

FY24 Action Plan

1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024

1. Security

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

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
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	Target four (4) ccTLDs to assess their wellbeing, and assist them with fixing any issues that could appear in their operations or zones	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More ccTLDs having healthy technical operations	ccTLD Technical Staff
		Organize four (4) hands-on DNS Operations or DNSSEC workshops	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Increased operational knowledge on DNS Operations and DNSSEC * More TLDs signed, more networks validating DNSSEC, and higher DNSSEC uptake overall	Technical DNS Professionals

		Organize, or speak at four (4) events; whether virtual or in-person, about DNS operations, DNS security, DNS standards, and the role the DNS plays in Internet operations	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased technical knowledge about the DNS amongst stakeholders * Increased awareness about ICANN 	Technical Staff, Cybersecurity Professionals
		Target four (4) presentations or 1-on-1 engagements with network operators to promote the initiative “Knowledge-sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security (KINDNS)”	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * More awareness about the importance of healthy DNS operations * Network operators going through the KINDNS test, and joining it 	Technical DNS Professionals
		Promote DNSSEC Validation with four (4) network operators, encourage them to activate DNSSEC validation, and assist them when needed	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * More people aware about the importance of DNSSEC * More network operators validating DNSSEC 	Mobile Operators, ISPs, Registrars, Cloud Providers
		Target the attendance of to two (2) network operators groups	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More people aware about ICANN and its	Technical Staff

		(NOGs) forums, and deliver one (1) workshop and/or one (1) presentation		technical role	
1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders	Raise awareness on DNS Security Threats	Organize one (1) webinar/seminar or target one (1) event to talk about SAC074 Domain Name Credentials Management	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More awareness on the importance of proper domain name credentials management	ccTLDs, Registries, Registrars
		Organize two (2) workshops on DNS Security Threats	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Better understanding of DNS security threats and its ever evolving landscape	Cybersecurity Professionals
		Organize, or speak at four (4) events about DNS Security Threats	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More people aware about ICANN and its role * Better understanding on DNS security threats and its ever evolving landscape	Cybersecurity Professionals, Technical staff
		Target four (4) 1-on-1 engagements with CERTs, LEAs, and National Cybersecurity	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More awareness about ICANN and its role in coordinating the Internet's unique	Cybersecurity Professionals

		Authorities (NCA)		identifiers	
1.3 Contribute to the resiliency of the domain name system through deploying IMRS instances in various locations as appropriate	Encourage the deployment of new IMRS instances in diverse locations	Target the deployment of one (1) new IMRS instance	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* New IMRS instances	Mobile Operators, ISPs, Network Operators
	Work with hosts of IMRS instances that are failing technically to either renew or retire their host(s)	Coordinate with ICANN's DNS NOC on IMRS instances that are failing technically, and work with the hosts to fix accordingly	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Ensure the healthy operations of the IMRS system	Current IMRS Instances hosts who have failing equipment

Project - Engagement with the Mauritanian Technical Community

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
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	Follow-up on the March 2023 DNS Operations and DNSSEC workshop by assisting one (1) Mauritanian network operator to improve the wellbeing of their operations	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More Network operators running healthier and more secure DNS operations	Mobile Operators, ISPs
		Organize a DNS Operations and DNSSEC workshop	1 January 2024 - 30 March 2024	* Increased operational knowledge of DNS	Technical DNS Professionals

		with MRNIC		Operations and DNSSEC * More networks validating DNSSEC, and higher DNSSEC uptake overall	
		Organize two (2) 1-on-1 interactions with Mauritanian network operators to promote the initiative “Knowledge-sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security (KINDNS)”	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Higher exposure for this initiative and its importance * Network operators going through the KINDNS test, and joining it	Mobile Operators, ISPs
1.3 Contribute to the resiliency of the domain name system through deploying IMRS instances in various locations as appropriate	Encourage the deployment of new IMRS instances in diverse locations	Target the deployment of one (1) new IMRS instance in Mauritania	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* New IMRS instances in a new location	Mobile Operators, ISPs

