

## 2021-2025 MEAC Strategy Working Group

Minutes of Meeting – Call 8 | Monday 23 December 2019

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The 2021-2025 MEAC-SWG had their eighth teleconference call on Monday 23 December at 11.00 UTC.

On the call, we had *Rafik Dammak, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Hanan Alkhatib, and Zakir Ben Rehman*. And from ICANN staff, the call had *Baher Esmat and Fahd Batayneh*.

The agenda for the call was to discuss the input shared on the online Google Docs >> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GG-ZSymhp3sM8EmHQ37FxB9ybnID8DEfYRxedzdnn4/edit>.

The objective was to refine the input shared in the document so far, and try to finalize it into a set of GOALS that are relevant for the region. As the document had a good amount of action items, this was flagged, and suggested to be revisited when we start developing annual implementation plans

The Chair welcomed attendees to the call, and started with the Google Docs. He went through the input that was shared, and started refining it as discussions were held.

There were plenty of discussions around the first strategic focus area on **SECURITY**. Regional goals revolved around capacity development, DNSSEC, Abuse/Misuse, DNS Attacks, and train-the-trainer.

On the second focus area on **ICANN'S GOVERNANCE**, there were discussions around evolving the multistakeholder model at ICANN. Fahd B emphasized that the work undertaken at ICANN is specific to ICANN's multistakeholder model, and that this track came about at ICANN due to the increasing workload, burnout of current active ICANN community members, and the need to not only bring new blood into these processes, but also to look into ways to get the work done more efficiently, if any. Chokri BR suggested to promote ICANN's multistakeholder model in countries that do not embrace it. Baher E made it clear that this track is specific to ICANN's PDP work, and our objective is not to lobby for ICANN's multistakeholder model regionally.

On the third focus area on the **UNIQUE IDENTIFIER SYSTEM**, most of the discussions revolved around future rounds of New gTLDs. ICANN Staff made it clear that our objective here is not to increase the number of new gTLDs, but rather to raise awareness about the program during the application round and once these new gTLDs are being rolled out. Zakr BR brought up the Middle East DNS Study. Baher E shared that when the study was rolled out, one key conclusion that came out was that the domain name industry does not stand alone, but is rather part of a larger ecosystem, and so if we are to push towards a better utilized domain name ecosystem regionally, issues such as local content, infrastructure, IXPs, and others are to be tackled as well.

On the fourth focus area on **Geopolitics**, there was a suggestion in the document to raise the number of GAC members, and pave the way for non-member countries to join the GAC. Baher E suggested that of the 26 countries of the region, we have 22 GAC members, and the SWG may want to look into ways to have them more engaged in our work at ICANN. There was also a discussion around inviting IGOs to sit on the GAC as observers. ICANN Staff also made it clear that one important aspect of this focus area on geopolitics is to track legislations that may affect ICANNs mandate and the DNS.

The fifth focus area on **FINANCES** did not have any regional GOALS against it, and so no discussions revolved around it.

The Chair suggested to continue to receive input in the document until Friday 27 December after which we will wrap up this exercise and move on to suggest INITIATIVES under each REGIONAL GOAL.

Fahd B from ICANN Staff shared the following timelines:

- Agree on and finalize **GOALS** by [6 JAN 2020](#)
- Agree on and finalize **ACTION ITEMS** by [27 JAN 2020](#)
- Finalize draft strategy document by [9 FEB 2020](#) and discuss on the 10 FEB 2020 call
- Issue draft strategy document for public comments on [Monday 17 FEB 2020](#), and leave for 42 days until Friday 27 MAR 2020

The SWG call of Monday 30 December 2019 will be cancelled due to the holidays. The next call for the SWG will be on Monday 6 January at 11.00 – 12.00 UTC.

The call was adjourned.

### Follow-Up Items

1. Share a suggested timeline with the SWG over the mailing list
2. Continue to edit the Google document until Friday 27 DEC 2019