

2021-2025 MEAC Strategy Working Group

Minutes of Meeting – Call 14 | Monday 10 February 2020

The 2021-2025 MEAC-SWG had their fourteenth teleconference call on Monday 10 February 2020 at 11.00 UTC.

On the call, we had *Rafik Dammak*, *Hadia Elminiawi*, *Chokri Ben Romdhane*, *Hanan Alkhatib*, and *Nabil Alkhamery*. And from ICANN staff, the call had *Seher Sagiroglu*, *Magali Jean*, and *Fahd Batayneh*.

The purpose of the call was to discuss the first cut of the MEAC Strategy draft document at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p0th20UrDvGv-S5rdPsZnhbocMDeXnLptNaThaXzwTw/edit>, and conclude discussions around it so that we meet the public comments target date of Monday 17 FEB 2020.

The chair handed over the floor to *Fahd Batayneh* from ICANN Staff. Fahd welcomed attendees to the call, noted the apologize by Baher E due to other commitments, and welcomed the latest addition to ICANN's GSE Team; *Seher Sagiroglu*.

Fahd went through the draft strategy report.

The first section entitled “**Executive Summary**” summarized the strategy outcomes. It includes the four focus areas agreed upon by the SWG, in addition to the methodology for executing the strategy outcomes. There were no comments by those on the call.

Fahd then moved on to the second section entitled “**Introduction**”. This section has three sub-sections under it; 1) Background and Terms of Reference, 2) Geographic Scope, and 3) Alignment with ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Fahd explained what each sub-section included. There were no comments by those on the call.

The third section entitled “**Strategic Focus Areas**” had a good amount of discussions, and consumed a large portion of the call. Hadia M asked about “Technical Experts Regional Network” on whether it is one network or a group of networks. Fahd B responded that this would be clearer down the road, and suggested to list it as “network(s)”. Chokri BR added text around measuring the engagement of regional community members in ICANN's PDP to which Fahd B explained that ICANN GSE Middle East issues an annual report that summarizes the outcomes of the regional strategy; more specifically evaluating the annual implementation plan. In addition, ICANN GSE Middle East releases an annual survey around its engagement in the region. The findings of this survey are carried on to be executed during the next months. Hadia M suggested text on promoting ICANN's role in the unique identifier system to which Fahd B explained that the purpose of the GSE team is to outreach and raise awareness on ICANN and its role in maintaining the SSR of the unique identifier system. Finally, there were discussions on the point on finances at the end of section 3. The Chair had suggested text for the SWG to approve.

The Chair was fine with accepting the suggested text by the different SWG members.

As next steps, the draft strategy document will be shared internally for the different departments to ensure that it is ready for publication (e.g. Comms, Web Team, Policy Team). The document is expected to go out for public comments on Monday 17 FEB 2020, and for 42 days. There is a Communications plan around it in the form of a Blog post, social media posts during the public comments window, a session at ICANN67 in Cancun, and pushing the message widely across the region and with those interested to seek input on the findings of the draft strategy. It was requested that the SWG members push the message out

to relevant stakeholders within their communities and relevant circles so that input received can complement the draft strategy document.

Those on the call agreed not to have a call next week, and to continue to work over the mailing list. It was also suggested that even after the draft strategy document is published for public comments, the SWG can continue to debate and add content to the draft strategy document hoping that such input would strengthen the strategy outcomes.

The call was adjourned.

Follow-Up Items

1. ICANN Staff to prepare the strategy document to be published for public comments