

Middle East and Adjoining Countries Regional Action Plan – Fiscal Year 2025

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

15 August 2025



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 technical capacity development and building regional networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders	Promote a stable and secure domain name system	Organize four hands on DNS Operations and/or Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) workshops	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased operational knowledge on DNS Operations and DNSSEC * More country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) DNSSEC signed * More networks validating DNSSEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Registries' technical staff * Registrars' technical staff * Network operators' technical staff * Cybersecurity professionals
		Partner with two different entities in two different countries and work with them on promoting DNSSEC Validation to their network operators	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creating new partnerships or strengthening current partnerships * Increased operational awareness and knowledge on DNSSEC * More network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Network operators' technical staff

				operators validating DNSSEC	
		Partner with two different entities in two different countries and work with them on promoting KINDNS to their network operators	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creating new partnerships or strengthening current partnerships * More awareness of the KINDNS initiative and its role toward a healthier DNS ecosystem * Network operators participating in the KINDNS self-assessment * Network operators joining the KINDNS initiative 	* Network operators' technical staff
1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders	Raise awareness and knowledge around DNS Security Threats	Organize or speak at four workshops or events about DNS Security. Topics would include Emerging Technologies touching the DNS, credential management, DNS operations, KINDNS,	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased awareness about ICANN and its technical role * Increased technical knowledge about the DNS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Network operators Technical Staff * Cybersecurity professionals

		and others			
1.3 Contribute to the resiliency of the domain name system through deploying IMRS instances in various locations as appropriate	Coordinate the deployment of new IMRS instances, or the renewal of expiring instances	Coordinate between potential IMRS hosts and ICANN DNS NOC on fulfilling the deployment of new instances	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* New instances deployed	* Network operators
		Coordinate with current hosts and ICANN DNS NOC on renewing expiring instances	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Current expiring instances renewed	* Current IMRS instances hosts

Project - Coordinate ICANN’s Participation at the Middle East Network Operators Group 2024 (MENOG’24)

Goal(s)	Milestones	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	Identify topics of interest to be delivered during MENOG24 either as workshops or as presentations	1 July 2024 – 31 August 2024	* One to two topics featured on the MENOG’24 program	* Network operators * Technical staff * Academic students
	Encourage attendance at the workshops organized by ICANN	1 September 2024 – 31 October 2024	* Attract new attendees to the workshops organized by ICANN	
1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders	Deliver the workshops and presentations	1–5 December 2024	* Increased awareness on ICANN and its coordination role of unique identifiers	

Project - Organize the First Mobile Network Operators (MNO) Day in the Middle East

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
<p>1.1 Support the development of technical capacities and the building of regional networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders</p> <p>1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders</p>	Identify a country and host to organize this event	1 July – 31 August 2024	<p>* Mobile network operators become more aware of the importance of DNS Operations</p> <p>* Increased awareness on ICANN and its technical role</p> <p>* Reach out to new audiences</p>	<p>* Mobile Network Operators</p> <p>* Internet Service Providers</p> <p>* Telecom Regulators</p> <p>* Cybersecurity Experts</p>
	Liaise with OCTO and other internal teams to execute the event	1 July – 1 December 2024		
	Work with the host and partners on developing an agenda and identifying speakers	1 September – 30 November 2024		
	Execute the event	1 July – 5 December 2024		
	Circulate a survey after the event	December 2024		

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 informed about ICANN's policies and processes, encourage them to join working groups or share their views, and facilitate any potential involvement	Support the Middle East Space, and target the organization of two Middle East Space sessions	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure the continuity of the Middle East Space as a platform for regional discussions on ICANN related topics * Regional community contributes to or gets involved in ICANN's policies and processes 	* All stakeholder groups
		Organize or promote two thematic webinars on ICANN's policies and processes	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased awareness on ICANN policy development work 	* All stakeholder groups
		Reach out to regional community members participating in certain ICANN working groups and	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased awareness on ICANN policy development work 	* All stakeholder groups

		explore with them areas of engaging the wider regional community in their work; if any			
		Share with the regional community; via email, information on ICANN policies and processes on a regular basis	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Raise awareness and stay informed of the latest ICANN activities, events, and more * Regional community contributes to or gets involved in ICANN's policies and processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ccTLDs * Registrars * gTLD Registries * SO/AC members * ICANN Community
	Promote ICANN capacity development programs, opportunities, and publications	Promote the “ICANN for Beginners” program, the Pilot Policy Accelerator Program, and ICANN Learn platform, and encourage the community to utilize them	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased awareness on ICANN and its mission * Reach out to new audiences * Complement engagement efforts with the ICANN Learn platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * All stakeholder groups
2.2 Contribute to the improvement of	Partner with regional Supporting	Organize, or participate in, six	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Regional SO/AC members help raise	* All stakeholder groups

