# 2021-2025 MEAC Strategy Working Group
Minutes of Meeting – Call 20 | Monday 12 April 2021

The 2021-2025 MEAC-SWG had their twentieth (20) teleconference call on Monday 12 April 2021 at 10.00 UTC.

On the call, we had *Rafik Dammak* and *Hadia* Elminiawi. And from ICANN staff, the call had *Baher Esmat* and *Fahd Batayneh*.

The agenda for the call covered two items:

1. FY21 Action Plan Q3 review and assessment; and
2. Way forward and the FY22 Action Plan.

## FY21 Action Plan Q3 Review and Assessment

Fahd B shared his screen by displaying the latest excel sheet showing the progress of the FY21 Action Plan until 31 March 2021.

Under **FA1 on Security**, a hands-on DNSSEC workshop was organized for .MA in late March. Lined up is another hands-on workshop for .TR in April/May, and another one for .AE in June. The .TR workshop intends to utilize one trained-trainer from Turkey. It was emphasized that since ICANN org currently has a cloud-based DNS/DNSSEC lab, organizing such hands-on workshops is possible. DNSSEC was also covered in a number of webinars; both national and regional. A DNS Abuse workshop was organized for .MA in early April, but is not reported in the excel sheet. On DAAR, the ME DNS Forum of early April had a presentation on DAAR, not to mention the promotion we have done for the same. Not much progress on national DNSSEC task forces despite the continuous efforts. As for IMRS instances, we are currently working with some potential hosts.

Under **FA2 on ICANN's Governance**, support is being offered and provided to the Middle East Space. ICANN69 MEA Online readout session was organized, and we are working on an ICANN70 MEA Online readout session. We have so far not organized anything with ICANN's Business Constituency, and will try to explore ways to organize something before end of FY21. We are still exploring with ALSs to organize activities, but not much interest seen so far. Organizing roundtables with GAC members is seen as challenging in a virtual setup, but we will continue to think on how to implement this; if possible. ICANN Learn is a platform we continue to disseminate in our regional engagement. Work is underway to organize a virtual format of the MEAC School on IG with other partners. Engagement with academia remains alive despite the pandemic with most of our engagement being in Turkey, and one engagement in Tunisia with CCK (remotely). Finally, we have organized a number of technical workshops in countries we would usually be unable to travel to under normal circumstances, and this includes Yemen, Afghanistan, and Palestine.

Under FA3 on the **Unique Identifier Systems**, work on IDNs in the context of the Arabic script remains limited to any updates to the Arabic script LGR table. Updating the regional community on our work on SubPro is a priority, and the next edition of the Middle East Space is dedicated to discussing some of the findings in the SubPro final draft report. The 7th edition of the Middle East DNS Forum was organized virtually in early April, and will be reported in the next iteration. Organizing UA related workshops on EAI

and UA for Software Developers is challenging in a virtual format not just due to the virtual setup itself, but also due to the nature of the target audience (email administrators and software developers). We continue to support national UA initiatives despite the low interest shown so far. Recruiting new UA ambassadors from the region remains a goal for us. We continue to present on UA in our engagement activities with the ME DNS Forum 2021v featuring an entire panel discussion on UA. We continue to support the TF-AIDN and DNS-EC. Finally, we are reviewing the MEAC DNS Study, but are yet exploring how to report on the updated findings.

Under FA4 on **Geopolitics**, our main goal in these unprecedented times is to monitor legislations that could touch upon ICANN's remit. Organizing seminars and webinars remains an option if we are able to tap on the right audience.

## FY22 Action Plan and Way Forward

Fahd B shared that staff intend to start work on the FY22 Action Plan in late April or early May. They target to have the first draft ready by early June to be discussed with the SWG. The execution of the FY22 plan is effective from 1 July 2021.

The call was adjourned.