MESWG 1st Teleconference 10-Jan 2013 11:00-12:30 UTC

Attendees: Manal Ismail, Christine Arida, Amr Elsadr, Charles Shaban, Fahd Batayneh, Ali Almeshal, Qusai Alshatti, Nabil Bukhalid, Marwan Radwan, Zahid Jamil, Sarmad Hussain, Moez Chakchouk.

Work modalities:

Most of the work should be done electronically; need volunteers to take on tasks; likely to have one face-to-face meeting at some point; Bi-weekly calls sound like a reasonable approach, important to fix time for the call (doodle poll).

Actions: Baher to send around a doodle poll.

Survey: important to agree on the purpose of the survey and the targeted audience; identify the issues / priorities first then have one document for public comments; may need more than one survey: one for those who know ICANN and participate, another one for those who know ICANN and don't participate, a third one for those who don't know ICANN; concerns about timeline being too tight, why need to finish by Beijing?; should not go into the survey unprepared, rather spend more time on discussing the objectives listed in the terms of reference document, revise/amend this list. Actions: WG to continue to discuss this issue over email and reach agreement on next steps.

Intervention by Fadi and Tarek:

Surveys are good if we know where we're going; this WG got the right people, hence may not need to start with a survey; ICANN is focusing on internationalization including regional strategies; let's grab this opportunity to do what's right for this region; you have our full support.

A comment was raised regarding lack of representation of this region in international Internet community due to lack of regional Internet bodies; example was given with the Middle East being part of RIPE NCC.