



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

11 November 2013

Heather Dryden
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee
11 November 2013

Re: Letter from the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Dear Heather,

As you know, on 4 November 2013, the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation submitted the attached letter with a copy to ICANN President and CEO Fadi Chehadé. The letter addresses the GAC's advice concerning the new gTLD applications for .halal and .islam. As you also know, the New gTLD Program Committee entered into a dialogue with the GAC regarding these strings pursuant to the requirement of Section 3.1 of the Applicant Guidebook. The NGPC however has not taken any final action on these strings while they remained subject to formal objections.

Now that the objection proceedings have concluded, the NGPC must decide what action to take on these strings. Before it does so, it will wait for any additional GAC input during the Buenos Aires meeting or resulting GAC Communiqué. The NGPC stands ready to discuss this matter further if additional dialog would be helpful.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Stephen D. Crocker
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
THE SECRETARY GENERAL

ORGANISATION DE COOPERATION ISLAMIQUE
LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL



منظمة التعاون الإسلامي
الأمين العام

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Dear Ms. Dryden,

I thank you for your kind letter dated 2nd October 2013 that confirms the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) becoming an Observer to the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

You are kindly aware that the OIC is the second largest intergovernmental organization with 57 Member States spread across four continents. It also has five observer members including the Russian Federation and the USA, the UK, France, Italy, Canada and Australia maintains official relations with the Organization through appointing Special Envoys. Besides, it is the sole official representative of the Muslim World representing 1.6 billion Muslim peoples around the World.

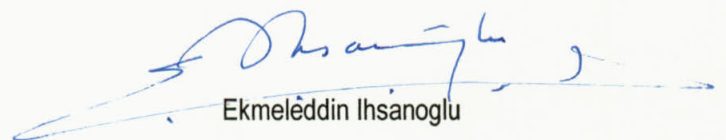
As such, I take this as my responsibility to bring to your kind attention our firm and clear position with regard to the use of Islamic terms such as; .Islam and .Halal gTLDs. The OIC took note of the "GAC Advice to the ICANN Board" incorporated in the GAC Communiqué dated 11 April, 2013 adopted at Beijing, People Republic of China. Specifically, the advice contained in Article 1/a/i/iii with regard, to Module 3.1 part II of the applicant Guidebook, quote **"the GAC recognizes that Religious terms are sensitive issues. Some GAC members have raised sensitivities on the applications that relate to Islamic terms, specifically .Islam and .Halal. The GAC members concerned have noted that the applications for .Islam and .Halal lack community involvement and support. It is the view of these GAC members that these applications should not proceed"** unquote.

To this end, the OIC feels that the observation of the GAC members about the lack of community involvement and support was based on absence of proper information. The involvement and support of the OIC as the sole official representative of 1.6 billion Muslims are tantamount to the involvement and support of the World Muslim populations. Moreover, to give this claim on .Islam and .Halal gTLDs more legal footing, the Foreign Ministers of 57 Muslim Member States of the OIC is going to adopt a resolution to the effect of protecting and having a united stand towards the use of the new gTLDs with Islamic identity. This Resolution will be adopted at the forthcoming OIC Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting (CFM) scheduled to be held in Conakry, Guinea on 9 -11 December 2013.

In view of the above, the OIC would be happy to engage and fully cooperate with the GAC of ICANN to find an appropriate solution to this crucial issue. In the meantime, I would request you to kindly consider this letter as an official opposition of the Member States of the OIC towards probable authorization by the GAC allowing use of these new gTLDs .Islam and .Halal by any entity not representing the collective voice of the Muslim people.

I look forward to having your positive consideration on the issue as well as to engaging in further institutional cooperation between the OIC and ICANN.

Sincerely,


Ekmelëddin Ihsanoglu

Ms. Heather Dryden
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee
ICANN
CC: Mr. Fadi Chehadé (President and CEO of ICANN)