2. ICANN's Governance

Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
2.1 Support and grow active and informed stakeholder participation from the region	Keep the regional Internet community abreast with ICANN's policy development and processes, encourage them to take part in them, and facilitate any potential involvement	Communicate to the regional community and different constituency members relevant ICANN policies and processes on regular basis	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Community members updated or informed of ICANN's work * Potential regional community members contributing to ICANN policies and process 	ICANN Community Members
		Support the Middle East Space, and target the organization of one Space session	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stronger regional involvement in the preparations of the Space * Stronger regional voice at ICANN 	ICANN Community Members
		Organize, or promote, four (4) thematic webinars that provide updates on ICANN's policies, processes,	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Community members updated or informed of ICANN's work 	ICANN Community Members

		and constituency work			
	Promote ICANN capacity development opportunities and publications	Continue to promote the “ICANN for Beginners” program to the regional community, and encourage them to attend webinars organized as part of this program	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Ease of integrating new people into ICANN * More understanding of ICANN and its work	All Interested Stakeholders
		Continue to promote the ICANN Learn platform to newcomers, and flag new courses to regional Internet community members	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Ease of integrating new people into ICANN * More understanding of ICANN and its work	All Interested Stakeholders
		Disseminate publications authored by the different ICANN teams, functions, and constituencies	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Community members consuming the different publications authored by ICANN or its SO/ACs	All Interested Stakeholders
2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN’s multistakeholder model, and share	Organize or support sessions; whether in-person or virtual, with ICANN constituencies and	Organize six (6) sessions, whether in-person or virtual, to talk about ICANN and its role in the Internet	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More people aware of ICANN and its work * Diversifying ways	All Interested Stakeholders

learnings and experiences at regional and national levels	regional partners to raise awareness on ICANN and its role in Internet ecosystem	ecosystem		of engaging with different stakeholders	
		Speak at and participate in six (6) regional/national events, IGFs, or SIGs to talk about ICANN and its role in the wider Internet ecosystem	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More people aware about ICANN and its work	All Interested Stakeholders
	Target new friends, and engage with newcomers, fellows, and nextgen alumni, and seek to keep them engaged with ICANN	Promote different ICANN diversity programs such as the Fellowship, NextGen, ICANN Community Childcare Grants for meetings, and Internet Reimbursement Program.	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Bring new faces to ICANN through these programs * Facilitate the attendance of regional stakeholders in ICANN meetings	All Interested Stakeholders
		Organize 1-on-1 calls with fellows and nextgen after ICANN77, ICANN78, and ICANN79 to seek their interests in ICANN, and offer help and guidance	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Understand the interests and plans of alumni, and engage accordingly * Explore ways of integrating fellows in the ICANN policies and processes	ICANN Meetings Fellows and NextGens

Project - Organizing the MEAC-SIG 2023

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
<p>2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder model, and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels</p>	<p>Organize the 2023 edition of the Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on IG with partners</p>	<p>Fix a venue for the in-person component of the SIG</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 31 July 2023</p>	<p>* More people aware about ICANN and Internet Governance</p> <p>* Potential new people showing interest in engaging with ICANN</p> <p>* Potential applicants to ICANN fellowship and nextgen programs</p>	<p>All Interested Stakeholders</p>
		<p>Attract sponsors to sponsor the SIG</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 31 October 2023</p>		
		<p>Develop an agenda that consists of virtual courses and in-person lectures</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 31 August 2023</p>		
		<p>Issue a call for applications to attend the SIG, and select successful applicants</p>	<p>1 August 2023 - 30 September 2023</p>		
		<p>Deliver the virtual courses, and organize a number of webinars</p>	<p>1 October 2023 - 30 November 2023</p>		
		<p>Execute the in-person component of the SIG</p>	<p>18-20 December 2023</p>		

Project - Broaden the Scope of Academic Engagement in Türkiye

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder model, and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels	Organize engagement activities in Turkish universities to provide younger generations the knowledge and skills to participate in ICANN and the wider Internet governance ecosystem	Prepare an academic engagement plan for Türkiye for FY24	1 July 2023 - 31 September 2023	* Raise awareness about ICANN	Turkish Academic Institutes and Students
		Conduct awareness sessions at four (4) universities	1 October 2023 - 20 Dec 2023	* Attract more applications for the ICANN fellowship and nextgen programs	
		Conduct a technical workshop at one (1) university	1 October 2023- 30 June 2024	* Collaborate with academia on some of ICANN's initiatives and work such as ITHI, UA, DNS research...	

