

Registries Stakeholder Group Statement

Issue: Middle East and Adjoining Countries 2016-2019 Strategy

Date statement submitted: November 17, 2016

Reference URL: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/meac-strategy-2016-10-27-en>

The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft ICANN Engagement Strategy in the Middle East and Adjoining Countries and wants to acknowledge the members of the MEAC-Strategy Working Group for their work.

The RySG supports the strategy's mission defined by the mission statement to *“Attract more active and engaged participants from the region to contribute to ICANN’s policy development processes and to acquire leading roles within the ICANN community.”*

The RySG observes however a discrepancy between the mission statement - attract more active and engaged participation in ICANN - and the focus areas and objectives defined in the draft strategy, which tend to focus on capacity building in the MEAC region, and as such risk to move away from the Strategy’s and ICANN’s mission.

The RySG recommends that ICANN At-Large structures in the MEAC region create meaningful education programs and consumer awareness campaigns to inform users about domain names as the chief navigational tool for the Internet, encourage users to directly participate in ICANN processes, and embark on user-focused research projects that will help inform ICANN-decision making processes. The RySG would be happy to provide feedback on any ALAC developed education programs and consumer awareness campaigns.