

# Minutes of Meeting

## MEAC-SWG Call 11 – Wednesday 19 October 2016

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The eleventh call for the MEAC-SWG took place on Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 10.00 – 10.30 AM UTC. The call had 10 members and observers of the MEAC-SWG, and 3 ICANN staff members.

On the Call we had Walid Al-Saqaf (Chair), Abdelhamid Al Abbadi, Ahmed Bakhat Masood, Hadia Elminiawi, Hosein Badran, Nadira Alaraj, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Michael Oghia, Tijani Ben Jemaa, and Zahr BouGhanem. And from ICANN Staff, we had Baher Esmat, Milena Timurcuoglu, and Fahd Batayneh.

We had noted apologies from Manal Ismail and Ines Hfaiedh.

The agenda for the call covered the following topics:

- Progress Update;
- Strategy Document;
- Updates on the Timelines;
- ICANN 57 Preparations; and
- AoB

### Progress Update

The Chair shared with the group that we are progressing as scheduled. The group has done a lot, and we are approaching the final touchline.

### Strategy Document

The draft strategy document has been shared with the MEAC-SWG, and can be found online on Google Docs at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/151cVDvGa2gAsPAZXLnO-X1\\_HTuUtpycay-vX0n-UgnE/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/151cVDvGa2gAsPAZXLnO-X1_HTuUtpycay-vX0n-UgnE/edit#). ICANN Staff have shared the document in a way that folks can make “SUGGESTIONS” to the document directly without the need to login to a Google/Gmail account. However, ICANN Staff did request the following:

- Those willing to make suggestions to the document do so from within a Google/Gmail account for ease of knowing who suggested what. If not possible, participants are encouraged to list their names in front of any suggestions they make;
- That the document remain internal amongst the SWG members, and not to share outside of the group; and
- Those who login via their Google/Gmail account use personal accounts with their names on it rather than general names (like company names). This is; again, for knowing who suggested what.

In developing the draft strategy document, the Chair and ICANN Staff kept in mind keeping the document as short as possible, yet concise, clear, and self-explanatory.

Chokri Ben Romdhane suggested in an email that “Actions” must be a result or consequence of the “Focus Areas” and NOT as currently stated. The Chair explained the rationale behind the current setup.

Tijani Ben Jemaa was of the view that the strategy document must be named differently since it includes “Actions” within it. ICANN Staff did explain what the document intends to reflect, and that the strategy will be executed via annual implementation plans that will include action items for each focus area.

### **Updates on the Timelines**

It was agreed that;

- Members of the SWG can make suggestions to the document until the final strategy document is out. However, the first set of suggestions will be incorporated prior to Wednesday 26 October 2016 for reasons explained in the next bullet point; and
- The Strategy document will go out for public comment on Thursday 27 October 2016, and will remain available for public comments for 21 days until Wednesday 16 November 2016.

After the public comment period concludes on Wednesday 16 November, the Chair and ICANN Staff will incorporate the feedback received; where applicable and possible, into the strategy document, and work on finalizing it. The tentative date for issuing the final strategy document is mid-December 2016.

### **ICANN 57 Preparations**

The ICANN 57 agenda has gone online at <https://icann572016.sched.org/>. The session that covers the strategy entitled “Updates from the Middle East” will take place on Tuesday 8 November at 15.15 – 16.45 India Standard Time. More on the session can be found at <https://icann572016.sched.org/event/8cz4/updates-from-the-middle-east>. The date and time of the session is subject to changes, and ICANN Staff will confirm the final date and time days before the session takes place.

The session will have AR, EN, and FR live interpretation, as well as remote participation. The agenda for the session will include updates from the MEAC Strategy, feedback on the MEAC Strategy, Regional Updates, and Updates from the DNS-EC.

### **Any Other Business**

Zahr BouGhanem asked if it was possible to circulate an MS Word document so that staff at the UN-ESCWA can provide feedback on the strategy. The Chair suggested that the feedback from the wider community can be shared once the public comments period is open on Thursday 27 October 2016.

The Chair adjourned the call.