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)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
3.1 Support the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the region	Encourage, promote, and enhance the uptake and usage of IDNs	Encourage one (1) country that does not have an IDN ccTLD to apply for one	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* A new IDN ccTLD introduced into the DNS root server system	ccTLD registries, governments
		Encourage two (2) IDN ccTLDs to publish their IDN tables on the IANA repository	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* A solid and comprehensive repository of IDN tables maintained by IANA	IDN ccTLD registries
	Conduct regional/national studies on IDNs	Follow-up on the Egyptian IDN study, and conclude it	30 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Study the state of IDNs in Egypt, draw recommendations, and engage accordingly	ccTLDs, IDN ccTLDs, registrars, domain name registrants
3.2 Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology	Diversify engagement around Universal Acceptance of Domain Names	Organize two (2) webinars or seminars to raise awareness on IDNs, UA, and EAI	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Raise awareness on IDNs, UA, and EAI * Raise awareness on ICANN	Software developers, systems administrators, registrars, registries

<p>developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation</p>	<p>Organize one (1) national and one (1) regional UA training targeting ISPs</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</p>	<p>* Better understanding by ISPs on UA and its importance to their operations</p> <p>* Better understanding by ISPs on ICANN and its role</p>	<p>ISPs</p>
	<p>Target the organization of two (2) UA hackathons</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</p>	<p>* More solutions found to UA issues</p>	<p>Academia</p>
	<p>Communicate with the organizers of the 2023 UA Day national events on any possible follow-ups</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</p>	<p>* Raise awareness on UA and its importance in diversifying the domain name space</p> <p>* Raise awareness on ICANN and its role</p>	<p>All Stakeholder Groups</p>
	<p>Support the UA Day event of 2024 by encouraging the regional community to organize four (4) UA events at the national level</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</p>	<p>* Raise awareness on UA and its importance in diversifying the domain name space</p> <p>* Raise awareness</p>	<p>All Stakeholder Groups</p>

				on ICANN and its role	
		Circulate the document entitled “UA Roadmap for Registries and Registrars” to regional registries and registrars, encourage them to apply the recommendations and be UA ready, ask them of their needs, and offer any support they would need	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More registries and registrars aware of UA and its importance	Registries, Registrars
		Circulate the report entitled “UA Readiness” to registries and registrars, and encourage them to be UA ready	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* More registries and registrars aware of UA and its importance	Registries, Registrars
3.4 Promote ICANN’s role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet’s unique identifier systems	Organize sessions, attend and/or speak at events, and disseminate information about the domain name system	Interact 1-on-1 with six (6) regional ICANN accredited registrars, and attend to any needs they may have	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Maintain open and effective communication channels with regional contracted parties	ICANN Accredited Registrars
		Target 3 engagement events/meetings to	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Raise more awareness	Registries, Registrars,

		collect feedback from Registrants, Registrars and ccTLDs about issues and challenges impacting Registrants		amongst domain name registrants on their rights and responsibilities * Maintain open and effective communication channels with regional registries and registrars	Registrants
		Disseminate relevant publications authored by ICANN's OCTO, SSAC, and RSSAC	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Promote ICANN's technical publications to the technical community and those interested	Technical Community

