Minutes of Meeting

MEAC-SWG Call 6 – Wednesday 17 August 2016

The sixth call for MEAC-SWG took place on Wednesday 17 August 2016 at 10.00 – 11.00 UTC. The call had 15 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), Abdelhamid Al Abbadi, Ahlam Abu-Jadallah, Aicha Jeridi, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Dhouha Bin Youssef, Hadia El Miniawi, Manal Ismail, Michael Oghia, Mohamad Majdoubi, Nadira Alaraj, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Zahr Bou-Ghanem, and Zakir Syed. And from ICANN Staff, we had Milena Timurcuoglu and Fahd Batayneh. Fahd had some technical difficulties during the call due to travels and low quality of Internet connectivity.

We had an apologize noted from Baher Esmat.

The agenda for the call included

1) Review of progress so far;
2) Changes to the new strategy
   a. Continuation instead of creation
   b. IANA Transition and the MEAC region
   c. Updates to align with ICANN's plan
   d. Refocus on names and numbers
   e. Document structure reformatting
   f. Other input
3) Suspending new contributions and merging the two tracks into template;
4) Strategy Flow Diagram; and
5) AoB.

Review of progress so far

The Chair emphasized the amount of efforts put into the two tracks documents, yet he invited whoever had more input to contribute at the earliest.

Changes to the new strategy

Nadira voiced her confusion at how the "Track 1" document on evaluating the 2013-2016 strategy document has evolved. She did stress that the document contains components of the new strategy, and this caused confusion. The Chair responded by noting that introducing new components into the evaluation document was to create a link between the old strategy and the new one. He emphasized that the 2013-2016 strategy was a building block, and from it came out several initiatives for ICANN in the region such as the ME DNS Forum, the School on IG, and others. The 2016-2019 should build upon the previous strategy and continue the progress, and not start from scratch.

There were discussions on how to include the work of the IANA Stewardship Transition in the new strategy. While some members on the call were in favor of this inclusion, it was rejected by others on

the basis that the IANA Stewardship Transition was a project undertaken by ICANN; the organization, and is a global initiative. It was agreed that when talking about the IANA Stewardship Transition in the strategy, it would be to raise awareness of stakeholders in the region of how important it is, how it would affect them, and get the community engagement in the long run.

On behalf of Hamza, who couldn't participate with audio, Zakir gave an update in which he said that track 2 evolved constructively and while there were some issues that were debated on the document, they were resolved by using the ICANN's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan as a basis for the discussions.

There was a debate around the importance of staying within ICANN's mandate in dealing with names and numbers when developing the strategy. It was agreed that when considering any "other" industries or segments, they have to be framed in the context of names and numbers.

Suspending new contributions and merging the two tracks into template

The Chair did suggested suspending the possibility of adding new content to the Track 1 document so that it can be cleaned up to move on to the next stage which involves the finalizing of the strategy flow diagrams (mentioned below). Those on the call did not oppose, and the Chair suggested the suspension to happen after the call.

Those working on Track 2 were yet to confirm if they were ready to lock the document.

Strategy Flow Diagram

Walid noted to participants the need to have a more illustrative and efficient way to properly develop the objectives, recommendations and actions tables of the 2016-2019 strategy. He showcased the use of Gliffy diagram using a rough sketch he developed for the DNS Security and Stability focus area (see: https://www.gliffy.com/go/publish/11014409), and demonstrated its uses to identify the links between the objectives, recommendations, actions and goals. He said the diagram helps identify gaps, discrepancies, and missing links as well as redundancies, inaccurate relationships, etc. He highlighted the value of using such a visual presentation both to develop and present the strategy in the final document. He further suggested to possibly have the strategy published online in an HTML4-Javascript interactive format to be more informative and easy to understand and navigate.

The suggestion to use the diagram was commended and approved by the participants in the call and a suggestion was put forth to have Walid manage any changes to it based on input from members through the mailing list instead of having each member work on the diagram directly. Walid agreed with this suggestion and noted that he'll start a thread for the diagrams and seek input from members to finalize the various actions, recommendations and objectives for the strategy and have that reflected in the strategy document.

Other Business

Tijani suggested using a wiki page for the strategy document rather than the Google Docs. He suggested that it is accessible everywhere, and is easier to use than Google Docs. The Chair noted this suggestion and indicated his support to it and said he will discuss it with the ICANN staff. None of the members on the call objected to Tijani's suggestion.