

Minutes of Meeting

MEAC-SWG Call 18 – Monday 21 August 2017

The eighteenth call for the MEAC-SWG took place on Monday 21 August 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), Hamza Ben Mehrez (Vice Chair), Ali Almeshal, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Hadia Elminiawi, Hosein Badran, Khoulood Dawahi, Manal Ismail, Michael Oghia, Muhammed Shabbir, Nadira Alaraj, Rao Naveed Bin Rais, Salam Yamout, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Wafa Dahmani, Zahr Bou-Ghanem, and Zakir Syed. And from ICANN Staff, we had Baher Esmat, Ahmet Zamanis, and Fahd Batayneh.

We had some technical difficulties during the call where Global Meet / PGI kept disconnecting. But the Adobe Connect room kept functioning well.

The agenda for the call was as follows:

- Year 1 Implementation Plan Review and Assessment, and Year 2 Implementation Plan;
- MEAC School on Internet Governance 2017;
- ICANN 60 Preparations - 1) Middle East Space, 2) MEAC-SWG Get Together, and 3) Funding one member/observer;
- Renaming the MEAC Region; and
- AoB.

Year 1 Implementation Plan Review and Assessment, and Year 2 Implementation Plan

ICANN Staff went through the Year 1 Implementation Plan Review and Assessment. A lot was achieved during the first year. Some of what was achieved was business-as-usual from the previous strategy such as the school on IG, the DNS forums, and capacity building. Some projects were entirely new (such as the partnership with the MENOG roadshows), while others were implemented in a more systematic or deeper manner (academic engagement, and engagement with LEAs and CERTs). Some of the work was to plan for Year 2 activities such as engagement with ALSs, engagement with ccTLDs, and more streamlined Technical Engagement.

On the Year 2 Implementation Plan, a lot of what was achieved during Year 1 will be worked on during year 2, and that includes the DNS Forums, the SIG, capacity building, the DNS-EC, and many others. Some of the topics that we are engaging in a more fine-grained and dedicated manner includes more engagement with ALSs, engagement with entrepreneurs, replicating the Tunisia academic engagement project in other countries, a planned civil society engagement, and others.

It was mentioned that there was a surge for DNSSEC trainings, and that DNSSEC deployment region-wide is on the rise.

Both plans are currently final, and are posted on the SWG working space online at <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=59642230>.

MEAC School on Internet Governance 2017

ICANN Staff briefed those on the call on the recently convened MEAC School on IG. The school took place in Ankara, Turkey on 7-11 August 2017. The host for the 5-day workshop was NIC.tr; the ccTLD for Turkey, and the venue was the Middle East Technical University (METU). The SIG attracted the likes of *Milton Muller*, *David Olive*, *Salam Yamout*, and *Adam Peake* as faculty members, and had participants from different stakeholder groups with government representatives and civil society participants being the most. The SIG initially attracted 40 participants from 13 countries (12 from the Middle East and 1 from the USA who is studying in Turkey), but eventually 31 received their certificates of completion.

The 5-day school was rich in content and engagement as the faculty members delivered top-class lectures, and the participants were lively engaged all week long. The local host made sure that participants had more to keep themselves engaged with by organizing a city tour and then an amazing dinner at the Ankara museum (the museum was fully booked for us). Participants shared some presentations on the IG landscape in their respective countries.

This year, we tried the concept of having mentors, and 2 mentors were on the ground to assist. The mentors were *Zakir Syed* from Pakistan (MEAC-SIG 2015 alumni) and *Su Sonia Herring* from Turkey (MEAC-SIG 2016 Alumni). And while *Fahd Batayneh* from ICANN Staff did admit that he had not organized the activities of the mentors in a planned and synced manner, the mentors came up with some nice ideas to keep attendees engaged (such as a WhatsApp group that is still lively until today).

The SIG was a good example of how the community can share some of the efforts. The technical director of NIC.tr attended MEAC-SIG 2014, and he was the one who suggested hosting the SIG in Ankara. 4 years later, this translated into reality. The local host was generous enough to allocate 22 rooms at the METU Guest House, and 22 of those who were at the SIG utilized these rooms.

During the call, ISOC praised the efforts injected in the school, and reiterated their support for the school moving forward.

ICANN staff appreciated the partnership that the SIG has with the *Arab World Internet Institute (AWII)*, and re-extended another invitation for more partners to jump onboard. In return, ICANN staff look forward to working closely with the co-organizers (ISOC and RIPE NCC) and with its partners starting next year in hopes to relief themselves of the immense efforts put into the SIG.

ICANN 60 Preparations - 1) Middle East Space, 2) MEAC-SWG Get Together, and 3) Funding one member/observer

ICANN Staff shared an update on the Middle East Space. From the discussions on the mailing list, there is majority agreement on having this meeting at ICANN 60 and beyond. It was suggested that a small subgroup of 5-6 individuals come together to set an agenda for this session; which, was suggested to be for no more than 90 minutes (sessions of more than 90 minutes would need to be organized at another venue). Topics to be covered during this session are topics that touch upon the Internet ecosystem within the region, yet remain within ICANN's boundaries. *Tijani Ben Jemaa* suggested that we select one topic and dive-deep in it, while others suggested covering hot topics.

On the SWG get-together, ICANN Staff suggested the SWG to develop an agenda of pressing topics to be discussed during the get-together, and then decide on the duration (2 hours, half day, or one day). If the meeting is to be more than 90 minutes, ICANN staff would have to search for a meeting room outside the venue. ICANN Staff also suggested to make a decision on whether the get-together is open or limited (closed) to the SWG.

Michael Oghia advocated for having the MEAC-SWG session be open, which received strong support from the Chair and other members. ICANN Staff noted however the need to ensure that the topics of the MEAC-SWG session need to be strictly on the group's activities while the ME Space need to be more open. This view was supported by the Chair and other members.

If the get-together is to be open, it might conflict with the ME Space, and folks who attend one might not attend the other. The Chair felt that having a 90-minute session would be wise as participants of the ICANN meeting would have packed agendas, and reserving them for a half-day get-together or a one-day would be challenging. Nevertheless, the discussion will go to the mailing list to solicit consensus.

On the funding of one member/observer, the sub-group working on this will share a name with ICANN Staff very soon.

Renaming the MEAC Region

The Chair acknowledged that there were some members of the MEAC-SWG were not totally satisfied with the result of the vote that came up in support of renaming the group back to ME-SWG. The Chair suggested delaying renaming it until after ICANN60, which could be an opportunity to arrive to consensus on this matter.

Any Other Business (AoB)

The idea of having a webinar for NextGen Fellows to introduce them to the MEAC-SWG was introduced by Khoulood and discussed by others. The idea was welcomed by the Chair, who recommended working on the details in close coordination with NextGen programme staff and other interested members.