

Middle East Space Informal gathering report (San Juan, March 7, 2024):

Participants at ICANN 79 in San Juan from the Middle East responded to an invitation by Mr. Baher Esmat (ICANN Regional Vice President for stakeholder engagement in the Middle East) and the Co-Chairs of the Middle East Space to an informal gathering on Thursday, March 7th at noon at the Centro de Convenciones de Puerto Rico.

Attendances were: Tijani BEN JEMAA, Aziz Hilali, wafa Dahmani, Nabil Benamar, Manal Ismail, Christine Arida, Zeina Bouharb, Sami Ali, Hadia EL-Meniawi, Hazem Hezzah, Farzaneh badii, Houda Chihi, Khaled Fattal, Baher Esmat and Amin Hacha.

The co-chair of the Middle East, Amin Hacha, facilitated the informal meeting. Participants shared their perspectives and posed questions. After listening to all participants and engaging in several interactions, the following points were identified for the next steps:

1- A follow-up email will be sent to all participants to ensure they are registered on the Middle East mailing list, which also contains the charter form of the Middle East Space.

2- Regarding the universal acceptance, a proposal from Mr. Nabil, it is suggested that we make more use of the Arabic language in our discussions. This is because it is the majority language in the Middle East. Additionally, efforts should be made to promote the active use of this language, where a lot of ICANN work has been done concerning domains in the Arabic language. However, the acceptance and utilization of these efforts in the Arab communities is currently limited.

3- Exchanging ideas among members in the Middle East is crucial, which highlights the uniqueness of our regional space.

4- To maintain that any upcoming drafts must be carefully chosen and thoroughly prepared, which will reflect a good image of our community.

5- To focus on involving a greater number of stakeholders from the Middle Eastern communities and involve the new followers in the Middle-east space.

6- Ongoing efforts to develop the Middle East Space.

In conclusion, the Middle East Space co-chair emphasized the primary goal of working together in crafting statements and addressing subjects to propel the Middle East Space forward, particularly with the target of ICANN81 in Istanbul, which will be organized in our region, a significant opportunity to showcase the region's contributions and challenges.