



Mr. Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536
USA

Phone: +1 310 301 5800

FAX: +1 310 823 8649

Dear Mr.Chalaby.

Firstly, we would like to thank ICANN for its continued support to the DNS eco-system.

We would like to reiterate our position with regards to the TLD application .persiangulf.

We believe insertion of this TLD to the Internet DNS is not in the public interest of the Internet community and users and should be rejected due to many important reasons.

1. The name reflects a disputed name for the Arabian Gulf, the waterway that separates the Arabian Peninsula from Iran. The Arabian Gulf name is the only and official recognized and used name in most of the countries in the Middle East and North Africa and most of the population surrounding it for hundreds of years. The name "Persian Gulf" is never used by the communities in 7 out of 8 countries bordering the Arabian Gulf.
2. The applicants did not consult nor involve the targeted community (the community around the Arabian Gulf including 7 other countries). The applicant continues to ignore involving the targeted community. The applicant clearly stated that the target and user of this new gTLD would be the people and community of the Arabian Gulf while none of the targeted stakeholders were organizations, people, academia, civil society, technical stakeholders were involved in this TLD with the exemption of Iran. This is a clear inconsistency in the application.
3. We believe this TLD does not represent the interest of the target audience, hence we do not see a legitimate reason for it to exist. We believe that it has not been created for the users of the internet rather for an unknown agenda.

4. Despite this application being in process within ICANN for 5 years, there was no evidence of the interest within the community to support it.

For the above reasons we reiterate our strong disapproval to the TLD and we urge ICANN to terminate the application as well as follow the recommendation of the Independent Review Panel in (GCC vs. ICANN case) related to the same TLD.

Thank you.

Regards,

Eng. Salim M. Al-Ozainah

Chairman and CEO of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top and a long, thin vertical stroke extending downwards.