

## UA Ambassador WG

08 August 2022

### Attendees:

Abdalmonem Galila  
Abdulkarim Oloyede  
Cengiz Acartürk  
Harish Chowdhary  
Marvin Woo  
Sushanta Sinha  
Mark Elkins  
Seda Akbulut

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Current progress, challenges for ambassadors, how to overcome this challenges and how could UASG helps on that (5+ Min / Ambassador)
3. Plan the future activities.
  - \* Meeting frequencies ( Monthly or Bi-Weekly )
  - \* Trainings, Sessions ... etc
  - \* UA Day
4. Inputs from the UA Ambassadors for FY22 UA Readiness Report
5. Inputs for driving local change for UA adoption globally
6. AOB

### Meeting Recording:

<https://icann.zoom.us/rec/play/5emRhuF3pvuazZJUkPPQ5iJhnfkDL1jwOUFD5TxNuC2E7sycU6DEEgQHAKBwFb2RksTMO19accQhX6lq.mUZtRXIU9s9C8uTv?continueMode=true>

Passcode: ^EVrqE8xEQ

### Meeting Notes

Seda started the meeting by welcoming participants and giving an overview of agenda items.

Abdalmonem started the meeting by saying that now that we are in the phase of recovery from Covid-19 we should have more face to face sessions and also conduct training sessions in different regions of the world. Then he introduced himself to the attendees. He mentioned what he has done in 2022. Recently spoke at the Africa IGF UA session. And then shed some light on the agenda points.

Abdalmonem shared an example from his region that is Egypt, because of the Covid-19 face to face sessions were not held. He also shared that he had implemented an EAI environment and used it for training sessions. Attendees will learn how to implement it on the EAI email server. Abdalmonem also shared his plans regarding a graduate program for computer science students. He mentioned that he is involved in AFRALO activities in which he worked with Abdulkarim.

Abdalmonem asked from the attendees about their progress and challenges and how can they help the model of UA. Abdalmonem invited Cengiz from Istanbul, Turkey to share his views and progress.

Cengiz thanked Abdalmonem and introduced himself. Cengiz shared that in 2020 during the pandemic they established a group of five people from different institutions. And shared that they started to make technical implementations, especially in email servers. He said that they started to test if one of the Microsoft exchange servers on one of the governmental institutions is able to talk to an email server at the university run by Linux operating system, and it worked well. He said that they made few updates and their updates were successful. But unfortunately 3 to 5 members of this group left the country including himself in 2021. So because of that, the major challenge is that they are not able to continue their work. He said that it is still not quite possible to have face to face interactions and people are really tired of online made things.

Cengiz shared that they tried to organize some online events but there was no interest from the bodies in Turkey. He shared that there are some technical reasons for that. He said that Turkey uses Latin language and it is only a few letters, different from English alphabets. And it seems that people are quite fast in adapting things using English instead of Turkish originals. He shared that people usually perceive that it is not a very important challenge, especially in emails but we realized that

actually the targets in case of Turkey should be localization in software tools, not emails or web pages because people are not interested in domain names. He shared that in software interfaces it may be important because there is transection of financial data.

Cengiz shared that they have identified the target but have not tackled it so far due to logistics of getting separated from each other. He shared that he attended IGF in 2021 because it was in Poland. He shared his observation that people do not easily adapt to these concepts and as a researcher he thought that this issues can be further discussed. He shared that to understand people's perception he developed a methodology, which is called technology acceptance models and he is able to focus on this technology acceptance challenges in a systematic way.

Cengiz shared that the Turkish team is not active anymore so he suggested Seda and Sarmad to find active members in Turkey who can take part as UA Ambassadors And he showed his desire to support the topic. And thanked ICANN for organizing these meetings. He mentioned he is honoured to be a part of the UASG group.

Abdalmonem thanked Cengiz and said that he will be part of this project. And Cengiz shared that he would love to support this initiative. Abdalmonem expressed his desire for conducting face to face meetings and training sessions. Abdalmonem also appreciated and agreed with the point of localization explained by Cengiz. And explained the importance of local language in order to increase sales from sites like Amazon. Cengiz is still in connection with ODTU (Middle East Technical University in Ankara- Turkey) to include UA in their curriculum.

