

Republic of Lebanon
Telecommunications
Regulatory Authority

Date: 04 September, 2013

**To: Ms. Cherine Chalaby, Chairman of the New gTLD Program Committee,
ICANN New gTLD Program Committee
ICANN Board Members,**

Subject: Position of Lebanon Regarding New gTLD Applications for .ISLAM and .HALAL

Dear Ms. Chalaby,

Dear New gTLD Program Committee Members,

Dear ICANN Board Members,

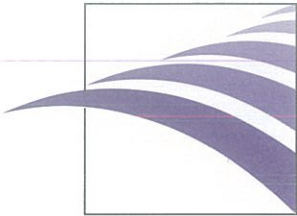
Reference is made to inform you the Lebanese position regarding new gTLD applications for .ISLAM and .HALAL as follows:

We strongly believe that, in general, the ICANN should stay away from making decisions related to religious domain names based on other than purely technical criteria, principals, requirements, and inputs.

Having stated our overarching position, Lebanon believes that TLDs like .ISLAM and .HALAL like many other new TLDs sought using the **new gTLD program**, will benefit the general public and will help the Muslim community in getting better presentation, and it will also help the community integrate and engage better on the Internet.

We also understand and point out that TLDs of this nature will also bring with it few additional management challenges that we believe that the ICANN board and committees must take into account as part of the evaluation of these two TLDs and of other similar TLDs.

We must reiterate our strong belief that the evaluation process must be a purely technical conducted through a technical committee based on purely technical criteria. However, in case inputs other than technical inputs must be taking into account, we also strongly believe that, the management and operation of these TLDs must be conducted by a neutral non-governmental



Republic of Lebanon
Telecommunications
Regulatory Authority

multi-stakeholder group representing, at least, the larger Muslim community, and representing its different sections and segments including Governments, NGOs and IGOs, Private Sector, Academia, as well as other stakeholders of the internet for the Muslim community.

It is extremely important to guarantee a growth-oriented developmental management process of these, and of other similar, very sensitive TLDs, where the management is conducted in a non-governmental, non-political multi-stakeholder manner. It is also important to avoid any dominance or major influence by any specific organization, country or group of countries, governments, governmental organizations in an effort to help conduct a proper and healthy multi-stakeholder management with the objective of making sure that the internet (and the society as a whole) follows a more inclusive, democratic, peace-seeking, transparent approach, consistent with the purposes of the ICANN and the larger Internet community.

This approach could help engage the entire Larger Muslim Community in a nondiscriminatory process that could benefit from its very objectives to fully consider the matter and take into account the highest level of non-alignment, impartiality, neutrality, inclusiveness, transparency and democratic process.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Imad Y. Hoballah

Lebanon's Representative to the ICANN-GAC

Chairman and CEO, TRA, Lebanon