"Internet has become the backbone of our globalized world....For the United Nations, it has become a powerful tool in our mission to promote peace and security, development and human rights, particularly in the flows of information and knowledge that it enables”.

• Ban Ki-Moon’ message, IGF-II
Contents

• Overview
• Internet Governance: Challenges and Opportunities for the region
• Arabic Domain Names: an overview
• UN-ESCWA Open Forum during IGF-IV

World Summit on the Information Society

• UN General Assembly Resolution 56/183 (21 December 2001) endorsed the holding of the WSIS in two phases
• WSIS-II, Tunis, 2005: mandate of “Internet Governance Forum” established
Main themes discussed during the past IGF meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IGF-I</th>
<th>IGF-II</th>
<th>IGF-III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Reaching the next billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Promoting cyber-security and trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness</td>
<td>Openness</td>
<td>Managing critical Internet resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Critical Internet resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Classification of issues

ICANN-related
- IP addresses space allocation, protocol identifier assignment;
- Top-Level Domain Name System management;
- Root server system management functions.

Non-ICANN-related
- Cyber legislation;
- Internet addiction, child pornography, child abuse and safety of minors;
- Content regulation and the harmful content;
- Privacy and security.

Source: An Introduction to Internet Governance – by Jovan Kurbalija – Diplo Foundation

Internet Governance Issues

Highly-contentious issues
- Governance of ICANN Post-JPA
- Managing critical Internet resources

Less-contentious issues
- Diversity and Multilingualism
- Openness
- Access
- ICT for Development

Institutional and organizational Issues

Substantive and technical Issues
Institutional and Organizational Dynamics

- Global level
  - IANA
  - ICANN
  - UNESCO
  - ITU
  - WIPO
- Regional level
  - LAS
  - ESCWA

Critical Internet Resources

- Issues related to the management of those resources include:
  - Administration of the root zone files and root server system;
  - Administration and allocation of DNS;
  - Internet Protocol addresses;
  - Innovative and convergent technologies;
  - Technical standards.
Access

- Connectivity
- User interfaces
- Devices and usability
- Content availability and hosting

Diversity

- Multilingualism of the Internet:
  - Arabic Domain Names
  - Digital Arabic content
Language usage growth 2000-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Growth (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>668%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>2064%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>121%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>459%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>405%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>755%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>204%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Internet World Stats

Top 10 language usage 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>204%</td>
</tr>
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<td>83%</td>
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<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LAS

- 2004: formed the Arab Working Group on Domain Names and Internet Issues (AWGDNI) through the Council of Arab Ministers for Communication and Information Technology
- Latest IG issues raised by LAS
  - Infrastructure
  - Multilingualism
  - Establishment of National and Regional Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)
  - Child abuse and safety of minors
  - Telecom, media convergence and mobile broadcasting;
  - Internationalization of ICANN
  - Transition from IPv4 to IPv6.
ESCWA & the Arabic Domain Names

- Efforts were initiated between 1998 and 2003 for the use of non-Latin characters in domain names; however, those efforts were detached and conflicting;
- The IETF issued in March 2003 a set of ‘RFCs for Internationalized Domain Names’ (IDNs) which were deployed as basis for domain names standards in all languages;
- In 2003, ESCWA, in cooperation with the League of Arab States (LAS), joined the regional move towards an Arabic Domain Names System (ADNS) as a leader and coordinating body;
- In the same year, the Arabic Domain Names Task Force (ADN-TF) was formed under the auspices of ESCWA;
- Later in 2005, the Arab Working Group on Domain Names and Internet Issues (AWGDNI) established by the LAS convened its first meeting in 2005.

Cooperation with LAS

- The cooperation between ESCWA and the LAS came in response to the dire need for coordination on the regional level and within the following framework:
  - New technology providers should not compete on setting the basic standards but rather on efficiency levels and cost;
  - All registries and registrars need to be compatible and, most importantly, the domain names themselves have to be unique.
  - In order to satisfy the demand, an entire environment, that takes into account technology standardization, policy and administrative arrangements, as well as new applications, needs to be put in place.
- In 2005, ESCWA published its first study on “Development of an Arabic Domain Name System” which addressed technical, linguistic and operational aspects of this task.
ESCWA’s ADNS Project

- In 2007, ESCWA launched a project on “Promoting the Arabic Domain Name System” ending in mid 2009;
- The project adopted two main tracks of implementation and has achieved a number of milestones in each.

