

# 2021-2025 MEAC Strategy Working Group

Minutes of Meeting – Call 6 | Monday 9 December 2019

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The 2021-2025 MEAC-SWG had their sixth teleconference call on Monday 9 December at 11.00 UTC.

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

The agenda for the call was to discuss the 5 focus areas of the ICANN 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, and map it against the needs and demands of the Middle East; i.e. what is relevant to the region, what are regional implications, and what are some specificities to the region to consider?

## Focus Areas for the New Strategy

The Chair welcomed attendees on the call, and started with the slides. He noted that while each slide shows what is listed in terms of goals as per ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic, items listed in **red** are those we feel are relevant to our region. Baher E took a step further and suggested that in addition to identifying goals that we feel are relevant to our region as per ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, the SWG can also define new goals that they feel are relevant to the region, and that should be addressed by the strategy. The idea here is to mix both existing goals and newly defined goals relevant to the region.

Of the 4 goals listed under the first focus area on **Security**, we felt that 2 goals were relevant; 1) Improve the shared responsibility for upholding the security and stability of the DNS by strengthening DNS coordination in partnership with relevant stakeholders; and 2) Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through greater engagement with relevant stakeholders.

For the focus area on **ICANN's Governance**; we felt that one goal was relevant; i.e. Support and grow active, informed and effective stakeholder participation.

For the focus area on the **Unique Identifier System**, 3 goals were identified to be of relevance; 1) Increasing awareness of, and encouraging readiness for Universal Acceptance, IDN implementation, and IPv6, 2) Improve awareness of new technologies which impact the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems by greater engagement with relevant parties, and 3) Support the continued evolution of the Internet's unique identifier systems with a new round of gTLDs. Baher E mentioned that one of the feedback comments we received on the 2012 round of New gTLDs is that ICANN did not do a good job in raising awareness about the program in some parts of the world, and so the SWG must keep this in mind when expanding on this goal as activities, or even maybe develop a new goal around it. The Chair suggested that when expanding on this goal to try and benefit from the experiences of gTLD applicants from across the region.

For the focus area on **Geopolitics**, 1 goal was identified; i.e. Continue to build alliances in the Internet ecosystem and beyond to raise awareness of and engage with global stakeholders about ICANN's mission and policy making. In a previous call, we had a discussion around engaging with wider government representatives beyond current GAC members/observers, and create alliances where beneficial. Baher E elaborated that ICANN has been tracking legislations at the global level that might affect the DNS and

ICANN's operations, and this is also the case for the Middle East. It was suggested for the SWG to consider including this as a goal/activity.

And for the final focus area on **Financials**, while we felt that none were of relevance to the region, it is of extreme importance to ICANN Org in their financial planning. Also, we felt that it will cross-cut with all of the above 4 focus areas and the activities we undertake under each. Hadia M suggested that the community must have a way to express its needs from ICANN while they plan finances year-over-year, and so this should be clearly stated in the strategy document.

To get a sense of how the current strategy document was developed, the Chair asked ICANN to share the current strategy document with the SWG via email. He also suggested sharing the slides with the SWG over the mailing list, and to copy its content to an online Google Docs and share with the SWG for the members to list down their input.

The Chair also brought up the fact that since the holidays season is around the corner, we need to move fast. We may have 2 calls before the holidays, but most of the work will be done over the mailing list. Some members on the call expressed their will to share their input on the document and over the mailing list.

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

The next call for the SWG will be on Monday 16 December at 11.00 – 12.00 UTC.

The call was adjourned.

### **Follow-Up Items**

1. Share the current running strategy document with the SWG
2. Share the slides with the SWG
3. Develop an online document on Google listing the 5 focus areas and the questions around them (as shown in the slides), and share with the SWG for their input