

7 Annexes

7.1 MESWG Membership

Stakeholder Group	Name	Affiliation	Country
Private Sector	Charles Shaban	AGIP	Jordan
	Khaled Koubaa	Google	Tunisia
	Zahid Jamil	Jamil&Jamil	Pakistan
Technical Community and Academia	Alireza Saleh	IRNIC	Iran
	Fahd Batayneh	Internet Governance Expert	Jordan
	Marwan Radwan	PNINA	Palestine
	Moez Chakchouk	ATI	Tunisia
	Mohamed El-Bashir	ictQatar	Sudan
	Nabil Bukhalid	ISOC Chapter	Lebanon
	Sarmad Hussain	University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore	Pakistan
	Siavash Shahshahani	Sharif University of Technology	Iran
	Government	Abdulrahman Al-Marzouqi	TRA
Christine Arida		NTRA	Egypt
Iftikhar Shah		MoITT	Pakistan
Imad Hoballah		TRA	Lebanon
Manal Ismail		NTRA	Egypt
Mohammed Al-Noaimi		TRA	Bahrain
Qusai Al-Shatti		CAIT	Kuwait
Civil Society	Amr Elsadr	Tromso University, Norway	Egypt
	Ali Almeshal	ISOC Chapter	Bahrain
	Fouad Bajwa	Internet Research Project	Pakistan
	Rafik Dammak	University of Tokyo, Japan	Tunisia

Table 1: MESWG Members

Additional members were invited to join MESWG during the Arab MIG meeting in Dubai (4-5 March, 2013):

- Hania Sabbidin Dimassi, UN ESCWA
- Sofie Maddens, Internet Society

7.2 Methodology and Process

MESWG began its work in early January 2013 and held its meetings through telephone conferences scheduled mostly on weekly basis, in addition to one face-to-face meeting that took place in Dubai on 5-6 March.

In discussing the starting point regarding work to be undertaken by MESWG, a question was raised on whether a community survey would be essential to determine priority areas to be included in the strategy. MESWG members decided that such input would be more valuable after some preliminary work by the group. Accordingly, the group agreed to work towards the development of a draft document to be posted for community feedback, and to take the input received into consideration in finalizing the strategy.

The group made itself familiar with the ICANN Strategic Plan (2012-2015), and then began to reflect on the main elements of the Middle East strategy in terms of the strategic goals, strategic focus areas, objectives and activities underneath each area. In determining the strategic goals and focus areas, the group put together a number of questions addressing the following:

- Key challenges facing the region over the next 3 to 5 years in accomplishing its Internet related objectives;
- The region's unexploited capabilities or unemployed capacities;
- Actions to be considered accordingly at a regional level;
- Key challenges facing ICANN over the next 3 to 5 years in accomplishing its objectives in the region;
- ICANN's unexploited capabilities or unemployed capacities;
- Actions to be considered accordingly at ICANN's level.

Based on the working group's input on the above questions, consensus was reached on the strategic goals and strategic focus areas for ICANN engagement in the Middle East. MESWG members organized the discussion under each focus area into the following sub-sections:

- Stakeholders (Beneficiaries and Contributors)
- Current Status
- Objectives
- Recommendations
- Actions
- Metrics

In relation to the substance of the strategy, and while the working group was discussing the kind of activities and projects needed in the region to achieve the strategic goals as set forth in the strategy, questions were raised with regard to the execution phase, and whether the strategy should be restricted to activities and projects that fall clearly within ICANN's remit. There was a common understanding that any recommendations or actions included in the strategy should be within the scope of ICANN's mission and go in line with its strategic plan. The group also acknowledged that in implementing the strategy, ICANN would need to partner with other players from the region as well as from the international community.

7.3 Statistics

Table 2 below shows the total number of Internet users in the 22 Arab states, as well as Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Country	Internet Users ⁴
22 Arab States	105,633,160
Iran	42,000,000
Pakistan	29,128,970
Afghanistan	1,520,996
Total	178,283,126
Percentage	7.41%

Table 2: Internet Statistics in Selected Countries in the Middle East and Adjoining Countries

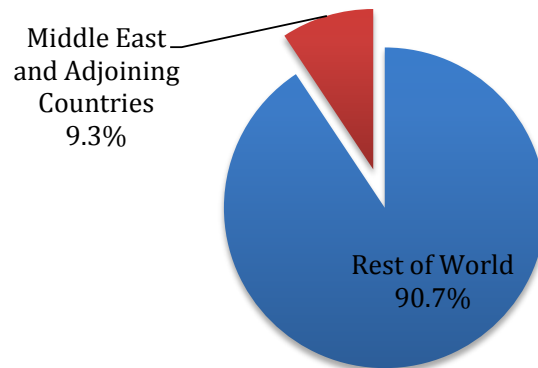


Figure 2: Total population in the Middle East as compared to the rest of the world (2012)
Source: Compiled from <http://www.internetworldstats.com/>

