

Date: 10 July 2018

Ref. No.: TRA / TP / 5063 / 2018

Mr. Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Chalaby

This is in reference to Telecommunication Regulatory Authority's letter (Ref.: TRA/TP/6608/2012) to ICANN and to the subsequent correspondence action on the same subject. We would like to reiterate our position concerning the TLD application .persiangulf.

We believe insertion of this TLD to the internet DNS is not in the public interest of the internet community and users and should be rejected due to many important reasons.


1. The name reflects a disputed name for the Arabian Gulf, the waterway that separates Arabian Peninsula from IRAN. The Arabian Gulf name is only and officially recognized and used name in most countries in the Middle East and North Africa and most of the population surrounding it for hundreds of years. The name "Persian Gulf" is never used by the communities in 7 out of countries bordering the Arabian Gulf.
2. The applicant did not consult nor involved the targeted community (the community around the Arabian Gulf including the 7 other countries). The applicant continues to ignore involving the targeted community. The applicant clearly stated that the target and user of this new gTLD would be the people and community of the Arabian Gulf while none of the targeted stakeholders including organizations, people, academia, civil society, technical stakeholders were involved in this TLD with the exemption of Iran.

3. We believe this TLD does not represent the interest of the target audience hence we do not see a legitimate reason for it to exist. We believe it's not created for user of the internet.
4. Despite this application being in process within ICANN for 5 years, there was no evidence of interest within the community to support it.

For the above reasons, we reiterate our strong disapproval to the TLD and we urge ICANN to terminate the application as well as follow the recommendation of the independent review panel in (GCC vs. ICANN) related to the same TLD.

Best regards,



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Dr. Hamed bin Salim Al-Rawahi
Executive President