**Track 1**
- Use of Arabic script in domain names
- Standardization efforts

**Track 2**
- Applying for and reserving “.arab” and its equivalent “.عربي”
- Establishing a pan-Arab registry
Track 1 Main Achievements

• Evaluation of the Arabic Domain Names Pilot Project (ADNPP) and future prospects. The evaluation concluded that the pilot project constitutes a valid proof of concept on the use of Arabic characters in a full IDN.IDN implementation;

• Developing a new Internet-Draft covering linguistic aspects:
  – endorsed by the LAS;
  – successfully passed the IETF revision process and is awaiting final publication as an informational RFC # 5564, noting that this process required considerable follow-up by ESCWA with IETF experts;

• Formation of the Arabic Script in Internationalized Domain Names Working Group (ASIWG) to address resolving technical and linguistic issues related to using Arabic script in domain names by different language communities such as Arabic, Urdu and Farsi;

• ASIWG has convened four meetings in a series and has a mailing list and a wiki website:
  http://www.arabic-script-domains.org/wiki/Main_Page

ASIWG Meetings

ASIWG-I, Dubai, 29-30 March 2008
• witnessed the establishment of ASIWG
• hosted by .ae Domain Administration (.aeDA)
• participants were regional and global Internet experts & representatives of the Arabic script language communities

ASIWG-II, Dubai, 28-29 May 2008
• hosted by .aeDA
• aimed to set the guidelines for the use of Arabic script in domain names
• reached recommendations regarding numerals, <SPACE>, and ZWNJ characters

ASIWG-III, Cairo, 8-9 November 2008
• hosted at the Egyptian National Telecom Regulatory Authority
• deliberations focused on guidelines for adopting Arabic characters in IDNs

ASIWG-IV, Amman, 1-3 April 2009
• hosted by the National Information Technology Centre
• witnessed the participation of the Jawi language
• handled discussions on numerals, registration processes, and funding issues
Track 2 Activities

- As ICANN will open way for new gTLDs in 2010, the opportunity must be seized by the Arab region for a new “.arab” gTLD and its IDN equivalent “.عربية”;
- Towards this end, ESCWA was entrusted by the LAS to develop a Preliminary Feasibility study on Establishment of the Domain Name Registry for the “.arab” and “.عربية” Generic Top Level Domains;
- The study was developed by a team comprising specialized experts in the field combining technical, business, and legal backgrounds and was endorsed by the AWGDNII.
- It was only in LAS’s last meeting (Sept. 09) that agreement was reached to select a party or consortium to establish and manage the “.arab” Registry through a call for expression of interest.

Practical Steps Towards “.arab”

- Phase II of ESCWA’s project “Development and Implementation Support of the Arabic Domain Name System” funded by ESCWA’s Trust Fund was launched with activities pertaining to “.arab”;
- Accordingly, ESCWA developed a “Proposed Terms and Conditions” booklet (مقترح الشروط والمواصفات);
- The booklet will be used to govern the launching of an open, transparent mechanism through which one party or a consortium is selected to establish the registry and manage its functions;
- It is estimated that such party/consortium will be selected during Q1 2010 – just in time to apply to ICANN.
Conclusion

IG in the Arab Region

Participation in IGF

Unified Arab position

Action plan for IGF

Converging Roadmaps

Internet Multilingualism

ESCWA ADN-TF

IDNA

IDN Process Started

Information Society

WSIS-I

WSIS-II

Internet Governance

LGIG

WSIS-II

IGF-I

2003

2004

2005

2006
Converging Roadmaps

- ASIWG
- IDNA
- New gTLDs and ccTLDs Processes
- ICANN Independence
- Action plan for ADNS
- Roadmap for IG

IGF-III
IGF-IV
IGF-V

Internet
Globalization

2007 2008 2009 2010

Summary

Study on Internet Governance by ESCWA
LAS paper on IG issues

ESCWA Open Forum during IGF IV
Day 3, Tuesday 17 November, 2009 14h00 until 15h30

Roadmap for Internet Governance in the Arab Region
UN-ESCWA

- 2004: formed the Arabic Domain Names Task Force (ADN-TF)
- 2008: co-founded Arabic Script in IDNs Working Group (ASIWG)
- Advocated policies aimed at empowerment of the region and at promoting the level of participation and involvement of policy makers and experts from the region in Internet governance.