

# Middle East and Adjoining Countries Regional Strategy for Fiscal Years 2021-2025

Wednesday, 18 March 2020  
14.00 – 15.00 UTC



# Agenda

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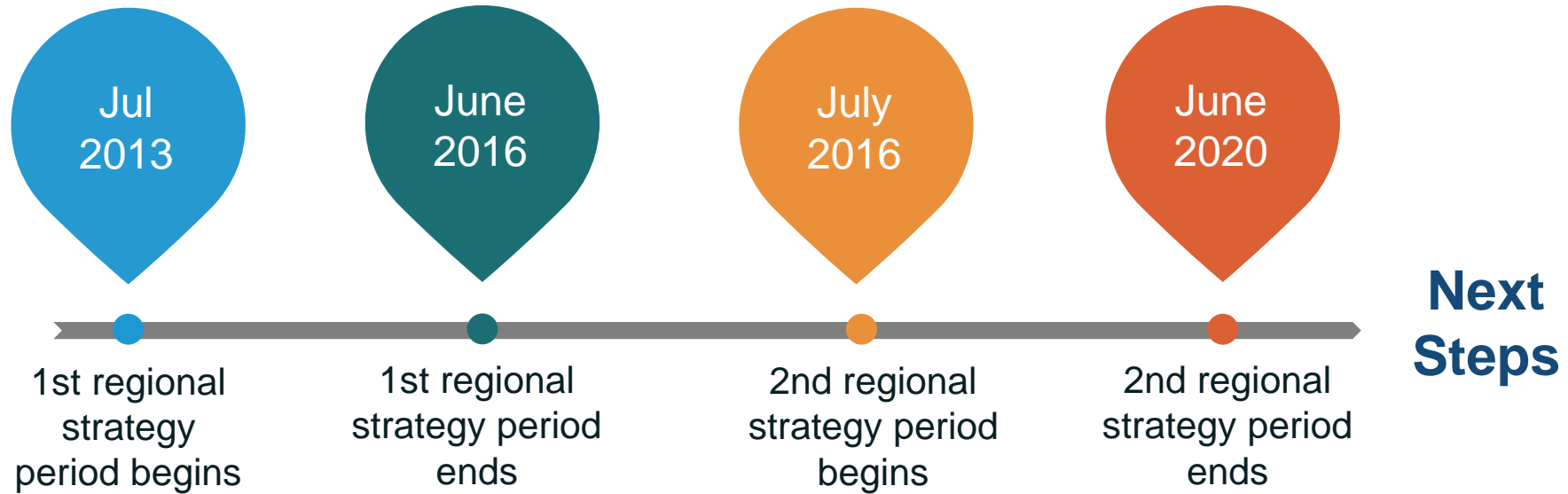
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# Welcome and Introduction

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## Background and Work Modalities

# Background and Work Modalities



- ⦿ The 1<sup>st</sup> regional strategy covered the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016.
- ⦿ The 2<sup>nd</sup> regional strategy has been covering the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020 (currently in effect).
  - The initial plan was to conclude this strategy on 30 June 2019. After community consultations, an extension of 12 months was put in place to align with the timeline of ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025.

# A New Strategy for the Region

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- ⦿ Community consultations on a new regional strategy took place during July and August 2019.
  - These consultations resulted in the decision to develop a new engagement strategy for the region, aligned with ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025.
- ⦿ [An open call](#) was made to the community in September 2019 to join the new Middle East Strategy working group (MEAC-SWG).
- ⦿ First meeting of the new working group took place in October 2019.
- ⦿ The initial work revolved around:
  - Updating the charter for the MEAC-SWG to fit its needs.
  - Introducing the MEAC-SWG members to ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025.
  - Informing the MEAC-SWG members about the ICANN's MEAC Strategy for 2016-2020.
- ⦿ MEAC-SWG currently consists of 28 members.
  - Interest to join the SWG is always open
- ⦿ Working space: <https://go.icann.org/2Ty3i0w>

# Geographic Scope

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- ⦿ Middle East and Adjoining Countries:
  - 22 Arab states (*As defined by the League of Arab States*)
  - Turkey
  - Iran
  - Afghanistan
  - Pakistan
  
- ⦿ Membership is open to anyone from the region, or anyone with an interest in the regional work.

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## Alignment with ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025



# Alignment with ICANN's 2021-2025 Strategy

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- ⦿ MEAC-SWG studied the five focus areas outlined in ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025, and their relevance to the regional needs. The working group also discussed if other focus areas, not included in the wider ICANN strategic plan, are needed.
  
- ⦿ MEAC-SWG agreed on the following focus areas, relevant to the region:
  1. Security
  2. ICANN's governance
  3. Unique identifier systems
  4. Geopolitics

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## Focus areas:

1. Security
2. ICANN's governance
3. Unique identifier systems
4. Geopolitics

# Focus Area 1 - Security

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## Strategic Objective

- ⦿ Strengthen the security of the Domain Name System (DNS) and the DNS Root Server System.

