

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION  
THE SECRETARY GENERAL

ORGANISATION DE COOPERATION ISLAMIQUE  
LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL



منظمة التعاون الإسلامي  
الأمين العام  
19 DEC 2013

OIC/SG-01/2013 006754

Jeddah

Dear Mr. Crocker,

I would like to refer to my letter to Ms. Heather Dryden the Chair of GAC dated 4 November 2013 (copy attached) and her reply dated 29 November 2013 regarding the new gTLD applications for .halal and .islam. I wish to seize this opportunity to thank the GAC Chair and you personally for paying due consideration to our concerns, as well as for the understanding of ICANN for OIC position on new gTLD applications for .halal and .islam.

I have the honor to inform you that the Foreign Ministers of the 57 Muslim Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which is the sole official representative of the Muslim world has approved and adopted the OIC position as indicated in my aforementioned letter. I would like here to stress that the resolution was unanimously adopted after extensive consultations between Member States on the issue. The official delegates of the Muslim World have considered the fact that new gTLDs with Islamic identity are of such sensitive nature as they concern the entire Muslim nation and subsequently has decided to file an official objection to ICANN for the use of gTLDs .Islam and .Halal, and preserve the right of member states in this regard.

The resolution also urged OIC Member States to ICANN to support United Arab Emirates' position and the measures it took to block the sale of the two domains .Islam and .halal or any other domains which concern the entire Islamic Ummah.

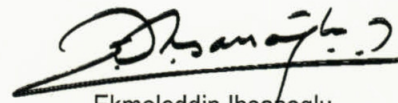
In light of the above, you may agree that the adopted resolution clearly nullifies the observation of the GAC members about the lack of community involvement and support to the OIC request. You would also kindly appreciate that the OIC resolution on the issue underlines the need for constructive engagement between the ICANN and OIC as well as between ICANN and OIC Member States.

In this context, I would like to reiterate and affirm the official opposition of the OIC Member States towards any probable authorization by the GAC allowing use of these new gTLDs .islam and .halal by any entity not reflecting the collective voice of the Muslim People.

While appreciating the response by the GAC Chair, I would also like to underline that we all strive towards achieving our ultimate goal of ensuring betterment for our people, and when an issue as sensitive as the one under discussion is being considered, there always should be a scope to reintroduce even after apparent conclusion of deliberations.

I look forward to working closely with you on this important issue. Please accept, Mr. Chair, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu

Mr. Stephen D. Crocker  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

CC: Mr. Fadi Chehade, the President & CEO of ICANN  
CC: Mr. Cherine Chalaby Chariman and other members of the new gTLD Program Committee  
CC: Mrs. Heather Dryden, Chair of Governmental Advisory Committee