⁴ Numbers as of June 30, 2012 from <http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>

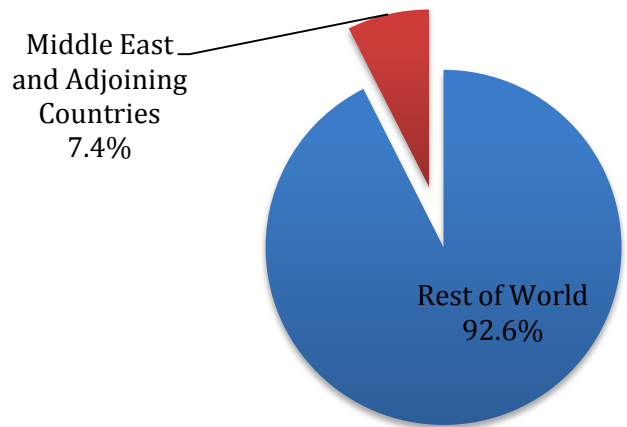


Figure 3: Percentage of Internet users in the Middle East out of Internet users worldwide (2012)
 Source: Compiled from <http://www.internetworldstats.com/>

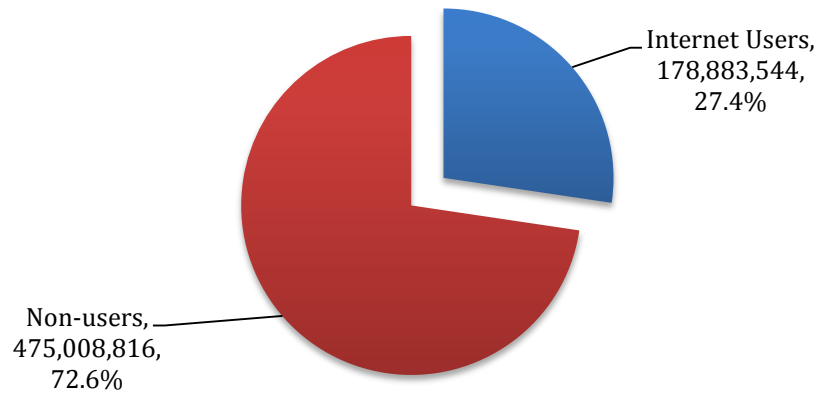


Figure 4: Internet users out of the total population in the Middle East (2012)
 Source: Compiled from <http://www.internetworldstats.com/>

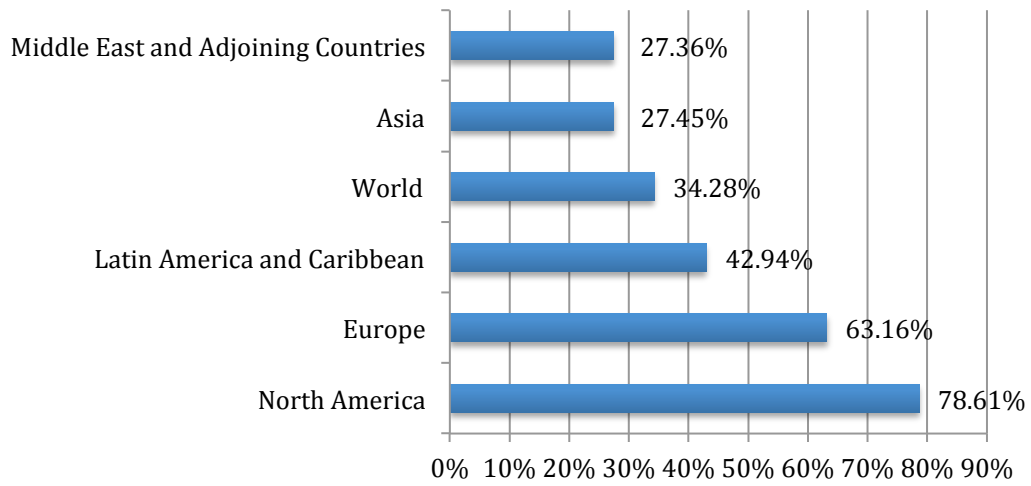


Figure 5: Internet Penetration - users out of total populations in world regions (2012)
 Source: Compiled from <http://www.internetworldstats.com/>

