Minutes of Meeting

MEAC-SWG Call 17 – Wednesday 26 July 2017

The seventeenth call for the MEAC-SWG took place on Wednesday 26 July 2017 at 09.00 – 10.00 UTC. The call had 17 members and observers of the MEAC-SWG, and 3 ICANN staff members.

On the call we had Walid Al-Saqaf (Chair), Ahlam Abu-Jadallah, Aicha Jeridi, Alperen Eken, Amal Alsaqqaf, Amr Mustafa, Hadia Elminiawi, Hamideh Shahrabi, Hanan Khatib, Khalid Samara, Mahdi Taghizadeh, Manal Ismail, Michael Oghia, Nadira Alaraj, Sogand Ghorbani, Zahr Bou-Ghanem, and Zakir Syed. And from ICANN Staff, we had Baher Esmat, Magali Jean, and Fahd Batayneh.

We had noted apologizes from Ahmad Bakhat Masood.

We had some technical difficulties during the call where slides did not show well, and so the slides were emailed to the MEAC Strategy mailing list.

The agenda for the call covered the following topics:

- Welcome and Overview of Agenda;
- Year 1 Implementation Plan Review and Assessment;
- Year 2 DRAFT Implementation Plan; and
- AoB.

Welcome and Overview of Agenda

Baher Esmat welcomed attendees on the call, and thanked them for joining. He then did a quick run-through the agenda.

Year 1 Implementation Plan Review and Assessment

Fahd Batayneh from ICANN Staff gave a quick overview on the review and assessment of the Year 1 Implementation Plan. He explained that in addition to the excel sheet shared with the SWG, an infographic is currently being finalized, and will go out along with a blog post to be written by Baher Esmat.

During his intervention, he gave activities, achievements, and results on Regional Events, Regional Webinars, the DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC), Workshops and Capacity Building, the Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN), Root-Server Instances Deployment, Delegated New gTLDs, Community Growth and Leadership, ICANN Meetings and Fellowship Program, Engagement and Outreach, and Media Statistics.

The slides shown during the webinar expand on the different items covered under this main item, and are available on the SWG working space.

The Chair applauded ICANN Staff for their efforts in implementing the findings of the strategy, and opened the floor for questions. Manal asked about why some of the "seeking community feedback" items were not implemented, and ICANN Staff responded that while some were not initiated yet due to lack of time and recourses, others were merged with joint initiatives (such as merging the registry technical needs with the MENOG roadshows). Manal also asked about remote hubs, and ICANN Staff responded that ICANN has suspended remote hubs due to it not fulfilling the objectives behind its establishment in the first place.

Walid asked about an update on the MEAC-SIG 2017 of which ICANN Staff shared some information on the agenda, faculty members, and number of attendees, and promised to circulate a more detailed email to the SWG as the school approaches.

Hadia raised the point that the DNS-EC does promote the fellowship and NextGen programs, and that it was not reflected in the review and assessment, and the year 2 implementation plan. ICANN Staff will look into this.

Year 2 DRAFT Implementation Plan

Fahd Batayneh from ICANN Staff shared the suggested implementation plan for the second year of the strategy. In sharing the suggested activities, it was broken-down into "What's New" and "Business as Usual".

Under "What's New", the following items were suggested:

- Finalize the commissioned study entitled "Accelerating the Digital Economy in the Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey"
- Raising awareness amongst entrepreneurs and SMEs on ICANN's work and opportunities in the DNS industry
- Strengthen engagement with civil society and ALSs
- Empower ICANN fellowship and NextGen alumnus, and work closer with them
- Strengthen engagement with governments

And under "Business as Usual", the following items were suggested:

- DNS Operations and DNSSEC Capacity Building
- MENOG Roadshows
- Academic Technical Engagement
- Engagement with CERTs and LEAs
- Update the Community on the KSK Rollover project
- L-root server instance deployments
- Support the work of the TF-AIDN
- Support the DNS Entrepreneurship Center
- Business Engagement
- Media roundtables
- Hold the Turkey and Middle East DNS Forums
- Participate in relevant events and engage with the community
- Civil Society engagement
- Continue to closely collaborate with I* Organizations operating in the region

- Hold the annual MEAC School on IG
- Contribute to regional and national IGFs and SIG

Any Other Business (AoB)

The SWG Chair spoke about the recent survey on renaming the region. He provided an update on the results of the survey (which was also shared via the SWG mailing list), and agreed to seek further feedback on the way forward. In order to make the survey results more meaningful, it was suggested that a follow-up survey be circulated targeting takers from non-Middle Eastern countries

The call was adjourned.