ITU support for The Creation of “.ARAB” Internet Top Level Domain
Regional Workshop on Arabic Domain Names and Internet Governance
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ITU in Brief

- Leading UN agency for information and communication technologies (ICT)
- The oldest UN agency (144 years), Based in Geneva, Switzerland
- 191 Member States and more than 700 Sector Members
- Global focal point for governments and the private sector
- ITU's role in helping the world communicate spans 3 core sectors:
  - Radiocommunication (ITU-R)
  - Standardization (ITU-T)
  - Development (ITU-D)
  - Action Line C2: “Information & communication infrastructure”
  - Action Line C5: “Building confidence & security in the use of ICT’s”
  - Action Line C6: “Enabling environment”
We commit to working earnestly towards multilingualization of the Internet, as part of a multilateral, transparent and democratic process, involving governments and all stakeholders, in their respective roles. In this context, we also support local content development, translation and adaptation, digital archives, and diverse forms of digital and traditional media, and recognize that these activities can also strengthen local and indigenous communities.

Countries should not be involved in decisions regarding another country’s country-code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD). Their legitimate interests, as expressed and defined by each country, in diverse ways, regarding decisions affecting their ccTLDs, need to be respected, upheld and addressed via a flexible and improved framework and mechanisms.

We recognize the need for further development of, and strengthened cooperation among, stakeholders for public policies for generic Top-Level Domain Names (gTLDs).

We recognize that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet. We also recognize the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders.

Importance of the gTLD…

- To establish an online presence, that reflects the geographical, cultural and linguistic identity
- To foster knowledge exchange and information dissemination, in line with the principles of the Information Society
- To develop a global force for a regional commercial, political and cultural network
ITU Mandates and gTLDs

PP. Resolution 102 (Rev. Antalya 2006)
ITU’s role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General
…to take the necessary steps for ITU to continue to play a facilitating role in the coordination of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, as expressed in § 35 d) of the Tunis Agenda, interacting as necessary with other intergovernmental organizations in these domains;

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau
…to organize international and regional forums and carry out necessary activities, in conjunction with appropriate entities, for the period 2006-2010, to discuss policy, operational and technical issues on the Internet in general, and on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU in particular, including with regard to multilingualism, for the benefit of Member States, especially for developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), and Sector Members;

ITU Mandates and gTLDs

PP. Resolution 133 (Rev. Antalya 2006)
Role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names

WTSA Resolution 48 (Rev. Johannesburg, 2008)
Internationalized (multilingual) domain names

WTDC Doha Action Plan Programme 3
To assist developing countries, through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and telecommunication networks, to advance the achievement of national, regional and the internationally agreed development goals, by promoting the use of ICT-based products, networks, services and applications, and to help countries overcome the digital divide.
ITU Mandates and gTLDs

ITU Council 2009

Role of the Dedicated Group in identifying Internet-related Public Policy issues

*invites Member States*

to recognize the scope of work of ITU on international Internet-related public policy matters, represented by the list of topics in Annex 1 which was established in accordance with decisions of ITU membership at the Plenipotentiary Conference, Council and world conferences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Policy Issues</th>
<th>Relevant ITU Mandate</th>
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<tr>
<td>International public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses</td>
<td>PP. Resolutions 101, 102 (Rev. Antalya, 2006), WTSA Resolutions 47, 49, 64, 69, 75 (Rev. Johannesburg, 2008), Resolution 1282 (Mod. 2008), Lead Facilitator of WSIS AL C6 (Tunis, 2005)</td>
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<td>Contributing to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries</td>
<td>WTDC Resolutions 17, 20 (Rev. Doha, 2006), ITU-D Programme 3, ITU-D Programme 5, WTSA Resolutions 64 (Rev. Johannesburg 2008)</td>
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ITU and the Arab Region

“I would like to refer to the Union fine initiative to support the League of Arab States to implement the Public Arab Top Level Domain Names, which included the ITU readiness to take all the necessary operating steps and procedures relating to registering the Domains (.arab) and (.عربي) on behalf of the League of Arab States, and setting the application policies that meet the region needs, with the possibility of providing financial support to the project.”

Secretary General, The League of Arab States (8 November 2009)

- To extend gratitude to ITU for its initiative on the matter of the financing and preparation of the application to ICANN to register, administer and operate generic Arabic top-level domains for and on behalf of the LAS.
- To charge ITU with preparing the application to ICANN to register .arab and .عربي generic Arabic top-level domains for and on behalf of the LAS and providing the funding required for this purpose. This shall be carried out under the full supervision of the steering committee and within the deadline to be set by ICANN.

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**ITU assistance for the establishment of .ARAB**

ITU, through the Development Bureau, will assist the League of Arab States in the establishment and operations of .ARAB.

**Main goal**

ITU will facilitate the creation of .ARAB and I able to assist the region in the creation of a sustainable operational structure to properly run the gTLD.

**Project strategy and structure**

Application Process & Policy Formulation

Operations

Capacity Building

ITU BDT

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Application Process and Policy Formulation Assistance

• Undertaking all necessary steps and related operational procedures to register .ARAB gTLD on behalf of the Arab Region.
• This would include the elaboration of the application policy ensuring its compliance with the needs of the Region.

ITU is closely following the developments of new gTLD process, and can assist the Arab region through the application procedures as well as in negotiations with ICANN on policy formulation and contractual agreements, ensuring that the regional needs are taken into consideration.

Operational Assistance

The creation of .ARAB would imply also its technical management, including:
• hosting the TLD to allow registry operations, that is the creation of domains under .ARAB, and related management
• ensuring technical support in creating domains under the .ARAB gTLD, as well as providing business continuity

ITU, if required, can act as a temporary operational entity, on behalf of the Arab region, while the proper structure within the region will be established.
Capacity Building

• Facilitating the migration of .ARAB gTLD to the newly designated entity operating within the region, following the indications of the Steering Committee.

While ITU will facilitate the establishment of .ARAB and its technical management, the final objective will be handing over the TLD and its management to the operating entity, once created. This activity will encompass the know-how and technology transfer necessary for the entity to take over in complete autonomy.

Conclusion

ITU supports the establishment of a gTLD for the Arab Region.

ITU would dedicate human, technical and financial resources to this important initiative.
Thank you

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