

Minutes of Meeting

MEAC-SWG Call 15 – Tuesday 28 March 2017

The fifteenth call for the MEAC-SWG took place on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 11.00 – 12.00 UTC. The call had 18 members and observers of the MEAC-SWG, and 2 ICANN staff members.

On the call we had Walid Al-Saqaf (Chair), Hamza Ben Mehrez (Vice-Chair), Ahlam Abu-Jadallah, Hadia El Miniawi, Nadira Alaraj, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Hanna Kreitem, Hosein Badran, Mubashir Sargana, Rao Naveed Bin Rais, Sogand Ghorbani, Alperen Eken, Amal Ramzi, Manahil Ahmed Khan, Manal Ismail, and Zakir Syed. And from ICANN Staff, we had Baher Esmat and Fahd Batayneh.

We had noted apologizes from Michael Oghia.

The agenda for the call covered the following topics:

- Welcome and Overview of Agenda;
- Performance Review;
- Outcomes from the Informal Get Together at ICANN 58;
- Update on Implementation Progress;
- Next Quarterly Report;
- Future Calls Frequency and Dates; and
- AoB.

Welcome and Overview of Agenda

ICANN Staff welcomed attendees to the call, and noted that the call had 18 attendees on it; which, was a good indication. ICANN Staff also welcomed new observers who joined the SWG the past couple of weeks.

Performance Review

The SWG Chair thanked those who took the performance review questionnaire, and skimmed through the performance review results. Members and observers on the call raised the issue of lack of participation in the questionnaire (17 of the 54 members and observers of the SWG). The Chair raised the notion of “what incentives SWG members and observers need to see in order to be more engaged and involved”.

Outcomes from the Informal Get Together at ICANN 58

ICANN Staff shared a quick summary of the discussions that took place during the informal get-together in Copenhagen during ICANN 58. The points raised were circulated earlier in an email by *Baher Esmat* from ICANN Staff. Overall, the get-together attracted more than 35 regional stakeholders, and very good discussions took place.

Update on Implementation Progress

ICANN Staff gave a brief on activities they carried as part of the MEAC Strategy since 1 January 2017. DNSSEC training has been in high-demand with workshops held during SANOG 29, and more workshops lined up for MENOG 17, in Saudi Arabia (as part of the MENOG roadshow), and the United Arab Emirates. A 60-minute DNSSEC workshop was held during the Turkey DNS Forum 2017, and a half-day roundtable was held in Dubai shortly after.

As part of the DNS-EC activities, two business-related workshops were held; one in Botswana, and another in Benin. The DNS-EC is currently embarking on a business workshop at Zuweil University in Cairo.

As for IDNs, there was an update on IDNs overall and Arabic Script IDNs in specific during SANOG 29.

ICANN is working with the .OM ccTLD (Oman) on organizing a half-day workshop on 18 April entitled “Domain Names for non-Techies”.

The 4th edition of the ME DNS Forum 2017 takes place on 22-23 May in Cairo, Egypt. The Program Committee is currently working on an agenda for the forum. We have received interest from both the Non-Commercial User Constituency (NCUC) to lead a session on “User Rights”, and another session suggested by a group of regional women working in the DNS industry entitled “Women in DNS”. Once both entities share a proposal with us, we will share it with the PC for their consideration.

A 3rd workshop was held in Tunisia as part of our Academic Engagement Initiative. This time, the workshop was on IPv6 Deployment, and attracted ISPs and Mobile Operators from within the country. One outcome from the workshop to develop a National Committee that develops a deployment roadmap.

A remote hub for ICANN 58 originated from the region. Remote hubs originating from the region has been a trend since the idea surfaced, and continues.

In terms of future planning, we are embarking on work for the Year 2 Implementation Plan. We will be seeking feedback from the Technical Community on their training needs, and material needs. We are also looking at training more trainers on DNS Operations and DNSSEC as part of the TtT program. We will also seek feedback from the ALSs on their capacity building needs. In terms of Civil Society Engagement, we will work internally and with the community on developing a concrete plan for civil society engagement in the region. We will also work with CS entities on holding more synthesized workshops and webinars.

Next Quarterly Report

The next report is scheduled for the first week of April. We hope to send it out by 1 April.

Future Calls Frequency and Dates

The overall sense on the call was to have a monthly call, and to circulate a Doodle Poll prior to each call. It was also suggested to rotate the call times to accommodate different members and observers who find some time slots to be better than others for their agendas.

Any Other Business (AoB)

Hadia shared insights on the session entitled “Women in DNS”; which will be submitted as a workshop proposal for the ME DNS Forum 2017. A group of female ccTLD Managers are working on this proposal.

The call was adjourned.