

Bahrain, 15th April 2013

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker, Chair, ICANN Board of Directors
Mr. Cherine Chalaby, Chair, ICANN Board gTLD Committee
Cc: Heather Dryden, Chair, Government Advisory Committee

Re: GAC Advice regarding application for .GCC (1-1936-2101)

Dear Dr. Crocker and Mr. Chalaby,

Following the publication of the 11th April GAC Communiqué from the Beijing ICANN meeting, I understand that the GAC has issued formal advice regarding the New gTLD application for .GCC, suggesting (without any reasoning) that the application be rejected. Obviously, this is a matter of substantial concern for my shareholders and me, as we have invested substantial time and finances in our application, in reliance on ICANN's process and rules as set forth in the Final Applicant Guidebook. We do not consider such unsubstantiated advice of the GAC to be justified, and so we must pursue this matter further.

As an initial matter, the Applicant Guide Book states that for the Board to be able to consider GAC Advice, it must be submitted "by the close of the Objection Filing period". As this deadline passed on 13th March, we presume you will reject this advice as untimely. We would appreciate clarity from the Board on this point.

Although we reject outright this GAC Advice as being untimely, and reserve all rights relating to this matter, we call on the GAC to disclose its full justification and reasoning for issuing the advice, as well any and all documents that it considered in formulating that advice. It is of the utmost importance that these details be revealed, in the interests of complete openness and transparency, and in order for the applicant and the Board to fully understand the situation. We respectfully request the ICANN Board to ensure that this information is obtained and published as a matter of urgency.

We have received a Legal Rights Objection from the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (CCASG), and intend to respond to that objection via the WIPO process. The GAC and Board should allow that process to conclude before making any determination about our application.

I look forward to your urgent response.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fahad AlShirawi', written over a horizontal line.

Fahad AlShirawi
CEO, GCCIX WLL
dotgcc@gccix.net