ICANN

Middle East Regional Report

1 JULY 2020 - 30 JUNE 2021

ONE WORLD, ONE INTERNET

Year at a Glance — Timeline

2020

1 July

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

7 October

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

7 October

The FY20 Stakeholder Engagement Satisfaction Survey **report** was released.

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.

30 January

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

9 March

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

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.

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).

5-7 April

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

8 April

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

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.

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.
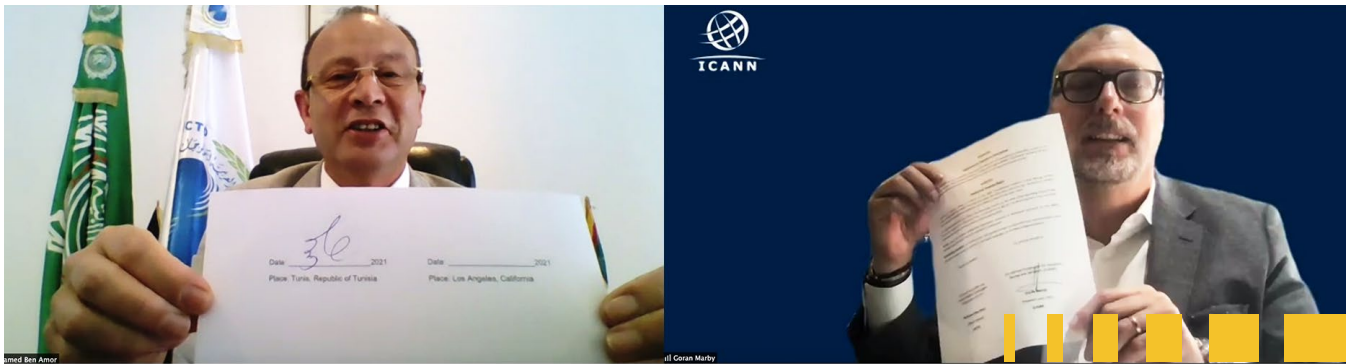
15 June

Legal Hackers Ankara was approved as an ICANN At-Large Structure (ALS). It is the first ever ALS from Turkey.

15 June

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

Regional Highlights

ICANN Partners with Middle Eastern IGO and Others on IDNs and UA

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.

**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.

**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:

11

Total number of workshops in FY20:

5

Total number of workshops in FY20:

1

Total number of workshops in FY19:

3

Total number of workshops in FY21:

8

Total number of workshops in FY20:

2

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

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