2021-2025 MEAC Strategy Working Group

Minutes of Meeting – Call 20 | Monday 28 June 2021

The 2021-2025 MEAC-SWG had their twenty first (21) teleconference call on Monday 28 June 2021 at 10.00 UTC.

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

The agenda for the call was fully dedicated to discussing the draft FY22 Action Plan.

Rafik D welcomed attendees to the call. He then handed the floor back to ICANN to go through the draft FY22 Action Plan. Fahd B was the one who shared the findings of the plan.

As the Middle East Regional Plan covers 4 focus areas from ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, the draft FY22 Action Plan included the same 4 focus areas, i.e., Security, ICANN's Governance, Unique Identifiers, and Geopolitics.

Under **FA1 on Security**, activities during FY22 would include technical webinars and capacity development workshops, promoting technical platforms and initiatives such as DAAR, DNSSEC validation, and KINDNS, and promoting IMRS instances. Fahd B iterated that most of the workshops and webinars identified to be organized during FY22 were drawn from the technical needs' assessment exercise conducted in November/December 2020.
Hadia E asked about the possibility of utilizing ICANN's cloud-based DNS platform for trainings organized by others. Fahd B mentioned that while an earlier response was in favor of not opening the platform for others to organize workshops on due to it being in its early stages, Fahd B will check internally again to see if things have changed.
Hadia E asked about KINDNS to which Fahd B responded that it is still an early initiative, and that ICANN70 had a session to update the community on it. KINDNS has an email list, and interested folks are welcome to subscribe to it and get involved in the discussions.

Under **FA2 on ICANN's Governance**, activities identified to be organized during FY22 include flagging relevant working groups and PDPs to the regional community, organizing the Middle East Space and ICANN meetings readout sessions, organize engagement activities with ICANN community members, share information about programs such as newcomers program, fellowship, and NextGen, continue to promote ICANN Learn and utilize it in our different engagements, organize the next edition of MEAC-SIG, participate in regional and national IGFs, organize engagement activities targeting new audience from different stakeholder groups, and target engagements in countries we would usually not be able to travel to under normal circumstances.
Hadia E suggested to work on evolving the Middle East Space. She suggested monthly gatherings for the regional community to come together and discuss a topic of interest. Rafik D cautioned that with the community availability and workload, some preliminary work must be done in the form of identifying regional community members who would be committed to the work of the Space. Fahd B suggested to Hadia E that she speak with the Middle East Space co-chairs and share her ideas with them.

Under **FA3 on Unique Identifier Systems**, activities revolve around work on IDNs and variants, next round of new gTLDs, organize the next edition of the ME DNS Forum, share publications authored by ICANN's Office of the CTO, SSAC, and ICANN's Government Engagement Team, organize workshops on universal acceptance, target more new national UA initiatives and new UA ambassadors, and execute the MoU signed between ICANN and AICTO.
Hadia E suggested adding an activity dedicated to new gTLD Applicant Support.

Under **FA4 on Geopolitics**, the activities revolve around keeping an eye to new data privacy and protection legislations that come out and see if they touch upon ICANN's remit. Also, work with ICANN community members on seeking engagement opportunities to provide factual data on ICANN's role.

Baher E mentioned that in addition to finalizing the FY22 Action Plan, the GSE Middle East team is also working on a review and assessment for the FY21 Action Plan. He suggested to expect something in July in time for the next quad-annual MEAC-SWG call.

The call was adjourned.