

Independent expert Application for the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review Team

Motivation:

I have 15 years' experience in the TLD business and policy issues particularly IDN TLDs. I tested the first Arabic domain name between Egypt in Singapore in 2000 when I was with I-DNS.net of Palo Alto California and has been involved in IDN since then. I also serve as the Co-Chairman of the IDN implementation guidelines WG at ICANN.

I have implemented a few projects including dot Mobily Arabic and English TLDs and was part of the policy development and the project implementation. I am very much interested in working with this group to voice the concerns and issues related to IDN and the international applicant and consumer because the as cultural, linguistic, political and business dimensions are different particularly when it comes to IDN. Some examples of the issues that need to be addressed through proper safeguards and through the application and evaluation process are:

- 1- Documents related to the financial section of the application at times stood in the way of entities applying for TLDs for confidentiality reasons and the process might need some improvement.
- 2- Language preservation issues and confusion on script rules need some work.
- 3- A stronger local presence of ICANN would help the TLD program.
- 4- Interaction with local authorities where government approvals might be needed for applications need to be discussed and addressed. Potential applicants have stopped moving forward in the first round due to confusion and lack of proper instructions and procedures for an ICANN application with the local government or Telecom Regulatory authorities. Local governments concerns need to be addressed as they can be a driving force in expansion, stability and security where simple effective steps can be taken.

I would be honored to work with this team as an independent expert

