

GAC Early Warning – Submittal GCC-AE-21010

Application ID:	1-1936-21010
Entity/Applicant Name:	GCCIX WLL
String:	GCC
Early Warning Issue Date:	20 November 2012

Early Warning Description – This will be posted publicly:

The governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and UAE and the Gulf Cooperation Council would like to express its serious concerns toward “.GCC” new gTLD application made by GCCIX WLL specifically in two areas as highlighted below:

- (1) The applied for new gTLD exactly matches a name of an Intergovernmental Organization**
- (2) Lack of community involvement and support**

Reason/Rationale for the Warning – This will be posted publicly:

- (1) The applied for new gTLD exactly matches a name of an Intergovernmental Organization**

GCC is a known abbreviation for Gulf Cooperation Council.

The GCC is a political and economic union of the Arab states bordering the Arabian Gulf, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

The GCC was established in an agreement (Charter of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf) concluded on 25 May 1981 in Abu Dhabi. This charter is available on UN database of treaties with registration number I-21244 and UNTS volume 1288

- Information about the treaty available here:
<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=08000002800e04ff>
- English copy of the treaty is available at:
<http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201288/volume-1288-I-21244-English.pdf>

Moreover the GCC is considered an **Intergovernmental Organization** and it meets the eligibility criteria for .int top level domain as it has been established through a treaty registered by United Nations and recognized to have independent international legal personality. The GCC has permanent headquarter (GCC Secretariat General) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, the

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GCC has received a standing invitation to participate as observer in the sessions and the work of the UN General Assembly and maintaining permanent offices at Headquarters. The Office of the Permanent Observer for the GCC to the United Nations is located at 100 Park Avenue, Suite 1600, New York, N.Y. 10017, Telephone: (212) 880-6463.

Further information about GCC can be found at the website www.gcc-sg.org/eng

Therefore and in line with new gTLD program Applicant Guidebook provisions concerning **protection of IGOs**, the name “GCC” **should not be allowed to be registered** as a gTLD unless sufficient approvals are obtained from the IGO.

(2) Lack of community involvement and support

In its application, the applicant states the following (18a):

“GCC will create a region-specific new TLD that ... GCC refers generally, but not exclusively, to the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. Formed in May 1981 as a regional organization, it consists of six Gulf countries including Bahrain, ... is application is not connected with or sponsored by the Council. GCC does not purport to represent the Council. However, the term "GCC" has become commonly used to refer generally to the countries and people of the Gulf and Middle East region ... not dissimilar to the development of the European Union which has been served for many years by the .eu domain.”

This clearly shows that the applicant is targeting the GCC community which basically covers the 6 member states of the GCC.

To our knowledge, the applicant did not consult the targeted community in regards to launch of the proposed TLD, its strategy and policies. The applicant did not obtain any endorsement from the GCC Secretariat General or any of its organizations, or any governmental or non-governmental organization within the GCC member states. The applicant did not present any endorsement or support letters in its application.

For the above reasons, the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE and the Gulf Cooperation Council would like to **raise its disapproval and non-endorsement** to this application and request the ICANN and the new gTLD program evaluators to not approve this application.

Possible Remediation steps for Applicant – This will be posted publicly:

The applicant should withdraw their application based on the information provided above

Further Notes from GAC Member(s) (Optional) – This will be posted publicly:



INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

About GAC Early Warning

The GAC Early Warning is a notice only. It is not a formal objection, nor does it directly lead to a process that can result in rejection of the application. However, a GAC Early Warning should be taken seriously as it raises the likelihood that the application could be the subject of GAC Advice on New gTLDs or of a formal objection at a later stage in the process. Refer to section 1.1.2.4 of the Applicant Guidebook (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>) for more information on GAC Early Warning.

Instructions if you receive the Early Warning

ICANN strongly encourages you work with relevant parties as soon as possible to address the concerns voiced in the GAC Early Warning.

Asking questions about your GAC Early Warning

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If you have questions or need clarification about your GAC Early Warning, please contact gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org. As highlighted above, ICANN strongly encourages you to contact gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org as soon as practicable regarding the issues identified in the Early Warning.

Continuing with your application

If you choose to continue with the application, then the “Applicant’s Response” section below should be completed. In this section, you should notify the GAC of intended actions, including the expected completion date. This completed form should then be sent to gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org. If your remediation steps involve submitting requests for changes to your application, see the change request process at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/customer-service/change-requests>.

In the absence of a response, ICANN will continue to process the application as submitted.

Withdrawing your application

If you choose to withdraw your application within the 21-day window to be eligible for a refund of 80% of the evaluation fee (USD 148,000), please follow the withdrawal process published at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/customer-service/withdrawal-refund>. Note that an application can still be withdrawn after the 21-day time period; however, the available refund amount is reduced. See section 1.5 of the Applicant Guidebook.

For questions please contact: gacearlywarning@gac.icann.org

Applicant Response:

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