## Regional Goals

- ⦿ Support the development of technical capacities and build a regional network of technical experts to further strengthen DNS security in the region.
- ⦿ Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through engagement with relevant stakeholders.

# Focus Area 1 – Security (continued)

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## Targeted Outcomes

- ⦿ Increase technical knowledge and skills in operating and securing DNS infrastructures across the region.
- ⦿ Increase the level of awareness and knowledge about DNS security threats and mechanisms to mitigate them.

## Proposed Actions

- ⦿ Assess the regional needs for development of capacities, skills, knowledge, and expertise.
- ⦿ Deliver trainings, workshops, webinars, online courses, and white papers that would assist in raising awareness or building capacities.
- ⦿ Deliver train-the-trainer (TtT) program where needed.

# Focus Area 2 – ICANN’s Governance

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## Strategic Objective

- ⦿ Improve the effectiveness of ICANN’s multistakeholder model of governance.

## Regional Goals

- ⦿ Support and grow active, informed, and effective stakeholder participation from the region.
- ⦿ Take part in improving ICANN’s multistakeholder model, and share lessons learnt and experiences at regional and national levels.

# Focus Area 2 – ICANN’s Governance (continued)

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## Targeted Outcomes

- ⦿ Increase meaningful stakeholder participation. Set active community members engaged in ICANN’s multistakeholder processes as examples.
- ⦿ Increase awareness and understanding of ICANN’s multistakeholder model across the region.

## Proposed Actions

- ⦿ Increase regional community participation in ICANN’s policy making processes.
- ⦿ Support and contribute to regional activities organized by ICANN’s Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs), where needed.
- ⦿ Promote ICANN programs such as the Fellowship, NextGen, Community Regional Outreach program (CROP), and others if needed.
- ⦿ Organize, support, and participate in relevant regional activities to raise awareness on ICANN's role, and encourage participation in its work.

# Focus Area 3 – Unique Identifier Systems

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## Strategic Objective

- ⦿ Evolve the unique identifier systems in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties to continue serving the global Internet users' needs.

## Regional Goals

- ⦿ Support the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in the region.
- ⦿ Promote readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA) and encourage stakeholders from technology developers, service providers, and policy makers to consider UA implementation.
- ⦿ Inform regional stakeholders about the new round of generic top-level domains (gTLDs).
- ⦿ Encourage the deployment of latest standards and protocols related to the unique identifier systems within ICANN's remit.
- ⦿ Promote ICANN's role as it relates to the unique identifiers within the multistakeholder community.

# Focus Area 3 – Unique Identifier Systems (continued)

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## Targeted Outcomes

- ⦿ Increase awareness about IDN implementation, UA, and the new round of gTLDs.
- ⦿ Increase adoption of IDNs and UA in the region.
- ⦿ Inform and equip regional community on the new round of new gTLDs and its processes.
- ⦿ Support a healthy DNS environment that embraces the latest standards and protocols.

## Proposed Actions

- ⦿ Deliver trainings, workshops, webinars, online courses, and white papers that would assist in raising awareness and building capacities around new gTLDs and IDNs.
- ⦿ Promote the UA of gTLDs to relevant stakeholders and work closely with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) and UA ambassadors.
- ⦿ Promote the adoption of new DNS-related standards and protocols.
- ⦿ Continue to work and collaborate with the DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC).



# Focus Area 4 - Geopolitics

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## Strategic Objective

- ⦿ Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single, globally interoperable Internet.

## Regional Goals

- ⦿ Monitor legislative efforts that could impact ICANN's mission or operations on both national and regional levels.
- ⦿ Work with ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees to expand outreach to the wider community and engage with all stakeholders in relation to ICANN's mission and policy making.

# Focus Area 4 – Geopolitics (continued)

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## Targeted Outcomes

- ⦿ Have a process in place, in collaboration with the community, to monitor legislative efforts in the region in relation to ICANN's mission.
- ⦿ Increase awareness and understanding of ICANN's role among policy makers and regulatory authorities.

## Proposed Actions

- ⦿ Offer technical expertise to inform policy makers and other relevant stakeholders about the potential impact of regulations and legislations on the DNS and its global operation.
- ⦿ Provide summary reports highlighting developments in relation to DNS-related regulations and legislations in the region.

- ICANN’s Strategic Plan for FY 2021-2025 has a fifth strategic focus area called “Finances”. The MEAC-SWG suggested the following on this item:

***“To continue its role in supporting the implementation of the regional strategy, the MEAC-SWG will provide input regarding the predictable funding projections related to the different regional activities and assess those projections and requirements throughout the implementation phase.”***

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## Next Steps

# Next Steps

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- ⦿ Public comment window is open until 3 April 2020 at 23.59 UTC:-  
<https://www.icann.org/public-comments/meac-strategy-2020-02-18-en>
- ⦿ Staff report on public comments will be ready by 17 April 2020.
- ⦿ Final strategy document will be published in May 2020.
- ⦿ First year action plan will be ready by early June 2020.

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## Closing Remarks



Write to us at  
[meac.swg@icann.org](mailto:meac.swg@icann.org)

# Engage with ICANN – Thank You and Questions



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