



Ministry of ICT
Information Technology Organization



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of ICT

In the name of God

Dated: November 20, 2013

To: Mr. Fadi Chehadé, the President & CEO of ICANN

To: Mr. Steve Crocker, Chairman

To: Mr. Cherine Chalaby chairman and other members of the New gTLD Program Committee

CC: Mrs. Heather Dryden, Chair of Governmental Advisory Committee, for information only

Subject: New gTLD applications for .ISLAM and .HALAL

Dear Mr. Fadi Chehadé, Dear All,

I would like to inform you that I have noted with surprise a copy of the letter referenced OIC/SG-01/2013, 005954 dated 04 November 2013 signed by Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), forwarded to you on by Mr. Wajdi H. Al-Quliti regarding New gTLD applications for .ISLAM and .HALAL.

First of all, it is worth to mention that the follow up actions on these two applications is now under the responsibility of the Chairman of the New gTLD Program Committee and other members of that Committee. Based on the available information, the relevant procedure contained in chapter 3 of Applicant Guide Book has been successfully applied. Consequently, from the procedural point of view, the matter is no longer under the GAC responsibilities due to the fact that CAG has forwarded its position and conclusion to ICANN after its 46 Meeting in Beijing/People's Republic of China (GAC Communique, Beijing, dated 11 April 2013)

Secondly, for your kind attention of Mr. Steve Crocker, Chairman and Mr. Fadi Chehadé, the President & CEO of ICANN and other distinguished ICANN Board members and that of the distinguished chairman and respectful members of New gTLD Program Committee, we are on



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the opinion that relevant stakeholder (individuals, personalities, entities, governments) including but not limited, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization should be consulted within a bottom-up, inclusive multi-stakeholder model /approach, with a view that appropriate mechanism/modality be developed to properly address the concerns raised above

Thirdly, as I wish to reiterate that the Islamic Republic of Iran as an Islamic Country believes that TLDs like .ISLAM and .HALAL will naturally bring valuable opportunities for the Muslim community to be presented on the Internet using the New gTLD Program, however there are important points about the management and governance of these TLDs, which we expect ICANN and New gTLD Program Committee carefully consider them in their evaluation process.

We strongly believe that both TLDs should be managed and operated by the Muslim community through a **neutral body** that represents the different sections and segments of the Muslim community, including Governments, NGOs and IGOs, Private Sector, Academia as different stakeholders of internet in the this community.

We also believe that the inclusion of all these stakeholders not only complies with the objectives and purposes of the Internet as an inclusive, democratic, transparent approach in a multi-stakeholder model under which the ICANN is functioning and expected to function in future, but also guaranties the management of these sensitive TLDs to operate in a **strictly non-political environment** without any direct or indirect influence of any government or group of countries on the proper and healthy functioning of the matter, so as the entire Muslim community (Ummah) in a nondiscriminatory approach could fully benefit from its very objectives

I there wish to affirm and reiterate the position of my country which certainly would be shared by other Muslim countries familiar with the functioning and management of ICANN and request the ICANN and its constituent to carefully consider the matter in order to prevent any potential imposition of any view by a single organization or entity, in particular having any political motivation contradicting the very purpose and objectives of ICANN.

Finally I would like to recall that at this very moment that the functioning and management of ICANN/Internet is under the full scrutiny of the whole world it is imperative and fundamental that ICANN and its constituent entities/ Committees/ organs to be conscious of any action that may compromise the full fairness, impartiality, neutrality, inclusiveness, transparent and democratic approach that need to be taken in the management of these new gTLDs



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I again thank you for the opportunity provided to us to express our views.

Yours sincerely,

Saeed Mahdioun

The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in GAC, ICANN