Los Angeles March 24, 2016

H.E. Mr. Salaheddine MEZOUAR
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Kingdom of Morocco
Email: Redouane Houssaini <houssaini@maec.gov.ma>

Dear Minister Mezouar,

On behalf of ICANN and its community, I would like to extend my most heartfelt gratitude to you and your team for hosting an amazing ICANN55 public meeting in Marrakech on 5-10 March 2016. We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to His Majesty, King Mohammed VI for His esteemed Patronage of the ICANN 55 meeting. Our heartfelt thanks go to the local organizing committee for the excellent work that went into the preparations and hosting of the meeting. We are truly honored and humbled by everyone's hospitality and warmth.

ICANN55 Marrakech was one of the most impressive meetings in ICANN's history. The High Level Governmental Meeting, which you kindly invited Governments to, hosted 115 countries and Intergovernmental/International Organisations, the most successful thus far for an ICANN meeting.

Morocco's ambition to host this important gathering during one of the most pivotal moments for both ICANN and the global multistakeholder community is reflective of its constructive and innovative approach to the numeric economy. Marrakech will always be remembered as the last stop in the community's efforts to put together a proposal for consideration by the U.S. Government to complete the transition of the IANA Stewardship to the global Multistakeholder community.

The Internet is now central to economic development across Africa. Morocco as we have witnessed has the capacity to continue to contribute towards the future development of the digital space across the continent. Unlocking the potential of the impressive youth we met with in Morocco that reflects the Continent's will be key to attaining future goals. Their energy, enthusiasm and positive outlook on the future can serve to fuel those efforts.

We congratulate Morocco for the successful hosting of ICANN55, which took place under a safe and secure environment, enabling the global Internet community to complete the historic proposal on IANA. The event would not have been successful without your leadership and your team's much appreciated hard work. I would like to mention specifically the efforts of your very active GAC member, Redouane Houssaini, for his excellent cooperation.

Thank you again for your kind generosity and hospitality.

Akram Atallah
Interim ICANN President & CEO

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