

Middle East and Adjoining Countries Regional Action Plan – Fiscal Year 2021

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

30 June 2020



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Purpose

To ensure that ICANN's regional engagement work in the Middle East is aligned with ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, the Middle East and Adjoining Countries Strategy Working Group ([MEAC-SWG](#)) developed [the Middle East and Adjoining Countries Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025](#). The regional plan went through a [public comments](#) process before it was finalized in mid-May 2020.

FY21 Action Plan - 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021

1. SECURITY

STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THE DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM (DNS) AND THE DNS ROOT SERVER SYSTEM

Goals	Actions	Activities	Timeframe	Outcomes	Metrics
1.1 Support the development of technical capacities and the building of regional networks of technical experts in partnership with relevant stakeholders 1.2 Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders	Assess the regional needs in terms of capacity development, skills, knowledge, and expertise	Conduct a survey to assess the technical capacity development needs of regional DNS industry players	JUL-DEC 2020	Better understanding of the regional technical needs for FY22	* Survey developed and conducted * Feedback received * Summary analysis of the feedback shared with the community
	Deliver training, workshops, webinars, online courses, and share information and white papers around topics related to DNS and DNS security	Conduct two in-person DNSSEC workshops	JAN-JUN 2021	* Increased DNSSEC operational knowledge * Potentially two more ccTLDs DNSSEC-signed	* Workshops conducted * Number of trainees * Feedback received * Growth in DNSSEC signed zones at the ccTLD level * Growth in DNSSEC

				validation
	Utilize two trained trainers to lead or co-lead DNSSEC workshops	JAN-JUN 2021	Improved preparedness of community trainers to lead future workshops	* Workshops conducted * Number of competent and capable local trainers * Engagement with local trainers
	Make DNSSEC a subject of discussion through various one on one engagement with relevant stakeholders and target four regional events to on the topic	FY21	* Better understanding of the importance of DNSSEC and ICANN's role * More data gathered about DNSSEC deployment across the DNS chain * An uptake of DNSSEC deployment	* Number of engagements * Number of organizations engaged with on the topic
	Conduct two "Handling Internet Identifiers Abuse and Misuse" workshops	FY21	Better understanding of how to tackle security incidents that have a DNS component	* Workshops conducted * Number of participants * Feedback received

		Raise awareness on ICANN's Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) project and discuss its benefits with six regional ccTLDs and IDN ccTLDs	FY21	Increased knowledge and understanding of the DAAR project	* Engagements with ccTLD operators on the topic * Feedback and views received * Number of ccTLD and IDN ccTLD operators considering DAAR
		Make technical material available to the community as and when needed	FY21	Increased awareness and knowledge of DNS technical issues	* List of technical documents shared * Organizations, groups and individuals shared material with * Feedback received
		Gauge interest from ccTLD and IDN ccTLD operators and relevant DNS industry players on the interest and need for establishing national DNSSEC task forces	JUL-DEC 2020	* Stakeholders have better understanding of the importance of DNSSEC * Increased readiness for deploying DNSSEC across the entire DNS chain	* Organizations engaged with on the topic * Feedback received * Task forces established * Engagement with task forces

					* Material distributed among task force members
	Fulfill IMRS instance deployment requests and encourage deployment of the same in diverse geographies	Target one geography where no IMRS instances exist and encourage deployment	FY21	A new IMRS instance in a new location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Number of organizations engaged with * Number of new IMRS instances requests * Number of new IMRS instances deployed

2. ICANN's GOVERNANCE

IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ICANN'S MULTISTAKEHOLDER MODEL OF GOVERNANCE

Goal	Actions	Activities	Timeframe	Outcomes	Metrics
2.1 Support and grow active and informed stakeholder participation from the region	Facilitate and encourage community members' participation in ICANN's multistakeholder processes	Flag to relevant regional stakeholders the different policy development processes and related working groups, encouraging them to take part	FY21	Diverse regional participation in the different ICANN multistakeholder processes and working groups	* Updates shared with community on PDP issues * Growth in community members participation in the different ICANN processes * Public comments submitted
2.2 Contribute to the improvement of ICANN's multistakeholder model and share learnings and experiences at regional and national levels		Support the Middle East Space; both face-to-face and virtual meetings		Better community engagement in the Middle East Space preparatory process and discussions	* Engage with the Middle East Space organizers in preparing for the sessions * Increase in number of Middle East Space sessions beyond the two that take place at ICANN meetings * Growth in

