names	Organize two (2) seminars or speak at two (2) events to raise awareness on UA	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* New stakeholders understand UA and its importance
		Encourage the deployment of a testbed between two (2) or more peers to test EAI interoperability	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* A new EAI testbed
		Promote the UA-day of February 2023 to regional stakeholders	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Event promoted regionally * Strong regional attendance

Project 4 - Collaboration with the Information Technology Institute (ITI) of Egypt on UA

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
3.1 Support the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the region	Promote the work around IDNs and Universal Acceptance of Domain Names	Organize a webinar explaining the Technical Overview of IDNs and UA	September 2022	* New stakeholders understand IDNs and UA and their importance
3.2 Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy		Organize a technical Training on UA for Software Programmers (Java and Python)	October 2022	* New stakeholders understand the technical aspects of UA
makers		Organize a technical Training on Email Address Internationalization	October 2022	* New stakeholders understand the technical aspects of EAI

makers to consider UA implementation	(EAI)		
	Organize a workshop on integrating UA into IT curriculum	November 2022	* Stakeholder understand why UA is important, and how IT curriculum can help disseminate the message around
	Upgrading the ITI Email services to support UA	1 December 2022 - 30 June 2023	* ITI email services UA ready
	Brainstorm UA projects for students	1 December 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Run projects to solve real-life UA issues
	Implement UA projects	1 December 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Projects solve UA real-life issues

4. Geopolitics

Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single, globally interoperable Internet

General Engagement Actions and Activities

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes
4.1 Monitor legislative efforts that could impact ICANN's mission or operations on both the national and regional levels	Monitor the development of legislations that could have an impact on ICANN and its mission	Track legislative updates in the region on a regular manner	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Contribute to detecting legislative efforts that could have an impact on ICANN's mission or operations
		Organize a regional event focusing on legislative practices in the region impacting the Internet	1 January 2023 - 30 June 2023	* Facilitate dialogue amongst stakeholders in the region on legislative efforts that could have an impact on ICANN's mission or operations
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 expertise to relevant stakeholders on the potential impact some regulations and legislations may have on the DNS and its global operation	Speak at or organize two (2) events about legislation and its impact on the global operation of the Internet and its unique identifiers	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Facilitate dialogue amongst stakeholders in the region on legislative efforts that could have an impact on ICANN's mission or operations
		Seek two (2) opportunities to engage with policy makers and regulators to provide factual data on ICANN's role	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* Better understanding by policy makers and regulators on the role of ICANN and how Internet-related regulations could have

				an impact on the DNS and its global operation
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