



Date: 20 July 2015
Ref: OES/15/09/0157)

Dear Dr. Ibrahim

Re: Request for Support to Dot Africa Project

I am writing in connection with the request made to the Executive Secretary, Dr. Lopes for his support to the African Union's (AU) efforts in getting the regional identifier top level domain "dotAfrica" delegated to ZA Central Registry ("ZACR"), the entity we understand is authorized by the AU to apply for and administer the DotAfrica top level domain.

I understand from your letter that in addition to ZACR, another competing entity, DotConnectAfrica ("DCA") has submitted an application to obtain the same delegation as ZACR, and that DCA is purporting to use a letter of support obtained from ECA in 2008 as an endorsement from ECA for its application.

We also note that in September 2011, ECA wrote to you in response to a letter you sent regarding the setting up of the structure and modalities for the implementation of the DotAfrica project and in that letter, ECA reaffirmed its continued commitment and support to the AU in the management of Internet-based resources in Africa.

As you are aware, one of ICANN's requirement for the application for delegation for geographic Top Level Domain ("gTLD") as detailed in ICANN's 2012 Applicant Guidebook, is a minimum of 60% support from *relevant governments or public authorities*, with no more than one government objection from any country from the region.

ECA as United Nations entity is neither a government nor a public authority and therefore is not qualified to issue a letter of support for a prospective applicant in support of their application. In addition, ECA does not have a mandate to represent the views or convey the support or otherwise of African governments in matters relating to application for delegation of the gTLD.

Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim
Commissioner
Infrastructure and Energy
African Union
Addis Ababa



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

In this regard, the August 2008 letter referenced above is merely expressions of a view in relation to the entity's initiatives and efforts regarding internet governance, including efforts to obtain gTLD for Africa. It is ECA's position that the August 2008 letter to Ms Bekele cannot be properly considered as a "letter of support or endorsement" within the context of ICANN's requirements and cannot be used as such.

I hope this clarifies ECA's position on the matter. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further clarification on tel: 0115443378 or sbaffoe-bonnie@uneca.org

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Baffoe-Bonnie".

Sandra Baffoe-Bonnie
Secretary of the Commission and Legal Advisor

Cc: Ms Sophia Bekele, DotConnectAfrica