ICANN's multistakeholder model, and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels	Organization (SO)/Advisory Committee (AC) members and regional partners to organize events aiming at raising awareness on ICANN and its mission	events: whether in-person or virtual, to talk about ICANN and its mission		awareness on ICANN regionally * Reach out to new audiences	
	Reach out to new audiences, engage with newcomers, fellows, and nextgen alumnus, and maintain open and effective communication channels with them	Promote different ICANN diversity programs such as the Fellowship, NextGen, and ICANN Community Childcare Grants for meetings	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Reach out to new audiences	* All stakeholder groups
		Organize calls with ICANN fellows and nextgen participants after ICANN80, ICANN81, and ICANN82 to understand their interests in ICANN, and advise them accordingly	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Ease the integration of alumnus into the ICANN ecosystem	* ICANN fellows and NextGen alumnus
		Involve fellows to participate in some of our regional work and events, where	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Ease the integration of alumnus into the ICANN ecosystem	* ICANN fellows and NextGen alumnus

		relevant			
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Project - Organize the MEAC School on IG 2025 (MEAC-SIG 2025)

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
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 insights and experiences at regional and national levels	Identify a venue for the in-person component of the MEAC-SIG	1 July – 30 September 2024	* Reach out to new audiences * Increased awareness on ICANN, its mission, and its different diversity programs * Potential new faces joining the different ICANN working groups	* All stakeholder groups
	Seek a local host, partners, and sponsors	1 July – 30 September 2024		
	Develop an agenda for the SIG	1–31 October 2024		
	Issue a call for applications, and select successful applicants	1–30 November 2024		
	Execute the coursework of the SIG	January / February 2025		

Project - Develop and Execute an ICANN81 Outreach and Engagement Plan for the Middle East

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
2.1 Support and grow active and informed	Develop an Outreach and Engagement plan for the Republic of Türkiye	1–31 July 2024	* Reach out to new audiences within the	* Universities

<p>stakeholder participation from the region</p> <p>2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder model, and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels</p>	Conduct kick-off calls and private meetings with targeted stakeholders in the Republic of Türkiye	1 July 2024 – 31 October 2024	business community, IP community, civil society, and technical community	* Technoparks
	Plan in-person, virtual, and hybrid outreach events in the Republic of Türkiye	30 August – 9 November 2024	* Increased visibility and awareness of ICANN and its mission	* Businesses
	Extend invitations to regional community members to attend ICANN81	1 July 2024 – 31 August 2024	* Attract attendees to ICANN81	* Network operators
	Encourage community members to actively participate and present at relevant SO/AC sessions	1 July 2024 – 31 August 2024	* Strong regional participation and engagement	* Civil society
	Promote ICANN81 Prep week	October 2024		
	Organize an Internet Technical engagement event before ICANN81	November 2024		
	Organize a Middle East Space session at ICANN81	November 2024		

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	Conduct national/regional studies on IDNs	Finalize the IDN study in Egypt	1 July – 30 November 2024	* Publish the study results with a roadmap of more actions / activities to follow	* ccTLD and IDN ccTLD Registry * Registrars * Domain name registrants
3.2 Promote readiness for UA and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation	Engage in promoting the UA of domain names	Participate in or organize four events (in-person or virtual) on IDNs, UA, and EAI	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Increased awareness on ICANN, IDNs, UA, and EAI * Attract more community members to consider UA	* Registries * Registrars * Network operators * Software developers * System engineers and administrators
	Support the UA Day national and regional events	Promote the UA Day 2025 to a diverse audience, solicit interest in organizing proposals for six	1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025	* Organize six to eight national and one regional UA-Day events	* Registries * Registrars * At-Large structures

		national or regional events, support the confirmed events, and conduct any follow-ups.		* More systems UA-ready	* Universities * Government organizations * Hosting providers
3.4 Promote ICANN's role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems	Speak about the DNS at sessions organized by ICANN or others	Organize one-on-one calls or meetings with six regional contracted parties (registries and registrars) and listen to their needs	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Maintain open and effective communication channels with regional contracted parties	* gTLD registries * ICANN accredited registrars
	Disseminate publications authored by ICANN and ICANN's SOs/ACs on the DNS	Disseminate publications authored by ICANN's OCTO, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), and the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Promote DNS-related technical publications to interested stakeholders	* Regional community

Project - Engage on the Next Round of New TLDs

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
3.3 Raise awareness about the next round of new generic top-level	Organize or promote seminars and webinars on the next round of TLDs	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Increased awareness on the next round of TLDs	* All regional stakeholders

domains (gTLDs), and inform regional stakeholders of all aspects of the program	Identify entities that could be interested in the Applicant Support Program (ASP) and raise their awareness on the program	1 November 2024 – 30 June 2025	* New TLD applications coming in from the region through the ASP	* Nonprofit organizations * Nongovernmental organizations * Charitable organizations
	Share information with TLD registries on the Registry Service Program (RSP)	1 November 2024 – 1 May 2025	* Registry service providers from the region joining the RSP	* TLD Registries

