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The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
Secretariat General

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh: 11462 - P.O. Box: 7153

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Subject: Objection against .islam and .halal

Dear Chairman of ICANN Board,

Dear ICC Panel on .islam and .halal objections,

This has reference to new gTLD applications .islam (1-2130-23450) and .halal (1-2131-60793) and to the community-based objections filed by the government of United Arab Emirates against those two applications.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is an inter-governmental organization established in 1981. It is a political and economic union of the Arab states bordering the Arabian Gulf, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

The GCC would like to express our concern to the new gTLDs applications (.islam and .halal) that have been applied by Asia Green IT System (AGIT). We believe that gTLD applications related to religions must be fully supported and governed by the concerned community. Unfortunately this is



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not the case with these two applications as the applicant did not consult the community, nor it received the support of the community.

Being an IGO that represents the interests of six Islamic countries, we would like to share the concerns raised by UAE government in its early warning. We believe that the application put forward by AGIT is not in the interest of the Islamic community due to the sensitivities inherited in them. We believe that this TLD should be managed and operated by the community itself through a neutral body that truly represents the Islamic community such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Therefore we would like to support to the objection that was put forward by the government of United Arab Emirates and request ICANN not to approve these applications.

Best Regards,

Abdullah J. Al-Shibli
Asst. Sec. Gen. for Economic Affairs