Project - Next Round of New TLDs

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
3.3 Raise awareness about the next round of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), and inform regional stakeholders of all	Intensify engagement around the next round of new TLDs	Launch and support a regional media campaign on the next round of New TLDs	1 September 2023 - 28 February 2024	* Raise awareness on the expansion of the TLD space	All Stakeholder Groups
		Target two (2) events to talk about the next round of new TLDs	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Raise awareness on ICANN and its role	

aspects of the program		Disseminate publications, and promote webinars and talks on the next round of new TLDs	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024		
		Organize, promote, or speak at one (1) event to talk about the impact of the expansion of the top-level domain name space on global DNS Operations	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024		
		Organize, promote, or speak at one (1) event about issues, challenges, and opportunities for current and prospective Registrants in the context of the next round of new TLDs	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024		

Project - The Middle East Domain Name Industry Study

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
<p>3.1 Support the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the region</p> <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>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</p>	Commission a comprehensive study on the current state of the domain name industry in the Middle East	Develop an RFP, publish it, and answer questions coming in from potential study bidders	1 July 2023 - 7 July 2023	* Publish a study with factual data on the state of the domain name industry in the Middle East	All Stakeholder Groups
		Evaluate proposals received and identify a vendor to commission the study	17 July 2023 - 13 November 2023		
		Organize a regional webinar to share the findings of the draft report of the study	5 February 2024 - 20 February 2023	* Extract engagement actions and activities from the study	
		Publish the draft study report for public comments, and encourage relevant regional community members to share their feedback	26 February 2023 - 5 April 2024	* Position engagement around IDN TLDs and new TLDs based on the findings of the study	

Project - The Middle East Domain Name System Forum 2024 (ME DNS Forum 2024)

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
<p>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</p> <p>3.4 Promote ICANN's role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems</p>	Organize the Middle East DNS Forum 2024 in a hybrid format	Identify a location for the forum, and possibly a local host	1 July 2023 - 31 December 2023	<p>* Engage with current and new stakeholders</p> <p>* Raise awareness on ICANN and its role in the Internet ecosystem</p> <p>* Update the attendees on ICANN's priorities, processes, and work</p>	All Stakeholder Groups
		Identify topics to include in the forum's agenda in coordination with the forum's program committee and the regional industry	1 December 2023 - 31 January 2024		
		Finalize an agenda with speakers	1 February - 28 February 2024		
		Promote the forum widely through media and social media	1 April - 30 April 2024		
		Work with the website master to populate the forum's website with content	1 March - 30 May 2024		
		Circulate a post-forum survey, analyze the data, and develop a report	1 May - 30 June 2024		

Project - Universal Acceptance Engagement in Bahrain

Goal(s)	Action	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
<p>3.1 Support the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the region</p> <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>Collaborate with the Telecommunication's Regulatory Authority (TRA) of Bahrain to push IDN and UA work</p>	<p>Organize one (1) IDN workshop for registrars and universities</p>	<p>1 July - 30 September 2023</p>	<p>* Raise awareness on ICANN and its role in the domain name space</p>	<p>ccTLD, registrars, academia, software companies</p>
		<p>Work with one (1) academic institute on UA Curriculum and Projects</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</p>	<p>* Explain the importance of IDNs and UA towards attaining a diverse Internet</p>	
		<p>Develop one (1) UA testbed</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024</p>	<p>* More systems and software tools are UA ready</p>	
		<p>Organize a UA Hackathon for the Bahraini community</p>	<p>1 July 2023 - 31 March 2024</p>		

4. Geopolitics

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

Goal(s)	Actions	Activity	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
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 once every 3 months, or as the need arises	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	* Track regulations and legislations that could touch upon ICANN	ICANN Internal
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	* More awareness on the impact of legislation on the functionality of the Internet * Better understanding of the technical functionality of the Internet	Technical Staff, Legislators, Governments
		Engage 1-on-1 with two (2) regional governments to raise awareness about ICANN and how the	1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	* More awareness about ICANN amongst regional governments	Governments

		Internet technically works		<ul style="list-style-type: none">* More awareness on the impact of legislation on the functionality of the Internet* Better understanding of the technical functionality of the Internet	
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