Project - Organize the Middle East Domain Name System Forum 2025 (ME DNS Forum 2025)

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
3.4 Promote ICANN's role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems	Identify dates, a location, and host for the 2025 edition	1 July – 31 October 2024		
	Develop an agenda and identify speakers	1 December 2024 – 31 January 2025	* Increased awareness on ICANN and its mission	
	Work with the host and relevant community members to promote the event	1 January – 1 April 2025	* Update the regional community on ICANN's current work	* All Stakeholder Groups
	Organize the event	April 2025	* Reach out to new audiences	
	Wrap up the event through a survey	May 2025		

Project - Identify Regional Gaps in Arabic Domain Names Registration

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
<p>3.1 Support the use of IDNs in the region</p> <p>3.2 Promote UA readiness and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation</p>	Engage with several regional registrars, resellers, and hosting providers, and explore their interest in partnering on this project	1 July – 30 September 2024	<p>* Develop a roadmap for IDN registrants</p> <p>* Develop a roadmap for hosting providers when hosting an IDN</p>	<p>* Domain name registrars</p> <p>* Hosting providers</p>
	Register an Arabic domain name, and document gaps in the registration process, if any, from registrant’s perspective	1 September – 15 November 2024		
	Connect hosting services to the purchased Arabic domain name (web hosting, email hosting, SSL certificates...), and document gaps found, if any			
	Share results obtained with the ICANN IDN and UA Programs Team for documentation	15 November 2024		

Project - Universal Acceptance Engagement in Bahrain

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
3.1 Support the use of IDNs in the region 3.2 Promote UA readiness and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation	Work with the one to two universities that are interested in integrating UA content within their academic curriculum	1 July – 30 September 2024	* UA content integrated into academic curriculum	* Academic institutions
	Train academic faculty on UA	15 August – 31 December 2024	* Regional universities teach UA as part of their curriculum	* Academic faculty
	Assist and facilitate with UA integration into the academic curriculum	1 September – 30 June 2025		

Project - UA Engagement with Research and Education Networks (RENs)

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
3.1 Support the use of IDNs in the region 3.2 Promote UA readiness and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation	Identify two to three regional research and education networks who are interested in IDN and UA work	1 July – 31 September 2024	* More regional universities interested in UA work	* Research and Education Networks (REN)
	Organize educational sessions on UA to RENs and Universities	1 October – 30 November 2024	* Reach out to new audiences	* Academic Institutions
	Explore with universities	1 December 2024 – 31	* UA integrated in academic curriculum	

	that show interest in UA curriculum integration on how such integration can be achieved	January 2025		
	Train academic faculty on UA	1 February – 31 March 2025		
	Assist and facilitate with UA integration into the academic curriculum	1 April – 30 June 2025		

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 current and new regional regulations and legislation that could impact ICANN and its mission	Track regulations and legislation once every few months	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* ICANN is aware of regional regulations and legislations that could impact it	* Internal to ICANN org
4.2 Work with ICANN's SOs/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 around the Internet's Unique Identifiers	Organize or speak at two events about how the Internet's unique identifiers function technically, and the possible effect of regulations and legislations on the functioning of the Internet	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Increased awareness on ICANN, unique identifiers, and ICANN's technical role	* Technical experts * Government agencies * Legislators
		Organize two meetings with government representatives or legislators to discuss how the Internet technically functions	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	* Increased awareness on ICANN, unique identifiers, and ICANN's technical role	* Government agencies * Legislators

	<p>Raise awareness with respect to global processes in relation to Internet Governance such as the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and WSIS+20</p>	<p>Organize meetings with government representatives to raise awareness about the ongoing global processes at the United Nations (U.N.) level and their relevance to Internet Governance, including leveraging the global IGF taking place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025</p>	<p>* Increased awareness of ICANN's mission and its multistakeholder model</p>	<p>* Government agencies</p>
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Project - Develop ICANN's FY26 - FY31 Regional Plan for the Middle East

Goal(s)	Milestones	Timeframe	Targeted Outcomes	Target Audience
Develop ICANN's Regional Plan for the Middle East for fiscal years FY26–FY31	Explore the working modalities for the development of the FY26 - FY31 Regional Plan	1 August – 30 September 2024	* Define the working modalities of developing the FY26 - FY31 Regional Plan	* All stakeholder groups
	Develop the draft Regional Plan	1 October 2024 – 15 March 2025	* Draft a Regional Plan and publish it for community discussions and public comments	
	Publish the draft regional plan for public comments	16 March – 30 April 2025	* Receive feedback from the regional community, and incorporate into the final Regional Plan, where relevant	
	Incorporate comments received into the draft regional plan and come out with the final regional plan	1–15 May 2025	* Publish the FY26-FY31 Regional Plan	
	Develop the FY26 Action Plan	16 May – 30 June 2025		



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