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**ORIGINAL: English**

**DATE: 11 October 2015**

**STATUS: Ratification Pending**

## **AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **ALAC Statement on the Proposal for Arabic Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules**

#### **Introduction**

This Statement was drafted by Ariel Xinyue Liang, ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC, in accordance with instructions by, and approval of, Mohamed El Bashir, Vice-Chair of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and member of the At-Large IDN Policy Working Group, at the request of the ALAC.

On 11 October 2015, the draft Statement was posted on the [At-Large Proposal for Arabic Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules \(LGR\) Workspace](#).

In the interest of time, the Chair requested that the Statement be transmitted to the ICANN public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this topic, with a note that the Statement is pending ALAC ratification.

Once ratified, this Statement will be resubmitted incorporating updated ratification information in the introduction section.

## **ALAC Statement on the Proposal for Arabic Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules**

The ALAC congratulates the Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN) on its excellent work in developing the Proposal for Arabic Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules (LGR). The ALAC appreciates the diversity and expertise within the TF-AIDN, which includes linguists and registry operation specialists from a wide range of Arabic speaking countries interested in the use of Arabic script in top-level domains. The ALAC appreciates the Proposal's focus on variant issues in Arabic to address user confusion. The Proposal is comprehensive and professionally prepared, with thorough academic research in defining the appropriate mechanism to determine valid IDN TLDs in Arabic and their variants. It is also worth mentioning that for the first time this Proposal covers North and Sub-Saharan African Languages using the Arabic scripts (e.g. Wolof, Hausa, Tamazight, Comorian) to ensure necessary coverage and representative solutions. The ALAC encourages the TF-AIDN to continue its excellent work and will make efforts in stimulating participation from the end user communities in supporting the IDN program.