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Office of International Affairs
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce**

Response of Egypt to the NOI on the Midterm Review of the JPA

The Arab Republic of Egypt welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Notice of Inquiry issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, on the continued transition of the technical coordination and management of the Internet's domain name and addressing system and on the midterm review of the Joint Project Agreement signed between the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Egypt underlines the fact that the Internet was developed and promoted by the industry's technical pioneers. Its core value was created by the participation and cooperation of users worldwide and should therefore continue to develop freely. In principle, no single government should have a pre-eminent role over the Internet; rather an international mechanism for coordination should be adopted.

Egypt has been active within ICANN since its early establishment, has witnessed its development process over the course of many years and acknowledges efforts and progress made by ICANN particularly during the past couple of years.

ICANN has performed a credible job in meeting its responsibilities as set out by the JPA and this has been clearly demonstrated in many areas, from which listed below are only a few:

- **Transparency:** Public consultations on ICANN's Strategic Plan and Operation Plan made in multiple languages; ICANN Board meeting minutes posted on the web site; More information made available on the ICANN web site in the form of news alerts, monthly magazines, documents translated into several languages as well as fact sheets.
- **Accountability:** On site outreach and communications with stakeholders and representatives of the Internet community worldwide; Improved participation in ICANN meetings supported by the introduction of the fellowship program.
- **Security and Stability:** Significant improvements in the IANA services; Registrar data escrow program and Registry failover plan.



- **Internationalized Domain Names:** IDN “.test” strings inserted in 11 different languages into the root zone; Progress in IDN policy discussions and particularly with regard to the GAC-ccNSO joint efforts in relation to IDN ccTLDs; Adoption of the ‘fast track’ process in response to the community needs of IDN ccTLDs (for which we hope to see even more development during the next couple of years) as an example for ICANN’s responsiveness and commitment to continuous improvement of its processes in the interest of the broader Internet community.
- **Governmental Advisory Committee:** The engagement of governments, through the GAC, in policy discussions especially with respect to the introduction and implementation of IDN ccTLDs; The Joint Working Group of the GAC and the ICANN Board enabling more cooperation and better understanding of respective working methods and capabilities.

And as much as we believe that progress has been achieved in those areas as well as in many others, we envisage that the Internet community would always expect more from ICANN. That is due to the uniqueness of ICANN’s function and the dynamism and never-ending development and innovations in the field of Internet domains and numbers. Nevertheless, it is important to stress the fact that the “need for more” should not be a motive for further extensions of the JPA, nor for the initiation of another similar agreement. We are concerned that decisions that go in such directions would be interpreted as an intention not to complete the transition of the domain name system from the U.S. Government to the international Internet community.

Accordingly, Egypt strongly supports the goal of a fully independent ICANN and believes that, the JPA has to come to a conclusion, while discussions during the remaining 18 months of the JPA, till September 2009, should focus on the transition after the JPA conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

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Egypt