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To Mr. Fadi Chehadi, the president & CEO of ICANN
To Mr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of ICANN Board
To Mr. Cherine Chalaby Chairman of the New gTLD programme Committee
CC: Mrs Heather Dryden, Chair of Governmental Advisory Committee, for information.

17 SEPT 2014

Subject: Extended Evaluation Report regarding New gTLD application ID 1-1720-93817
applied for the string "Tata" by Indian company "Tata SONS Limited"

Dear All,

As the Director for Digital Economy at the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Investment and Digital Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco, responsible for planning, developing, promoting and regulating activities related to information and communication technology, I would like to inform you that I have noted with surprise and very deep frustration the report of the Geographic Names Panel of the 18 July 2014 regarding extended evaluation result of ".Tata", as new gTLD applied by TATA SONS Limited company.

In fact, "Tata" is the name of the Moroccan sub-division/province registered in ISO 3166-2 standard which, according to the article 2.2.1.2.2 "Geographic Names requiring Government support" of the gTLD applicant Guidebook, constitutes a safeguard for any interested party in the registration of a geographic domain name and any application for a string that is an exact match of a sub-national place name, like "Tata", required support from concerned government.

Unfortunately, this is not the case with the application for the dot Tata, as far as I know, which did not receive any endorsement from any Moroccan authority or from the community of the relevant Sub-division / province.

It is my understanding that the Moroccan government may object to such application at any time including after the new gTLD will be delegated. But, I think if the gTLD Dot Tata is granted to Tata SONS Limited as private sector without the corresponding authorization of the Moroccan government, this will be a precedent for future rounds of new gTLD requests and then other sub-national or regional names could be captured by brands.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the Moroccan government, for your personnel attention regarding this important matter.

Please accept the expression of my highest consideration.



Le Directeur
de l'Economie Numérique
Signé Boubker Seddik BADR

الحي الإداري - شالة - الرباط - المغرب
Contact Information Redacted: الهاتف
الفاكس:

Contact Information Redacted

+ Contact Information Redacted

Fax : -Contact Information Redacted

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