

Minutes of Meeting

MEAC-SWG Call 5 – Wednesday 27 July 2016

The fifth call for MEAC-SWG took place on Wednesday 27 July 2016 at 10.00 – 11.00 UTC. The call had 16 members and observers of the MEAC-SWG, and 3 ICANN staff members.

On the Call we had Walid Al-Saqaf (Chair), Abdelhamid Al Abbadi, Adeel Sadiq, Ahmed Bakht Masood, Aicha Jeridi, Farzaneh Badii, Dhouha Ben Youssef, Ines Hfaiedh, Jad El Cham, Jim Quirk, Mahdi Taghizadeh, Michael Oghia, Naveed Bin Rais, Noha Fathy, Rafik Dammak, and Zahr Bou-Ghanem. And from ICANN Staff, we had Baher Esmat, Milena Timurcuoglu, and Fahd Batayneh.

We had an apologize noted from Manal Ismail.

The agenda for the call included

- 1) Summary of progress so far, and plan for next steps;
- 2) Main points covered and pending issues for track 1;
- 3) Main points covered and pending issues for track 2;
- 4) What must the new strategy document include that is different/new from the 2013-2016 ME Strategy document; and
- 5) AoB.

Summary of progress so far, and plan for next steps

The Chair emphasized that there has been progress made on the two Google Docs shared with the WG, yet the pace of work has slowed down, and the group is required to increase its efforts in order to hit the proposed deadline of November 2016 right before ICANN 57 in Hyderabad.

Main points covered and pending issues for track 1

Track 1 is with regards to evaluating the 2013-2016 Middle East Strategy. The Google Docs (found at <http://bit.ly/2ac5tCY>) has been populated with some significant text. Some sections have been well covered, while others need some extra efforts, and some other sections need more input.

The Chair indicated that the best approach would be to include the objectives, recommendations, and actions of the earlier strategy document (MESWG 2013-2016) and allow members to comment on what may be re-used, adapted or removed. The Chair indicated that the evaluation of previous list of actions and recommendations would be helpful in deciding whether to change, add or remove any particular items. This will be the next step to be taken and followed through in the next few weeks.

The Chair indicated that he will add text to the document and will work with ICANN Staff on converting it into a more user-friendly and readable format. He also urged other members of the working group to become more actively engaged in adding constructive text and comments on what is on the document to meet the deadline.

Main points covered and pending issues for track 2

Track 2 is with regards to studying ICANN's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. The Google Docs (found at <http://bit.ly/2awb1lt>) has been populated with some significant text. And as with the track 1 document, some sections have been well covered, while others need some extra efforts, and some other sections need more input.

One member on the call felt that this document would be better populated with text once track 1 concludes. Another member suggested that we shed more light on "hot topics" currently tackled at ICANN such as the IANA Stewardship Transition, and the Enhancing ICANN's Accountability tracks.

What must the new strategy document include that is different/new from the 2013-2016 ME Strategy document

One member on the call asked on the call if there was a full review of the 2013-2016 Middle East Strategy, and ICANN Staff did emphasize that there was a matrix document that was developed and circulated to the ICANN regional community, and then the matrix document was visualized into an infographic that was shared with the community along with a blog post summarizing key points. The blog post can be found at <http://bit.ly/2afaqs8>. ICANN Staff will share the matrix and blog post with the WG.

Other Business

ICANN Staff did share with the group that they did react to some of the comments on both Google documents, and that those members who had made the initial comments are requested to react back by either following-up with any further questions or comments, or mark the comment as "resolved".

The Chair asked the ICANN Staff if the slot for presenting the draft strategy document during ICANN57 in Hyderabad has been confirmed and was told that planning are underway and the exact schedule is expected to be finalized rather soon. ICANN Staff said that an update on the schedule and MEAC-SWG-related activities at ICANN57 will be announced in due course.