Year at a Glance — Timeline

2020

7 October
The review and assessment of the 2017-2020 MEAC Regional Strategy was released to the public.

2021

18-19 January
ICANN organized the first virtual Domain Name System (DNS) Operations hands-on workshop in the Middle East utilizing its cloud-based lab for the .ye ccTLD.

9 March
ICANN organized its first event with the Afghan Ministry of Communications and IT in the form of a webinar on DNS Operations, DNS Abuse, and DNSSEC.

2 April
ICANN organized the first virtual DNS Abuse and Misuse workshop in the Middle East with the Moroccan telecom regulator, National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ANRT).

8 April
ICANN organized the first ever DNSSEC webinar with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) CERT members.

24 May
ICANN signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Arab Information and Communication Technology Organization (AICTO) to cooperate on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), Universal Acceptance (UA), and DNS Security.

15 June
ICANN held the first ever DNSSEC webinar for the Mauritanian technical community with the .mr ccTLD registry.

1 July
The FY21 Middle East Regional Action Plan was finalized and put into effect.

7 October
The FY20 Stakeholder Engagement Satisfaction Survey report was released.

30 January
A new Middle East Space leadership was inaugurated with three new members joining the organizing team.

29 March-1 April
ICANN organized the first virtual DNSSEC hands-on workshop in the Middle East utilizing its cloud-based lab for the .ma ccTLD.

5-7 April
The 7th Middle East DNS Forum attracted a record of 203 unique attendees across all three days of the virtual event.

20 April
The Middle East Space held a virtual discussion on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures and provided a submission into the Public Comment Proceeding on the GNSO final outputs reports to the Board.

15 June
Legal Hackers Ankara was approved as an ICANN At-Large Structure (ALS). It is the first ever ALS from Turkey.
Despite the pandemic, ICANN org continued to reach out to new organizations and groups. Examples include the Ankara Legal Hackers, a civil society in Turkey which is now an At-Large Structure; the Egyptian Information, Telecommunications, Electronics, and Software Alliance (EITESAL), a leading business association in Egypt; and the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO), a regional intergovernmental organization.

A Memorandum of Understanding with AICTO marked an important collaboration for ICANN org in the region. The two organizations aim to raise awareness of IDN use, advance the Universal Acceptance of all domain names (particularly domains using the Arabic script), and promote DNS security practices across the region.

Middle East DNS Forum Went Virtual

The seventh edition of the Middle East DNS Forum was the first virtual event for ICANN in the Middle East. As a new experience for ICANN in the region, the forum turned out to be a success, with 203 unique participants making it the most attended since its inception in 2014. The forum received high marks from respondents for its format, content, set-up and topics covered.
Capacity-Development Activities in Middle East

**TRAINING FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNITY**
ICANN org held technical workshops and webinars on DNS Network Security, DNSSEC and Universal Acceptance across the region.

Total number of workshops in FY21: 11
Total number of workshops in FY20: 5

**TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**
ICANN org provides training for law enforcement agencies so that they can better handle abuse and misuse related to Internet identifiers.

Total number of workshops in FY21: 8
Total number of workshops in FY20: 2

**TRAINING FOR NONTECHNICAL COMMUNITY**
The org also regularly helps to build capacity for the community such as accredited registrars and registry operators. In addition, ICANN org engaged with government and civil society for training that is relevant to these sectors.

Total number of workshops in FY21: 1
Total number of workshops in FY20: 3

Middle East Community Leaders
For the list of Supporting Organization and Advisory Committees leaders, please refer to ICANN’s FY21 Annual Report, page 109.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES**
Middle East and Adjoining Countries Strategy Working Group (MEAC-SWG)
Rafik Dammak – Chair
Hadia El Miniawi – Vice Chair

**UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE AMBASSADORS**
Abdelmonim Galilla – Egypt
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**Engagement Centers**

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