					participation
		Hold Readout Sessions for ICANN68, ICANN69, and ICANN70	FY21	* Better community engagement in the Readout sessions including taking an active role in providing updates on different topics * Community members updated on key ICANN issues	* Engage with community members in preparing for the sessions * Readout sessions held * Community members provide updates during the sessions * Growth in participation
Support and, when needed, contribute to regional activities organized by ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs)		Work with ICANN's Business Constituency (BC) on one joint business engagement	JAN-JUN 2021	Participants learn about the role of the BC in ICANN and how to get involved	* Communications with the BC on potential opportunities for engagement * Plan for the engagement activity * Activity held * Feedback received
		Work with ICANN's ISP and Connectivity	JAN-JUN 2021	Participants learn	* Communications with the ISPCP on

		Providers Constituency (ISPCP) on one joint engagement		about the role of the ISPCP in ICANN and how to get involved	potential opportunities for engagement * Plan for the engagement activity * Activity held * Feedback received
		Organize two activities with members of the ICANN At-Large community	FY21	Increased participation from current and potential At-Large community members	* Communications with At-Large members on potential opportunities for engagement * Plan for the engagement activities and develop agenda for the activities * Activities held * Feedback received * Number of participants
		Work with GAC members on organizing two government roundtables to inform	FY21	* GAC members are kept abreast with ICANN developments	* Communications with GAC members on the topic

		governments of key ICANN issues		* GAC members participate more actively in ICANN	* Plan for the roundtables and develop the agenda * Roundtables held * Feedback received * Number of participants joining
Promote ICANN programs such as the Newcomers program, Fellowship program, NextGen program, Community Regional Outreach program (CROP), the ICANN Learn platform, and other relevant programs		Share information on the available programs and present them at relevant events and engagements	FY21	New faces participate in ICANN through the Newcomers program, Fellowship program, NextGen program	* Engagement opportunities with new communities * Information shared about the different programs * New ICANN participants
		Encourage regional stakeholders to enroll in ICANN Learn courses Make relevant ICANN Learn courses a prerequisite in some of the regional engagement activities	FY21	Participants enroll in and complete ICANN Learn courses	* ICANN Learn courses promoted as part of the various engagement activities * Number of course series assembled and offered as a prerequisite for some of the regional engagement events

					* Number of attendees in the series of courses
	Share information about ICANN's Open Data Program and encourage community to explore the platform	FY21	Feedback from community on the functionality and usefulness of the platform		* Engagement opportunities and information shared on the program * Feedback received
Organize, support, and participate in relevant regional activities to raise awareness of ICANN's role and encourage participation in its work	Organize the Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG), and participate in four national and regional IGFs	FY21	Participants learn about ICANN and how to engage in its programs and processes		* Identify a host for the MEAC-SIG * Develop an agenda with the MEAC-SIG 2021 Steering Committee * Announce application process for the MEAC-SIG and work with the Steering Committee on selecting participants * Feedback received * Number of MEAC-SIG 2021 participants getting involved in ICANN

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Participation / speaking opportunities at national and regional IGFs * Number of participants engaged with during the events
	Hold four different engagement activities with academic institutes	FY21	Participants learn more about ICANN and how to engage in its programs and processes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communications with the academic community on potential opportunities for engagement * Develop an agenda * Activities held * Feedback received * Number of participants * Number of participants getting involved in ICANN

		<p>Target three remote engagement activities in two different countries where travel is being restricted</p>	FY21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * More geographically diversified engagement * Participants learn about ICANN and how to engage in its programs and processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Communications with local stakeholders to plan for the events * Develop agenda with the organizers * Activities held * Feedback received * Number of participants * Number of participants getting involved in ICANN
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3. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER SYSTEMS

**EVOLVE THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER SYSTEMS IN COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH RELEVANT PARTIES TO
CONTINUE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL INTERNET USER BASE**

