

# 2021-2025 MEAC Strategy Working Group

Minutes of Meeting – Call 5 | Monday 2 December 2019

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The 2021-2025 MEAC-SWG had their fifth teleconference call on Monday 2 December at 11.00 UTC.

On the call, we had *Rafik Dammak, Hadia Elminiawi, Baha Toman, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Hanan Alkhatib, Waddah Almoghalis, and Zakir Ben Rehman*. And from ICANN staff, the call had *Baher Esmat, Magali Jean, and Fahd Batayneh*.

The agenda for the call was mainly to cover the excel sheet that lists the trends, threats, opportunities, and current programs/initiatives. The sheet can be found here >> [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13\\_7jw2oKM2E\\_c8urg\\_KJjA271X7pI3StpB8E\\_WJFZQ/edit#gid=1605089188](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13_7jw2oKM2E_c8urg_KJjA271X7pI3StpB8E_WJFZQ/edit#gid=1605089188).

## Focus Areas for the New Strategy

The Chair went over the input shared in the excel sheet at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13\\_7jw2oKM2E\\_c8urg\\_KJjA271X7pI3StpB8E\\_WJFZQ/edit#gid=1104874273](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13_7jw2oKM2E_c8urg_KJjA271X7pI3StpB8E_WJFZQ/edit#gid=1104874273).

In the previous call, the Chair went through FA1 and FA2, and so the call focused on the remaining 3 focus areas. An addition made to the sheet was input from ICANN staff on what was achieved in the current running strategy with regards to each focus area. This was upon request from the SWG.

### Focus Area 3 – Unique Identifier System

ICANN is producing a good number of papers on technologies and protocols that have a DNS element to them. Such content is pushed to the masses. There was a suggestion to develop such papers and studies, but with a regional focus.

### Focus Area 4 – Geopolitics

With the intense push to devise data protection and privacy laws, there is a need to keep an eye to such legislations and explore how they touch upon the DNS. In the region, keeping an eye to different legislations that effect the DNS is required. Other legislations that effect the DNS will be monitored, too.

There was a discussion about engagement with governments; in particular GAC representatives, hoping they can share knowledge with other governmental agencies at the local level. Baher E indicated that when it comes to geopolitics, ICANN engagement is not limited to GAC representative or even governments, but goes beyond that to include relevant players.

### Focus Area 5 – Finances

ICANN is going on a budget cut spree, and so the strategy must consider ways in which we engage with the community keeping in mind the less funds available to do so. This includes utilizing online

tools to deliver remote engagement activities, utilizing ICANN Learn, encouraging local events that talk about the DNS, amongst others.

There was a discussion about conducting a proper impact assessment of the previous activities, decide on whether to continue them or not, and propose new ones accordingly. There was also a question about adding KPI/Metrics for recommendations/activities, and if it was done in previous strategies

Hadia M suggested expanding further on each item input by ICANN staff on work undertaken by ICANN. Fahd B from ICANN staff responded that the current running strategy is evaluated every 3 months, and at the end of each fiscal year. This is detailed in an excel sheet, and is posted on the working space regularly and online at <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=59642230>.

There was a question on timeline to which Fahd responded that we expect to have a draft strategy document by mid-February 2020. The draft document will be shared for public comments on ICANN's website for 42 days. ICANN67 in Cancun will be an opportunity to hold a session on the strategy, and if no session is held, we will utilize the opportunity to talk to stakeholders there 1-on-1 and seek their feedback on the document. Once feedback is received, we will incorporate relevant input, and finalize the document sometime in April. ICANN staff will then work with the SWG on developing the year 1 implementation plan.

Hadia M asked about how to incorporate a future New gTLD program specifics into the strategy, and where. Baher E responded that focus area 3 on the Unique Identifiers Systems is the best fit, and that the annual implementation plan will include activities that could fall under the new program.

Hadia M asked if we can keep the online Google Excel sheet open for further input. The Chair found no issues in that. SWG members are expected to add their input.

As the target date for the draft strategy is approaching, the chair suggested to work with the vice-chair on developing the first draft template and start jotting down text. This is based on the strategy document template used previously, in addition to using the document as straw person to elicit comments from the SWG.

Baher E suggested that the SWG look into doing things differently. For example, do we need an annual ME DNS Forum, or can we push for more local events around the DNS.

### **Any Other Business (AoB)**

The next call for the SWG will be on Monday 9 December at 11.00 – 12.00 UTC.

The call was adjourned.

### **Follow-Up Items**

1. Chair and Vice-Chair to work on a template document and start jotting down text