New Strategy for the Middle East

Global Stakeholder Engagement, Middle East
ICANN

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Call 1
Tuesday 15 October 2019

ICANN

Agenda

- Welcome

- The Notion of Regional Engagement Strategies and Where We are Today

- ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

- Aligning the Regional Strategy with ICANN's Strategic Plan

- Work Timeline

- Work Modalities

- AOB

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Regional Strategies and History

- ⊙ Objective is two fold:
    1. Better understand regional needs in the context of ICANN's remit and identify priorities / goals accordingly
    2. Two-way engagement between all stakeholder groups and ICANN
- ⊙ Developed in alignment with ICANN's current (at the time) Strategic Plan, and within the boundaries of ICANN's remit
- ⊙ Started with Africa in 2012
- ⊙ First regional strategy for the Middle East in 2013
- ⊙ Other regions develop their strategies too

The Middle East and Regional Strategies

- First regional strategy spanned over 3 years (2013 – 2016)
  - Consisted of members only
  - A 3-year strategy implemented over 3 annual implementation plans
  - Every implementation plan was reviewed and assessed at the end of that fiscal year
  - More at https://go.icann.org/1I7JfeD

- Second regional strategy spanning for 4 years (2016-2020)
  - Consisted of members and observers
  - Initially a 3-year strategy implemented over 3 annual implementation plans. It was then extended for a further fourth year so that the new strategy goes in line with ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan
  - Every implementation plan was reviewed and assessed at the end of that fiscal year
  - More at https://go.icann.org/28K0F0Z

- New regional strategy (2020 - ?)

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2021-2025 Strategic Plan Focus Areas

1. Focus Area 1: Security

2. Focus Area 2: ICANN's Governance

3. Focus Area 3: Unique Identifiers System

4. Focus Area 4: Geopolitics

5. Focus Area 5: Financials

ICANN Strategic Objectives for FY21-25

The following five strategic objectives* are identified for the fiscal years 2021-2025 to enable it to continue to fulfill its mission and achieve its new vision:

- **On Security: Strengthen the security of the Domain Name System and the DNS Root Server System.**

- **On ICANN's Governance: Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance.**

- **On Unique Identifier Systems: Evolve the unique identifier systems in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties to continue to serve the needs of the global Internet user base.**

- **On Geopolitics: Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single and globally interoperable Internet.**

- **On Financials: Ensure ICANN's long-term financial sustainability.**

Strategic Focus Area 1: Security

"The exponential growth in security issues is challenging the stability of the domain name system and the root server system, as well as ICANN's ability to finance increasing investments required to ensure continued stability."

Key Trend Themes

- Increasing **cybersecurity risks** (massive DDoS attacks, IoT vulnerabilities, DNS security).
- Increasing threats to **root server** system, and challenges to root service reliability, resilience and interoperability.
- Continuing concerns about **DNS abuse**.

Regional Trends

- *What are some regional perspectives on these trends?*
- *Are there other regional trends to take in consideration?*

Strategic Focus Area 2: ICANN's Governance

"ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance, which grew to fit ICANN's needs, has the potential of becoming less effective and more expensive as it matures and scales up to respond to increasing needs of our community."

Key Trend Themes

- **Efficiency** and **effectiveness** of ICANN's multistakeholder model continue to be questioned.
- Continued necessity of fulfilling **transparency** and **accountability**, **inclusiveness** and **openness** obligations.
- Increasing pressure to work effectively and to make **timely** and **efficient** use of ICANN resources.

Regional Trends

- *What are some regional perspectives on these trends?*
- *Are there other regional trends to take in consideration?*

Strategic Focus Area 3: Unique Identifiers System

"The rapid evolution of new technologies requires ICANN to be responsive to these changes and ensure that the unique identifiers system evolves and continues to serve the global Internet user base."

Key Trend Themes

- **Alternate roots, alternative infrastructures** increasingly threatening the global interoperability of the Internet.
- **External technology advancement** (such as blockchain, IoT, rise of artificial intelligence etc.) creating both threats and opportunities.

Regional Trends

- *What are some regional perspectives on these trends?*
- *Are there other regional trends to take in consideration?*

Strategic Focus Area 4: Geopolitics

"The increasing importance of the Internet across all sectors increases the possibility of governments intervening to gain control over the DNS through legislation and regulation. At the same time there is an increasing risk of Internet fragmentation as a result of geopolitical, technical, and organizational pressures."

