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Attention: New gTLD Evaluation Process

Subject: Letter Of Support for DotAfrica

I am honored to be part of the organization that has for many years supported the establishment of an African registry. It is of great importance that this comes to pass during the current ICANN application window in order that the African Constituency may begin to enjoy the long awaited services of a pan-African brand in domain name space.


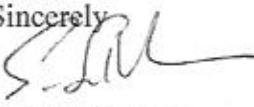
The call for such a pan-African brand was largely initiated by Sophia Bekele who is no new-comer to spearheading new ways of thinking at ICANN. Years ago, her heroic efforts, during her tenure as a newbie GNSO advisor to ICANN, in reversing the disastrous and misguided course that IDN policy took within ICANN at that time is now well-documented and clearly attested to by the opposite direction in which the IDN portion of the new GTLD process at ICANN has since gone. I can attest to this as a co-inventor of IDN in 1997/8 and having watched the soap-opera of IDN policy at ICANN evolve for just about 15 years.

As bespeaks a true visionary, while she has never been shy of controversy, under her stewardship and vision, DotConnect Africa (DCA) has for the past 5 years continued with unflagging effort to promote the cause of and need for the .africa gTLD.

This tireless campaign has earned DotConnectAfrica respect in the ranks of the Internet Technology movers and shakers. DCA has subsequently received the much deserved endorsements from stakeholders like IDRU which has pledged to assist DotConnectAfrica in its gTLD application for '.africa' in connection with the various African languages that it would support. At the international level, these include Arabic , French, Portuguese, Amharic and Swahili.

As a founder and co-inventor of IDN (which was recently recognized as one of the 25 inaugural Internet Hall of Fame entrants by ISOC at its 25th Annivesary) and having established i-DNS.net which pioneered the Internationalized Domain Name System, which became the first Registry to resolve, administer, and deploy full multilingual, native-character domain names, I think that Africa and particularly the .africa gTLD can benefit from IDN, beyond its initial ASCII scope. I also believe DCA, with Sophia Bekele at its helm is the person best-equipped to carry out that vision.

Sincerely



Prof. S. Subbiah
(Ex-Stanford University)
Chairman,
i-DNS.net International Pte. Ltd.

Dated: 10 April 2012