

22 May 2021

RE: ME Space statement on New gTLD SubPro

Tijani Ben Jemaa
Executive Director Mediterranean Federation of Internet Associations

Dear Tijani,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for [your letter](#), sent to the Board on 29 April 2021, and to express our appreciation for the input provided by the Middle East Space Community.

The ICANN Board is in the process of reviewing the [Final Report](#) of the Subsequent Procedure Policy Development Process Working Group (SubPro PDP WG), as adopted by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council. The Board is considering launching an [Operational Design Phase](#) (ODP), the outcome of which will, together with other relevant input, inform the Board's decision on how to proceed with the Final Report. We expect that the three topics you raise, Communications, Application Support, and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) would be included in the ODP's scope.

The Board believes Universal Acceptance (UA) and IDNs are an integral part of the Domain Name System (DNS). Expanding top-level domain (TLD) name options through localized languages and scripts will help to further evolve access to local and global information on the Internet.

Regarding the issue of 'Communications', we note your input and agree that communications and outreach to support subsequent rounds, including, but not limited to, applicant support, should start early and be as wide-ranging as possible. We encourage the Middle East Space to work together with other entities in the ICANN ecosystem to engage in appropriate outreach around subsequent new gTLD rounds, as well as other relevant issues that are of concern to your region.

We note that you also submitted your letter as a public comment. It will be considered as input when deliberating the recommendations contained in the SubPro Final Report.

The ICANN Board thanks the Middle East Space for its commitment and work as an important contributor to the global ICANN community.

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors