MESWG face-to-face meeting
16 July 2013
Durban, South Africa

Attendees: Sarmad Hussain, Zahid Jamil, Iftikhar Shah, Sofie Maddens,
Remote Attendees: Ali Almeshal, Nabil Bukhalid, Fahd Batayneh

Summary of discussions:
- Events and activities planned for Q1 and Q2: IDN Task Force (more details below); MENOG: 15-19 Sep, Kuwait (workshops on IPv6 and network security); Arab IGF: 1-3 Oct, Algeria (capacity building track); DNS Forum: Dec timeframe (ICANN and ISOC taking lead); requests for outreach and capacity building in Lebanon and Pakistan: Baher is coordinating with ICANN security team.
- Fouad's proposal to separate the oversight group from the activity partner group: attendees supported the idea and thought it was an important one particularly for the purposes of accountability and transparency. However, the group also noted that this was only a beginning, and while MESWG would embark on the implementation plan of year one, it should also look into whether we need a more structured mechanism moving forward. So suggestions like having two separate groups, and/or opening MESWG for new members to support the implementation should all be considered. Group agreed that year one would be a pilot project, and more improvements to come in following years. Group also agreed that MESWG should continue to post all its work online, and make its mailing list archives public.
- IDN Task Force: Sarmad had circulated a one pager on scope; this is a group to coordinate IDN work related to Arabic script and to feed into ICANN process regarding projects such as LGR panels; it also needs to look into issues like internationalized data, universal acceptance in applications, DNS security around Arabic script and IDN variants, as well as operational software matters for IDN registry / registrar operations. The task force can be seeded in MESWG and also go out to broader community; it needs to be established as soon as possible; we should also communicate with ICANN IDN team to let them know that we're in the process.
- Also related to IDNs, there is a GNSO group on transliteration and internationalization registration data; we should encourage people from the region to join. Fahd stated that he had already applied for this group.
- Some also brought to the group's attention that ICANN Strategy Panels had been launched: http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-15jul13-en.htm. Group agreed that we should spread the word and encourage members of Middle East community to apply.
- Train the trainer concept: the group discussed how to implement this Action. Some ideas were shared about establishing a pool of potential trainers and sending them to take part in training activities in the region.

Actions:
- Baher to send group more details about MENOG workshops and Arab IGF capacity building track.

- Sarmad to draft a call for establishing the IDN Task Force.
- Fahd to summarize what is going on in relation to the prospective GNSO WG and update the group.
- Nabil to draft a concept paper on implementing the train the trainer model.