Country Code	ccTLD Registrations	IDN ccTLD Registrations	Root Server Instances	Accredited Registrars	New gTLD Applications	ICANN Board	GAC	ccNSO	GNSO ⁵	ASO	ALAC	APRALIO/ AFRALIO	At-Large Structures	SSAC
AE	102,150	2,020	2	2	36	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
AF	6,500	-	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
BH	2,000	-	2	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
DJ	?	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DZ	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
EG	8,900	3,000	3	0	2	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	1	0
IQ	500	-	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
IR	353,200	-	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
JO	4,400	120	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
KM	?	-	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
KW	?	-	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LB	3,550	-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LY	13,600	-	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MA	47,000	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
MR	900	-	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
OM	1,700	25	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PK	?	-	2	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	1	2	1
PS	7,250	160	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
QA	16,000	600	2	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	29,900	2,900	2	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SD	3,000	-	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
SO	40,000	-	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SY	1,350	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TN	18,550	500	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0
YE	6,500	-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	660,450	8,425	16	6	54	1	17	17	15	0	1	1	11	1

Table 3: DNS Related Statistics and Engagement in ICANN

Regional organizations that are members of ICANN constituencies include:

- League of Arab States: Observer to the GAC
- Arab ISP Association (ARISPA): Member of the ISP Constituency of GNSO

⁵ One council member from Pakistan; the rest belong to the Non-Commercial User Constituency (NCUC).

7.4 Findings from Outreach Activities

7.4.1 Arab Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance Meeting

On March 4th 2013, members of MESWG presented at the Arab Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance meeting that took place as part of the Arab IGF Open Consultations. Purpose of the presentation was to inform Arab IGF participants of work underway with regard to ICANN's Middle East strategy. The presentation provided a summary of work carried out by the working group till then, and highlighted the main elements of the strategy. The session offered MESWG the opportunity to get direct feedback from participants. Feedback was generally positive. It praised the work of MESWG and offered some constructive remarks.

Summary of feedback:

- Localizing the multi-stakeholder model to suit the region is very important; it will help develop strong policy development processes at national and regional levels; it is an ongoing process that requires efforts by all stakeholders;
- Arab IGF can play a stimulating role in bringing everyone around the table; support from ICANN, ISOC and the RIRs will help the Arab IGF develop and reach out to the larger community;
- Capacity building is essential; organizations such as ISOC and Diplo Foundation play key role in this area;
- Such regional meetings help people understand the role of ICANN; not many people from the region go to ICANN meetings; continuity in participation is also a challenge;
- ICANN should expand its presence in the region; there is a need for more awareness and outreach activities at regional and country level to explain role of ICANN and how to get engaged; different stakeholders may require different outreach approach;
- Engaging private sector from the region in Internet governance processes, and in ICANN, is a challenge; ISPs and operators do not see their role in ICANN; there are very few registrars and domain name dispute resolution providers in the region;
- Need for enabling environments within countries to foster DNS industry; ccTLD operators can contribute to building this industry;
- Need for identifying local partners from the region; this would further extend the outreach and maintain long-term sustainability.

7.4.2 Registrars

Members of MESWG at the group's face-to-face meeting in Dubai, on March 5th– 6th, 2013, agreed to reach out to current registrars from the region. The outreach was meant to stand on the challenges registrars from the region faced during ICANN accreditation process as well as challenges they are currently facing in running their registrar business.

Despite the small number of registrars interviewed, only 3, they still represent 50% of the registrars in the region and hence constitute a significant sample. Feedback provided was very useful and is summarized below.

Summary of feedback:

- Competition in this business is very tough;
- The business requires large volumes to make it profitable;
- Selling domains cannot be the core business; it must be complemented with other services which are often more profitable (e.g. hosting, cloud, etc.);
- Becoming an ICANN accredited registrar is an investment; it is important and it gives credibility;
- Different views regarding the financial requirements for accreditation (commercial general liability of \$500,000 and working capital of \$70,000); some believe it used to be an issue in the past; others believe it still acts as a barrier for entry;
- Increase in registry fees is a burden for small registrars;
- In some countries, registrars like other businesses in the country, must pay up to 10% taxes on any bank transactions;
- Different payment methods to suit different customers;
- Different user interfaces with different languages;
- Registrars can either build their own platforms or use 3rd parties; it depends on the business model and the size of the business;
- Increasing the number of registrars should not be goal in itself; ICANN should engage more with existing registrars, help them sustain their businesses;
- Registrar accreditation rules must be the same across all regions;
- All agreements with ICANN and with registries are subject to the laws of the United States, which is not favorable for many businesses in the region;
- No major technical challenges; migration from RRP to EPP was an issue long time ago.