

Minutes of Meeting

MEAC-SWG Call 14 – Thursday 29 December 2016

The fourteenth call for the MEAC-SWG took place on Thursday 29 December 2016 at 11.00 – 12.00 UTC. The call had three members and observers of the MEAC-SWG, and 2 ICANN staff members.

On the Call we had Walid Al-Saqaf (Chair), Ahlam Abu-Jadallah, and Manal Ismail. And from ICANN Staff, we had Baher Esmat and Fahd Batayneh.

We had noted apologies from Tijani Ben Jemaa, Hadia Elminiawi, and Hamza Ben Mehrez (Vice Chair).

The objective of the call was to have an open Q&A session with staff and previous strategy working group members (2013-2016 ME Strategy) on how the strategy was implemented, how activities were reported, and how involved were the SWG members in the implementation stage.

The Chair asked ICANN Staff on how they had implemented the previous strategy, and how often they referred back to the SWG members for any advice. ICANN Staff did state that in developing the annual implementation plan, they would draft activities and share with the SWG members, and hold a call if requested. SWG members would also utilize the mailing list to share any feedback they may have. And once feedback stops flowing, staff would wrap up the discussions and finalize the annual implementation Plan.

In terms of reporting, ICANN Staff would share a detailed report once every 3 months (1 OCT, 1 JAN, 1 APR, and 30 JUN) identifying the different activities undertaken, what was accomplished, what is work-under-progress, and what is to be worked on and when. The previous SWG members had no objections to the reporting method, and it was used during the entire 3 years of the strategy.

In terms of the involvement of the SWG in the different activities embarked upon, ICANN Staff shared examples of the ME DNS Forum and the MEAC School on IG. In terms of the ME DNS Forum, staff would share a detailed report with the SWG on the proceedings of the forum, what worked, and what needs to be improved. On the MEAC-SIG, staff would issue a call for PC members to join the PC of that annual SIG, and would send the call out to the SWG mailing list and the MEAC ICANN mailing list.

And whenever staff needed advice from the community, they would either request help from the SWG members, or would communicate 1-on-1 with relevant community members to seek their feedback. Staff has already communicated with regional CS folks on what is needed from ICANN when it comes to CS engagement, and the same will be actioned when it comes to regional training needs for FY18, and ICANN At-Large Structures (ALSs). ICANN Staff will also share its plans; once drafted, with the SWG with regards to its plans for ICANN 60 in Abu Dhabi in November 2017.

Staff sees no changes in terms of reporting and seeking advice, and is in fact open to more ideas on how to keep the SWG members involved throughout the strategy mandate.

Some members on the call raised some questions with relations to the Year 1 Implementation Plan, and the questions were covered appropriately.

At the end of the call, ICANN Staff reiterated their commitment to the SWG to work closely with them and the larger regional community in implementing the different objectives and actions of the MEAC Strategy.

The call was adjourned.