

Workshop on Member States' experiences with ccTLD

Geneva, 3-4 March 2003

DOCUMENT FOR ccTLD WORKSHOP

**Source:** Syrian Arab Republic  
**Title:** Syrian views on ITU and ICANN

Based on the conclusions of the 6 February 2003 Beirut Declaration "Towards an Information Society in Western Asia: Declaration of Principles"<sup>1</sup> by the Member States of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) attending the Western Asia Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Syrian administration believes that the following principle, among others, is important for the successful development of the information society and relevant to this Workshop:

- ***Securing national domain names***

*The responsibility for root directories and domain names should rest with a suitable international organization and should take multilingualism into consideration. Countries' top-level-domain-names and Internet Protocol (IP) address assignment should be the sovereign right of countries. The sovereignty of each nation should be protected and respected. Internet governance should be multilateral, democratic and transparent and should take into account the needs of the public and private sectors as well as those of the civil society.*

The Syrian administration believes that ITU is the only suitable international organization to deal with this matter, based on its successful experience with similar issues.

Also, the Syrian administration was surprised to learn, from reports on E-Mail discussion lists, that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) may require that a ccTLD sign a contract with ICANN as a pre-condition of any ICANN act—recognition of a re-delegation or even updating the name server records pointing at the ccTLD's servers—and that this precondition would "promote the stability of the net".

In the Syrian administration's view, such a proposal has nothing to do with stability. On the contrary, we believe that any cross-linkage and cross-leverage of ICANN and the Internet Assigned Names Authority (IANA) is not justified.

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<sup>1</sup> This is WSIS/PC-2/DOC/008, see [http://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsispc2/doc/S03-WSISPC2-DOC-0008!!MSW-E.doc](http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsispc2/doc/S03-WSISPC2-DOC-0008!!MSW-E.doc)

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We would appreciate it if participants would clarify the issue, and whether the signing of such contracts is necessary, and if so what are the justifications for that.

We would also appreciate it if this workshop could lead to a series of steps towards the fulfillment of ITU's role in this domain, taking into consideration ITU Resolution 102 (Marrakesh, 2002), and the full independence of national authorities dealing with this matter.

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