Goals	Actions	Activities	Timeframe	Outcomes	Metrics
3.1 Support the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the region	Deliver training, workshops, webinars, online courses, and share information and white papers around topics related to the unique identifier systems, including the next round of new gTLDs, Universal Acceptance and IDNs	Share information about IDN related policy development work such as IDN TLD Variants, and encourage the relevant regional stakeholders to take part in such work	FY21	Input from regional stakeholders	* Communications on the topic * Number of organizations and groups engaged with on the topic * Feedback received
3.2 Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation		Share information about the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) and encourage feedback on the draft final report Support ongoing education and awareness on the program	FY21	Increased knowledge and awareness about the new gTLD subsequent round	* Communications on the topic * Number of organizations and groups engaged with on the topic * Feedback received
3.3 Raise awareness about the next round of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), and inform		Share information about ICANN's Registrants Rights program, speak to the topic at relevant	FY21	Stronger visibility of ICANN's content around registrants and their rights /	* Communications on the topic * Number of

regional stakeholders of all aspects of the program		events, and promote ICANN Learn courses on the topic		responsibilities	organizations and groups engaged with on the topic
3.4 Promote ICANN's role in ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems		Organize the 7th edition of the Middle East DNS Forum	JAN-JUN 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Participants updated on key ICANN related work * Strengthened engagement with regional community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Dates confirmed with local host * Progress made with the program committee on the agenda * Agenda finalized * Maintain event website, keeping it up to date * Promote the event through different media channels * Event held * Quality of discussions * Number of attendees (including remote participants) * Survey conducted * Feedback received

	<p>Promote the work of Universal Acceptance to relevant stakeholders and encourage them to join the different Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) working groups, and work closely with the UASG and UA Ambassadors to support the work around local initiatives</p>	<p>Organize two workshops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Email Address Internationalization (EAI) 2. Universal Acceptance for Software Developers 	FY21	<p>Increased UA technical knowledge among the software development community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Engagement with community on the topic * Number of stakeholders engaged with * Number of workshop participants * Feedback received
	<p>Support efforts to launch two UA local initiatives</p>	FY21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased awareness about UA at the local level * Increased efforts to drive more UA adoption at the local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Engagement with community on the topic * Number of stakeholders engaged with * Feedback received * Proposals for UA local initiatives submitted * UA local initiatives launched 	
	<p>Aim to recruit two new UA ambassadors from the region</p>	FY21	<p>More UA ambassadors from the region who can</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Number of individuals engaged with on the topic 	

				support the work of the UASG	* Number of applications submitted * Additional UA ambassadors from the region
	Present on UA related topics at two events	FY21		* Increased awareness about UA * Stronger regional involvement in the work of the UASG	* Engagement with community on the topic * Number of stakeholders engaged with * Number of events * Number of participants
Raise awareness, and where possible and appropriate, promote and support the adoption of new standards and protocols related to the Internet's unique identifier systems	Support the work of the Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN), encouraging them to work closely with ICANN's IDN Program on matters related to Arabic Script IDNs	FY21	Review of the Arabic Script LGR table at the second level completed	* TF-AIDN engagement in this work * An updated Arabic Script LGR table at the second level	
Continue to work and collaborate with	Provide the DNS-EC with the necessary support for	FY21	Increased knowledge and skills	* Number of workshops	

	the DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC)	capacity development workshops		in DNS related areas	* Number of participants
		Help the DNS-EC; where possible, with collecting data and statistics about the domain name industry in the region	FY21	More up-to-date data available on the DNS industry in the region	* Requests received from the DNS-EC * Data shared with the DNS-EC
	Review the key findings of the MEAC DNS study of 2015	Review the MEAC DNS Study and assess the validity of its recommendations in today's context	FY21	Findings of the review shared with the SWG and regional DNS stakeholders	* Data collected * Comparison analysis between the status of 2015 and the current status * Review completed

4. GEOPOLITICS

ADDRESS GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES IMPACTING ICANN'S MISSION TO ENSURE A SINGLE, GLOBALLY INTEROPERABLE INTERNET

Goals	Actions	Activities	Timeframe	Outcomes	Metrics
4.1 Monitor legislative efforts that could impact ICANN's mission or operations on both the national and regional levels 4.2 Work with ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs) to expand outreach to the wider community and engage with all stakeholders in relation to ICANN's mission and policy making	Offer technical expertise to inform policy makers and other relevant stakeholders of the potential impact some regulations and legislations may have on the DNS and its global operation	Coordinate with community members to seek two (2) opportunities for engagement with policy makers and regulators to provide factual data on ICANN's role	FY21	Increased awareness about the role of ICANN among policy makers who may or may not be participating in ICANN	* Number of engagements with community members on the topic * Number of participants from policy makers and other stakeholders
	Provide summary reports highlighting developments in relation to DNS-related regulations and legislation in the region	Initiate communications with relevant stakeholders and seek input on the kind of process(s) needed to help monitor legislative efforts that may have an impact on ICANN's mission	FY21	Input from community members and suggestions for way forward	* Number of engagements with community members on the topic * Feedback received * Summary reports shared



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