Cengiz shared that now their target is the academic community to add UA concepts in the lectures or arrange a seminar and hopefully it will be a step forward. Abdalmonem agreed and said that we can also go for another method. He said that if they can have an EAI email server and offer some email for the public in Turkish language that might help the cause. Cengiz shared that they have tested it but people do not want to use it and explained the reason. Abdalmonem added that we have to take steps so that this large number of people who do not speak English can have online presence.

Seda thanked Cengiz for all the efforts. Abdalmonem mentioned that they will have a statement that will be propagated by ICANN about UA roadmap for the registry and registrar system and will have a draft for the Middle East.

Abdalmonem invited Harish to speak. Harish shared that he has conducted several workshops on UA awareness along with the technical one with India UA local initiative UA chapter and for the senior government officers of Government of India. He said that during his workshops he explained what UA is, why it is important for India and its citizens. He said that the Government of India implemented some of the features in which Devanagari script is available. He said that it is a big achievement for the India and UA community.

Harish shared that the Ministry of Electronics and IT and its Government of India website has Hindi URL and Hindi domain names and after that the National Informatics Center (NIC) of Government of India is taking the lead in making all the government domain names to be in at least one of the local languages. Harish shared that he has jotted down all these current progresses in the report and sent the report to Mr. Sarmad Hussain for the FY22 UA Readiness Report.

Harish shared that when we joined as the UA Ambassador there was some travel support, and that there was a document which stated that support was \$10,000/year will be provided. He shared that he has been an ambassador for more than 4 years now and has never been able to use travel support except for one time. He requested and said that there should be a mechanism so that they can use the funds.

Harish shared that apart from travel funds there should have some materials like stationary, publicity material having UA logo. He shared that this material could help during the workshops conducted for awareness regarding UA. Harish shared his future plans and said that as a researcher he is in contact with multiple universities. He mentioned that he is going to plan six workshops starting from the month of August till December 2022. He said that he will share the plan with Seda and Abdalmonem.

Harish shared that for these workshops he needs support from ICANN. He also shared that there was a conference organized by China which asked to submit a paper on UA and considered it a good step. Harish shared that he has initiated a post graduate diploma in internet governance in his university. He said that he has dedicated a whole unit for multilingual internet and UA and students will be able to learn these both things as part of their curriculum.

Seda talked about the notes about FY22 activities that Harish shared with Sarmad. She said that Sarmad has shared the final draft of the consolidated report. She told Harish that he will have to go through the report to see if anything is missing or if it's reflected in different ways because the perspectives might vary from person to person. She told Harish that they need his final approval in order to move forward with publicizing the report and for that he will have to respond back to Sarmad.

Seda mentioned that she has noted down the challenges that Harish has mentioned. She shared that they will get in touch with their travel support team and will see how they can tackle this issue. Harish shared that UA Ambassadors are working on ground with very limited support and requested that there should be some clear cut policy for applying for the funds.

Abdalmonem shared that there is a difference between ICANN meetings and normal activities in the country. Seda shared that at the moment travel support is suspended because of the Covid-19 issues, not because of any financial reason. Travel support is limited to panelists for ICANN meetings which are planned ahead of the meeting. For Travels on UA day we are working on it internally. For UASG logo materials, she pointed to the document hub on uasg.tech website for translated documents. She asked the UA ambassadors to reach out to her if they need Indian translation.

Seda shared that UASG fliers are available in many different languages. She told Harish that if he wants it translated in the local language he can just email them and they will try to provide language services. Harish thanked Seda. Abdalmonem thanked Seda and Harish and moved forward toward the next ambassador and welcomed Abdulkarim.

Abdulkarim shared that in terms of challenges he agrees with the previous ambassadors. He told that he has organized 10 events but did not receive any support from UASG team so far. He shared that he has funded some events from his own pocket. And said that major challenge is lack of support. Abdulkarim thanked for the opportunity and welcomed the questions.

Abdalmonem thanked Abdulkarim for the update. Abdalmonem said that they have noted down the challenges and will discuss them with UASG and other ambassadors. Abdalmonem welcomed Mark.

