



27 August 2018

Mr. Salim M. Al-Ozainah
Chairman and CEO
Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority

Dear Mr. Al-Ozainah:

We are in receipt of your correspondence on behalf of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) regarding the applied-for generic top-level domain (gTLD) .PERSIANGULF and the Final Declaration in the *Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) v. ICANN* Independent Review Process (IRP). The Board appreciates your input on the current matter and acknowledges CITRA's position.

As you may be aware, initially the Board determined that further consideration and analysis of the Final Declaration in the GCC IRP was needed. (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2017-03-16-en#2.b>.) Accordingly, the Board asked the Board Accountability Mechanisms Committee (BAMC) to conduct a further analysis of the IRP Panel's factual premises and conclusions. The BAMC did so and provided options for the Board to consider in addressing the Final Declaration and the Panel's recommendation.

The Board further considered the GCC IRP Final Declaration at its meeting on 15 March 2018 (see <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2018-03-15-en#2.b>). The Board accepted that the IRP Panel declared the GCC as the prevailing party in the GCC IRP, and directed the BAMC to follow the steps required as if the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) provided non-consensus advice to the Board pursuant to Module 3.1 (subparagraph II) of the Applicant Guidebook regarding .PERSIANGULF. To this end, members of the Board and concerned members of the GAC engaged in a dialogue regarding the .PERSIANGULF gTLD on 28 June 2018, at ICANN62 in Panama City.

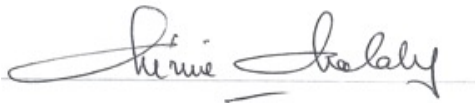
The Board further directed the BAMC to review and consider the relevant materials related to the .PERSIANGULF matter, and to provide a recommendation to the Board as to whether or not the application for .PERSIANGULF should proceed (see <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2018-03-15-en#2.b>). Your letter, along with all the relevant information, is being reviewed as part of the BAMC's consideration and analysis.

Before making any further decisions in this matter, the Board will consider the BAMC's recommendation, the relevant information, and all the inputs received to ensure that any decision is in the public interest, respecting ICANN's accountability mechanisms and the

policies and procedures set forth in the Applicant Guidebook. Your letter will be reviewed by the Board as part of its consideration of the matter.

Thank you again and please let us know if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Best regards,



Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors