

MESWG 13th Teleconference  
25-SEP 2013  
10:00-11:00 UTC

Attendees: Manal Ismail, Nabil Bukhalid, Fahd Batayneh , Sarmad Hussain, Hania Dimassi, Christine Arida, Amr Elsadr, Fouad Bajwa.

Agenda:

1. IDN TF launch
2. Capacity building / awareness activities – what is next?
3. DNS Forum
4. 1st year implementation budget - ICANN, other sponsors
5. AOB

Summary of discussions:

1. IDN TF launch: Sarmad briefed us on the state of play; including statements of interest received thus far, and coordination with ICANN IDN team regarding generation panels. There was a discussion on the membership of the TF; whether it should continue to be open, vetting of SOIs, etc. The general sense was to keep the TF open, and there was a consensus to delegate these kinds of decisions to the TF members since they are the experts in the subject matter. The TF would also look into issues such as linguistic and geographical diversity. With regard to the oversight role of MESWG, participants noted that the oversight role is less significant in this case as the nature of the TF is rather more technical. On the process to appoint a Chair of the TF, there was a consensus that MESWG could appoint a chair since the TF is one of the outcomes of the Strategy and one of the activities in the Implementation Plan. Agreement was to designate Sarmad a Chair of the TF. Next steps to launch the TF will include contacting the applicants to welcome them; posting their SOIs on the MESWG wiki page; making an announcement (several suggestions have been discussed, including a blog post and a news piece on ICANN website).
2. Capacity Building: There was an agreement on the two-track approach: a) short-term looking at activities that are part of FY14 implementation plan; and b) long-term looking at the overall capacity building plan including the train-the-trainer model. There was a proposal to create a sub-group of MESWG to work on capacity building, both short-term and long-term tracks and provide guidance to MESWG on way forward. Another proposal was to

follow the same model of the IDN TF by creating an open TF for capacity building. Many on the call were pro the latter proposal as it would potentially attract more resources and expertise to help move things forward. There was a concern though about the size and ambition of such a program, and suggestion was to partner with organizations that have experience in the field. Consensus was to start with a small sub-group to work on the short-term plan while at the same time look into feasibility of creating an open TF. It was suggested that Nabil will lead the TF, with Christine and Fouad as members; Nabil asked for some time to think it over. Group concluded that more discussion on this topic should take place on the mailing list.

3. DNS Forum: Not much of an update on this topic; still in search of a local host; and more discussion needed on the objectives, agenda, format ,etc.
4. First year budget: Nabil raised the question on budget available through ICANN and other sponsors to carry out the implementation plan of FY14. Baher clarified that while there was no specific figure to provide, ICANN is committed to provide funds for all the activities outlined in the implementation plan, provided that other partners are also willing to contribute (e.g. meeting venues, sponsorships, etc.).

Actions:

1. Sarmad to draft an announcement for the IDN TF and to coordinate with Baher regarding posting.
2. Nabil to advise if he will be able to lead the capacity building track and launch the sub-group.
3. Baher to update the group regarding the DNS Forum.

End of call.