Key Trend Themes

- More **legislation and regulation** which **risk impacting the Internet's unique identifier systems** and ICANN's mission.
- **Increasing global reliance on the Internet.**
- **Increasing geopolitical risks of Internet fragmentation.**

Regional Trends

- *What are some regional perspectives on these trends?*
- *Are there other regional trends to take in consideration?*

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Strategic Focus Area 5: Financials

"Consolidation in the marketplace, continued uncertainty surrounding the expansion of the gTLD name space, and other factors are putting pressures on ICANN's ability to support the growing needs and demands of its global community."

Key Trend Themes

- **Funding is stabilizing** for the foreseeable future.
- **Continued** growing **demands and costs** (demands for support from stakeholders, demands for investments to address security and technology requirements, costs of global engagement, costs of transparency and accountability, etc.).
- **Financial responsiveness to changing industry** economics

Regional Trends

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Strategic focus area: Security

ICANN Strategic Objective:
Strengthen the security of the Domain Name System and the DNS Root Server System.

ICANN FY21-25 Strategic Goals*

- Improve the shared responsibility for upholding the security and stability of the DNS by strengthening DNS coordination in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

- Strengthen DNS root server operations governance in coordination with the DNS root server operators.

- Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through greater engagement with relevant hardware, software, and service vendors.

- Increase the robustness of the DNS root zone key signing and distribution services and processes.

Questions

- *What is relevant to this region?*
- *What are regional implications?*
- *What are some specificities to the region to take in consideration?*

Strategic focus area: ICANN's Governance

ICANN Strategic Objective:
Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance.

ICANN FY21-25 Strategic Goals*

- Strengthen ICANN's bottom-up multistakeholder decision-making process and ensure that work gets done and policies are developed in an effective and timely manner.
- Support and grow active, informed, and effective stakeholder participation.
- Sustain and improve openness, inclusivity, accountability, and transparency.

Questions

- *What is relevant to this region?*
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- *What are some specificities to the region to take in consideration?*

Strategic focus area: Unique Identifiers System

ICANN Strategic Objective:

Evolve the unique identifier systems in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties to continue to serve the needs of the global Internet user base.

ICANN FY21-25 Strategic Goals*

- Foster competition, consumer choice, and innovation in the Internet space by increasing awareness of, and encouraging readiness for Universal Acceptance, IDN implementation, and IPv6.

- Improve assessment of, and responsiveness to, new technologies which impact the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems by greater engagement with relevant parties.

- Continue to deliver and enhance the IANA functions with operational excellence.

- Support the continued evolution of the Internet's unique identifier systems with a new round of gTLDs that is responsibly funded, managed, risk-evaluated, and consistent with ICANN processes.

Questions

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Strategic focus area: Geopolitics

ICANN Strategic Objective:
Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single, globally interoperable Internet.

ICANN FY21-25 Strategic Goals*

- Identify and address global challenges and opportunities within its remit by further developing early warning systems, such as ICANN org's Legislative and Regulatory Development Reports.
- 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.

Questions

- *What is relevant to this region?*
- *What are regional implications?*
- *What are some specificities to the region to take in consideration?*

Strategic focus area: Financials

ICANN Strategic Objective:
Ensure ICANN's long-term financial sustainability.

ICANN FY21-25 Strategic Goals*

- Implement a five-year Financial Plan that supports the five-year Operating Plan.

- Develop reliable and predictable funding projections.

- Manage operations and their costs to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of ICANN's activities.

- Ensure that the level of ICANN reserves is continuously set, reached, and maintained consistent with the complexity and risks of the ICANN environment.

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Suggested Timeline

- ⊙ **Oct 2019** - Brainstorming and deliberations amongst new SWG members, and discussions with the wider community over mailing lists and webinar(s)

- ⊙ **Nov 2019 – Jan 2020** - SWG to draft new engagement strategy

- ⊙ **Feb 2020** - Draft engagement strategy issued for public comments, and hold a region-wide webinar to seek input/feedback

- ⊙ **Mar –Apr 2020** - SWG to finalize new engagement strategy

- ⊙ **May 2020** - Final strategy document issued, and work begins on developing the Year 1 implementation plan

- ⊙ **May-Jun 2020** - Final Year 1 implementation plan issued

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Communication Means

- ⊙ Mailing list limited to members of the SWG to post

    - ○ Mailing list archive open for the public to view and read

    - ○ Mailing list ID icann-meswg-2020@googlegroups.com

- ⊙ Public working space at https://go.icann.org/2OOgzQL

    - ○ Call recordings and outcome documents will be posted here

    - ○ List of members and their respective EoIs listed here

- ⊙ Calls on regular basis

    - ○ Call frequency more intense during the early stages of developing the strategy

Chair and Vice Chair Selection

Group must agree on the Chair and Vice Chair(s) of the group

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Term of The Strategy

Group must agree on the term of the new strategy

Thank You and Questions

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