



15 October 2010

Mr. Amre Moussa
The Secretary General
League of Arab States

Dear Mr. Moussa

I refer to your letter of 28 August 2010, sent as per the request of the Council of Arab Telecommunication and Information Ministers and its steering committee which is in charge of the current project for establishing and managing '.arab' TLD, calling upon ICANN to recognize the Arab region as a geographic region that represents the 22 member countries of the League of Arab States.

Research revealed that many UN agencies do organize their work or regional office locations by region and in this context many do recognize the 'Arab States' such as the UN Development Programme, the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). However, there is no uniformity in how UN agencies classify their respective regions and there are inconsistencies as to what countries are members of the Arab States.

One of the principal objectives of the Guidebook is to provide a smooth-running process that offers clarity for applicants. In developing the process for geographic names, ICANN has relied upon on ISO or UN lists with assist with geographical definitions in the context of new gTLDs. As there are many UN lists which recognize the Arab States or the Arab Region, a single reference list is preferred to ensure clarity for applicants.

At a recent ICANN Board workshop, which focused specifically on new gTLD issues, the Board agreed to expand the definition of Continents and UN Regions as defined in the Applicant Guidebook on New gTLDs to include UNESCO's regional classification list which comprises: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America; Latin America and the Caribbean. This list will be used in addition to the "Composition of Macro Geographical Regions, Geographical Sub-regions, and Selected Economic and other Groups" list, which is already recognized in the guidebook.



The UNESCO list was chosen as ICANN has an ongoing working relationship with UNESCO reflected in a Cooperation Agreement and the UNESCO list identifies 20 members to the Arab States; 19 of these are in common with the 22 members claimed by the League of Arab States.

The Guidebook language will be changed to the following:

Continents and UN Regions

- An application for a string listed as a UNESCO¹ region or appearing on the “Composition of Macro Geographical (continental) Regions, Geographical Sub-regions, and Selected Economic and other Groupings²” list, or a translation of the string in any language.
- In the case of an application for a string appearing on either of the lists above, documentation of support will be required from at least 60% of the respective national governments in the region, and there may be no more than one written objection to the application from relevant governments in the region and/or public authorities associated with the continent or the UN region.
- Where there are common UN regions on both lists, the “Composition of Macro Geographical (continental) Regions, Geographical Sub-regions, and Selected Economic and other Groupings” list takes precedence.

Thank you Mr. Moussa for writing to me on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Beckstrom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rod Beckstrom
President & CEO

¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/worldwide/>

² <http://www.unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/449regin.htm>



League of Arab States
The Secretary General



5/5950
August 28th, 2010

Dear Mr. Beckstrom

I am writing to your Excellency as per the request of the Council of Arab Telecommunication and Information Ministers and its steering committee which is in charge of the current project for establishing and managing Arab TLDs. The Council has noticed that ICANN does not recognize the Arab region and has taken a restrictive definition, by exclusively referring to the UN publication entitled "Composition of Macro Geographical Regions, Geographical Sub-regions, and Selected Economic and other Groupings." This restricted definition comes in conflict with the operational precedent of many UN agencies that specifically recognize the Arab region.

In this context, a unanimous resolution has been adopted during the 14th Meeting of the Council of Arab Telecommunication and Information Ministers which took place in Sana'a, Yemen on July 1st, 2010, calling upon ICANN to recognize the Arab region as a geographic region that represents the 22 member countries of the League of Arab States, and due to the importance of that issue, the Council has asked me to convey the matter to you, hoping that you take the necessary action in this regard.

Sincerely,

Amre Moussa

Mr. Rod Beckstrom
President and CEO
Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers



DATE Monday, October 18, 2010

TO Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary General
League of Arab States

FAX # +202 25 74 03 31

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MESSAGE

Secretary General Moussa,
Please find Mr. Beckstrom's response to your letter dated 28, August 2010.
If there is error in transmission or you are unable to read the document please do not heistate to contact me
and I will be happy to transmit the document to you again.

Thank you,
Teresa Andrea Elias
Executive Assistant to Rod Beckstrom
(650)963-7630