Los Angeles October 31, 2016

Mr. Houlin Zhao
Secretary General
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Place des Nations
1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland

Re: WTSA 2016 – Proposed AFCP Res: 47 Country code top-level domain names and geographic names

Dear Mr. Houlin Zhao:

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on a successful start to the WTSA in Tunisia, with the discussions at the Global Standards Symposium well appreciated and thought provoking.

I would also like to thank you for sparing the time in your busy schedule to receive our ICANN team members last week. I understand you had a really positive discussion.

As our team members noted, ICANN has concerns on the African Group's Common Proposal (AFCP) for an amendment to Resolution 47. While it might have been triggered by some misunderstandings of some African countries on a specific Top-Level Domain application. The proposed text of Resolution 47 is about mandating the ITU-T SG2 with work in ICANN's remit and measures which already exist within ICANN processes.

I am sure that we are in full agreement that we continue to work together on keeping one, single, open and interoperable Internet that serves globally 3.6 billion users.

We look forward to build on the positions that both our organizations have publicly stated based on the cooperative relations between the ITU and ICANN, as well as your own eloquent assurances at ICANN55 (High Level Government Meeting) in Marrakech last March; that the ITU has no intention of being a forum for discussing Internet issues for which ICANN is responsible.

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ICANN is prepared to assist with any required dialogue as necessary, and ICANN would be happy for any Member States to join the existing discussions within ICANN's multistakeholder process and especially within ICANN's GAC work on geographic domain names.

I look forward to continue a fruitful dialogue and the opportunity to meet you when I visit Geneva at the end of November 2016.

Sincerely,

Göran Marby
President & CEO, ICANN