Dr. Steve Crocker  
Chairman of the Board  
ICANN  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536  
USA

Dear Dr. Crocker,

We are writing to you on behalf of the International Union of Public Associations' "World Congress of Tatars" to share our concerns about recent comments by the Communication and Information Technology Commission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with respect of an application for new gTLD .tatar (https:// gldcomment/ icann.org/comments; feedback/ applicationcomment/ commentdetails/6026)

The World Congress of Tatars currently unites 376 communities from 39 countries of the world, this organization is officially registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. This year the Congress will celebrate its 20 years anniversary. The 5th Convention of the World Congress of Tatars will be held in December 2012, which will bring together 1,100 people from all over the world. According to the Congress's Charter the Convention is held once in 5 years, and is the supreme governing body of the organization. As a non-governmental organization, the World Congress of Tatars is actively cooperating with the authorities of the Republic of Tatarstan and the federal authorities of the Russian Federation. It must be underlined, that the Tatar communities around the world consider the capital of Tatarstan, Kazan, as a historical, cultural and spiritual center of the Tatar people. Naturally, the Tatars around the world
have the desire and the need to maintain close ties with their historical homeland, the
center of Tatar national culture, which has been built here for many centuries. Today the
Republic of Tatarstan is the only one territorial and administrative jurisdiction for the
Tatars worldwide.

We believe it is necessary to provide some additional information relating to the
history of the Tatar people. The first state formations in the Volga region of Eastern
Europe began to appear in IX - X centuries. The ancestors of the modern Tatars in Volga
Bulgaria accepted Islam as the official religion in 922. Since then, the Tatar people
became an integral part of the civilization of Islam. The education, literature and culture
of the Tatar people has been developed on the basic values of Islam. The place of Islam
and its culture in the life of Russian Muslims can be pointed out by the fact that there are
more than four thousand mosques in Russia, 1300 of which are in Tatarstan. In the
Muslim community of the Russian Federation, the Tatars are the leading nationality both
in numbers and in importance, as the Muslim theology was developed with efforts of
such eminent scientists as Abd-un-Nasyr Kursavi, Shihab-ad-Din Al-Marjani, Ismail
Gasprinsky, Alim-jan Barudi, Musa Bihiev, Riza-ad-Din Fahretdin. Today, many of
these works are the integral part of the global Islamic religious reflection.

Tatar people have always maintained close ties with the Arab world, many Tatar
religious figures had studied in Arab countries. A lot of Tatar Muslims commit and make
the hadj to the holy places of Islam. All this is done by the help of His Majesty the King
of Saudi Arabia, and we are grateful to His Majesty and his country for this
opportunities. We are proud of the first President of the Republic of Tatarstan Mintimer
Shaimiev who was honored with blue ribbon of Saudi Arabia – King Faisal International
Prize.

The Comission also argues that, “We do not believe that the applied-for gTLD
string (".tatar") should be under control of one group or individual who cannot, and does
not represent the multitude of Tatar communities”. If the gTLD «. tatar» is registered, it
will be offensive to many people and societies for religious and cultural reasons", then
we find it necessary to announce that today, the World Congress of Tatars represents all
the Tatar communities of the world and we do not know anyone else's claim to the title
"Tatar". The World Congress of Tatars was formed in 1992 to unite and to connect
representatives of the Tatar people, wherever they live. We also consider it necessary to inform you that the World Congress of Tatars is a dynamic, open social organization. Every year dozens of new communities from various countries join the Congress. Thus, the administrator of the future gTLD «Tatar» will be the non-governmental organization "World Congress of Tatars". Undoubtedly, this fact will ensure that the right to control over the administration and operation of this domain will be at the Tatars of the Russian Federation and the world. The issue of acquisition of gTLD «Tatar» for the Tatar community of the world was raised at the 4th Convention of the World Congress of Tatars in Kazan in 2007 on behalf of more than 1,000 delegates from all over the world. Since then the technical plan on creation of the social network "Tatar ile" as part of the global Internet was made. On October 1, 2012, the web-portal "Tatar ile", owned by the World Congress of Tatars, has been launched in pilot mode. Currently, the web-portal "Tatar ile" gathers comments and suggestions from users of the World Tatar community.

In the comments the Commission asserts that "the current applicant can not demonstrate that possesses a monopoly over the term "Tatar" nor can it demonstrate that its intended ownership of that term accepted by Tatars in the Asian region". To this we can report that in Asia the World Congress of Tatars has dozens of large organizations. In such countries as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzsthan, Tajikistan, China, Turkey, Afghanistan there are actively working Tatar organizations uniting hundreds of thousands of people. All of them work closely with the World Congress of Tatars.

In consideration of the foregoing premises, we apply with a repeated request to carefully re-examine our arguments, and we hope that the Council will take a decision of the allocation of the gTLD «Tatar» to the International Union of Public Associations "World Congress of Tatars". The Charter of the World Tatar Congress is available on the website: Tatarile.org/congress.

Sincerely,
Chairman of the Executive Committee of
The World Congress of Tatars
Member of Parliament of
the Republic of Tatarstan

Rinat Zakirov