Mark thanked Abdalmonem. Mark shared that Covid-19 had shut down most of the face to face interactions. He agreed with the idea of having a UA logo. He shared that he likes the idea of having a general UA logo. Mark shared that he also likes the idea that the emblem can be turned into gold, silver or bronze as mentioned earlier by Abdalmonem.

Mark shared that from a South African point of view there is very little need for UA. He said that in the early days .capetown needed it because it was eight characters long and lots of people had a limit of having seven characters but it was fixed a long time ago. He said that UA is ideal for Africa and right now .africa is purely ASCII character sets. Mark shared that he is involved with the DNS training. He shared some details regarding DNS training.

Mark had experience in running .za ccTLD. He is now running edu.za. It's the only IDN enabled second level domain. He shared that he is running tertiary education establishments and told that it is using a second level domain and that's using Latin ONE/ISO 8859-1 character set which basically is European language incorporated by Standard English alphabets.

Mark said that he also runs a registrar business and that it is fully UTF-8 enabled.

- Registry: LATIN1/ISO-8859-1 for EDU.ZA (Tertiary Education that are not Universities)
- Registrar: Own system is UTF-8 enabled and IDN capable
- DNS Study for Africa (<https://dnsstudy.africa>) in English, French, Arabic, Spanish & Swahili

Mark shared the most interesting thing is that six years ago he helped run something called DNS study for Africa 2016 and told them that they are currently tendering for that and it will close by midnight today. He said that last time they did it in English, French and Arabic. He shared that now they are including Spanish and Swahili as well. He said that everything is in multiple languages. He also talked about the questions that are included. Mark said that if anyone wants to look at the questionnaire that can look at it at <http://dnsstudy.africa>. He said that he will welcome if anyone has feedback from the questionnaire regarding UA point of view.

Abdalmonem welcomed Sushanta. Sushanta thanked Abdalmonem for arranging the session and introduced himself. He said we can set collaborative effort in these kinds of calls and we need to sustain it. He shared that he has mostly reached out to the academic institutes, students, teachers and start-ups who aspire to work on some futuristic developments.

Sushanta shared that some of the areas that should be focused on is not only software but also support of devices especially in his own country. He said that apart from software there is need to support devices which can support the local languages and recommended that the WG should extend their reach to these type of initiatives. He agreed with the challenges and things pointed out by Harish. Sushanta told that local languages prevail in country like India.

He said that goodies are helpful to equip UA ambassadors, such as with banners and standardized materials.

Sushanta shared that the UA ambassador should reach out to those people who do not speak English and do not belong to metro cities. And requested for the support to reach those masses. Abdalmonem thanked Sushanta.

Seda shared that during ICANN75 there will be a session about driving local change for UA adoption globally. That session will address focus areas. Abdalmonem will be representing UA Ambassadors.

She requested the ambassadors to share the input regarding FY22 annual report. She said that if ambassadors have already provided the report then they should look at the draft to confirm nothing is missing.

Abdalmonem expressed his desire for having a meeting of UA ambassadors weekly or monthly. And said that it is important to plan the future activities for UA. Seda said that the idea of periodical meetings can be discussed. She shared that all the UA ambassadors are invited to the UA Day meeting and told that they will have more details there. She asked the UA ambassadors that they will have to provide the details about that material and documents they need and for what type of event they need them.

Abdalmonem told Seda that he is comfortable with bi-weekly meetings. Seda asked the attendees if they were comfortable with the same date and time for the meeting to which Sushanta and Abdalmonem agreed. It was decided to conduct biweekly meetings, on the same day and time.

Abdalmonem thanked all the attendees for joining the meeting and their contributions.

#### Action items

No	Action Item	Owner
1	Travel support update for local activities as well as UA Day	Seda
2	UA Logo on promotional gifts to be given in hackathons etc	Seda Provide a process to request what and how
3	Provide your input about your activities on FY22 UA readiness report and Review your input in FY22 UA Readiness Report if it is incorporated properly	UA Ambassadors
4		
5		
6.		
7		