HEADLINES OF CDG WEEKLY CALL of 20thApr2016

The charter drafting group consists of community members, they all hail from 12 different countries, and they represent all stakeholder groups

Just to differentiate between the current strategy and the new strategy, the current strategy which actually concludes on June 30^{th,} 2016 is called the Middle East Strategy, while the new strategy will be called the Middle East and Adjoining Countries Strategy. We hope that we can end the current work of the Charter Drafting Group by the end of April.

Middle East strategy working group (MESWG) actually initially consisted of 22 members. When the group was developed, there was no charter group, or charter drafting group.

The group also had three different face to face meetings. Of course, ICANN Middle East regional staff were responsible for executing the strategy, and they did that in close collaboration with the strategy working group. ICANN staff kept updating the MESWG on a quarterly basis, either via emails or teleconference calls

At the end of every annual action plan, we would review and assess what was delivered as part of the strategy, and we would actually post it on the dedicated Wiki space.

On the current work of the Charter Drafting Group (CDG), the question raises "How is the whole editing thing going to proceed?" We can simply work on Google Docs and everyone can add their comments, leaving the document to be later improved by ICANN staff.

Probably much of the work will be done on the mailing list. But again, it is important to hear from the group what the plan is.

It may be a good way to look into the ICANN template for guidance. We need simple principles to govern us, nothing complicated. The community has once helped ICANN with the Middle East and adjoining countries strategy, so it can be done again and in a more organized manner.

The mandate of this current group is just to define how the Middle East strategy, the new strategy working group will look like. The new strategy working group, once it's seated, they will decide how the strategy will look like.

What do we want to focus on in our next work? What do we want this group to focus on? For example, understanding the needs of the region? Or trying to understand what challenges are facing the region?

Referring actually to the charter that we're drafting right now we have to sort of define an objective for the working group that's going to be working on the next strategy. The objective is clear: developing a strategy. We will set the mandate of the strategy working group in defining the scope of work, how they're going to work, timelines, whether they need to look into reviews, into KPIs, etc. But they should not get into the areas of the strategy that is yet to be developed.

The mandate of the charter drafting group is really just to define the work modalities of the strategy for the needs of the region. The new strategy group will need to take into account the diverse needs and reflect them in the future strategy group.

Suggestion is made to clean up the Google Doc, remove everything in there. The group adds the bullet points, and then ICANN staff convert these bullet points into text and then share this text with the group. Or we can keep the text as is, start the bullets under them and then each member could actually add in as points, as bullet points, whatever they think on every section. And/or the group can also continue to add text, suggestions, edits and comments.

So it's better to speak up with the discussion, with the comments, with the bullets, with all, any method of interacting with the document. It's just one place for discussion, it's much more effective

Another option is; we can change the contribution mode to suggestion mode. Then we can have another call on agreeing to convert the points to flowing text. We need to decide to have them all as suggestions, or commands, etc. It's more productive to have ideas, suggestions, and comments; to construct the content of the document into a meaningful suggesting document.

So having some comments on the Doc, will help us understand where we're taking this document in the next call, and then from that point onwards, we can all agree to some form of moderation by the ICANN staff in order to like control the flow, not control but like manage the flow of the document. And the editing should be done by only one person.

The general consensus is to convert the document, to change the mode of the document from editing text to suggestions. People could just add in their suggestions, and then ICANN staff, or maybe one of the group members can actually edit the document and just consolidate all of the suggestions that have come in.

We come from very different regions all across the region. Having everyone's suggestions and comments, will help us understand the perspective or people's expectations. So let them come in with their comments so that even those comments can be later on edited into some meaningful principles.

Let's take one week to get what the ideas that everybody has, and then from the next call, once we have this whole set of ideas and text together, then we can start the drafting process together, and that can continue on the mailing list as well. And the Google Doc is for everyone to add something, or everyone to suggest something

Each person who adds a paragraph can just include his initials or maybe his full name at the beginning of the paragraph so that everybody knows.

The idea here is to allow everyone the opportunity to provide their views, whether in terms of bullet points, in terms of suggestions, comments, etc. And to get this process, continued for the next week

So let's keep the door open for any kind of input to come in during this week, and next Wednesday, we'll have our second call and we will go through all the sections one by one, trying to merge our thoughts and ideas, and then move to the next and hopefully the final step of finalizing the document.

And then we will have a discussion on who is going to edit and how the editing process will take place.