



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

13 January 2014
Mr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Dear Mr. İhsanoğlu,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 December 2013 regarding the new gTLD applications of .islam and .halal.

We received with great interest the news about the Resolution on preserving gTLDs with Islamic identity that was unanimously adopted by OIC's 57 Member States in the Fortieth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013. I have forwarded the Resolution to the New gTLD Program Committee of the ICANN Board (NGPC) for their consideration. The time window for formal objections on new gTLD strings has ended, but we will have to wait for the consideration and decision of the NGPC according to their rules and procedures.

On the other hand, I am delighted that one of articles of the Resolution encourages the OIC and its Member States to become more active in ICANN, which we surely welcome and support as ICANN Board and staff. This will build the necessary bridges for engagement and dialogue and foster the cooperation between our two organizations in the future. We were pleased to see the OIC become an observer at ICANN's Government Advisory Committee (GAC), and look forward to an era of more active participation of OIC's Member States in the GAC as well as in other ICANN constituencies. The active engagement will enrich constituencies and support ICANN's constant efforts to become more global and inclusive. In this respect, I would like to propose that the ICANN Regional VP for the Middle East, Baher Esmat, work closely with your team to foster more active engagement with OIC and its Member States, and I count on your support to this effort.

Once again, thank you for your communication and we look forward to working more closely with OIC and its Member States.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Crocker, Chair
ICANN Board of Directors