

30 May 2018

Mr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen
Secretary General
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Dear Mr. Al-Othaimeen:

We are in receipt of your correspondence on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) regarding the applied-for generic top-level domains (gTLDs) .ISLAM and .HALAL. The Board appreciates your input on the current matter, and acknowledges the OIC's "position that the new gTLDs with Islamic identity are extremely sensitive in nature as they concern the entire Muslim nation" and the "official opposition of the OIC Member States towards any probable authorization that might allow the use of these new gTLDs .islam and .halal by any entity."

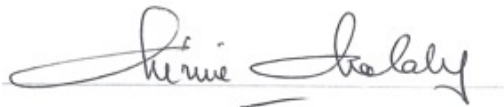
As you may be aware, the Board considered the Asia Green IT Systems (AGIT) v. ICANN Independent Review Process (IRP) Final Declaration at the Board's meeting on 15 March 2018. Essentially, the IRP Panel recommended that the Board actually make a decision one way or the other as to whether these applications should proceed.

Upon consideration of that recommendation, and among other things, the Board directed the Board Accountability Mechanisms Committee (BAMC) to re-review the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) non-consensus advice (as defined in Section 3.1 subparagraph II of the Applicant Guidebook) regarding the .ISLAM and .HALAL applications, as well as the subsequent communications from or with objecting and supporting parties, in light of the Final Declaration, and to provide a recommendation to the Board as to whether or not the applications for .HALAL and .ISLAM should proceed. 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 so as 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