13 December 2022

RE: ME Space Statement for ICANN75: Universal Acceptance Roadmap for Registry and Registrar Systems

Tijani Ben Jemaa,
Middle East Space

Dear Tijani,

ICANN organization (ICANN org) thanks the Middle East (ME) Space community members for the Statement on Universal Acceptance Roadmap for Registry and Registrar Systems (the ME Space Statement), which came out of discussions held during the ME Space session at the ICANN75 Public Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 21 September 2022. The ME Space Statement has been posted at https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/jemaa-to-sinha-29oct22-en.pdf.

Universal Acceptance (UA) of domain names and email addresses is important in fostering consumer choice as well as promoting an inclusive and multilingual Internet. Therefore, ICANN org appreciates the ME Space community's continued focus on UA, and specifically for sharing recommendations to engage with top-level domain (TLD) registries and registrars.

As you may know, ICANN org recently published a study on a UA Roadmap for Registry and Registrar Systems for Public Comment. This roadmap was also discussed with the generic TLD (gTLD) registries and registrars at the Contracted Parties Summit held in November 2022. Once the UA Roadmap study is finalized and we incorporate the feedback received, we aim to continue to engage more broadly with ICANN's contracted parties and other stakeholders, including those from the ME region. Through this engagement, ICANN org will determine any additional training and support needed for contracted parties to address UA challenges, as suggested.

ICANN org has already been working with country code top-level domain (ccTLD) managers to promote UA-readiness, which resulted in the Whitepaper on the Role of ccTLDs in Achieving UA developed in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD). ICANN will consult with the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) to share the recent UA Roadmap study with ccTLD managers and request that they share it with their local registrars.

ICANN org is working to create more awareness of UA with TLD registries and registrars while encouraging them to make their systems UA-ready. ICANN will share the specific ME Space Statement recommendations intended for the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) for their consideration.

We will continue this work and look into additional projects to implement the recommendations provided. We look forward to continuing collaboration with ME Space community members to address UA challenges.

Sincerely,

Theresa Swinehart
Senior Vice President of Global Domains and Strategy