



CARLOS LOPES  
Executive Secretary

Date: 22 September 2015  
Ref: OES/15/09/0157

Dear Dr. Ibrahim, *Elham*

**Request for Support to (dotAfrica) Project**

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 4 August 2015, Ref. No. CIE/L/20/292.15, regarding the issue of dotAfrica.

After internal review of the issue, which is of a legal nature, I have requested the Secretary of the Commission, Ms. Sandra Baffoe-Bonnie to write to you and provide you with the Economic Commission for Africa's position.

The Secretary of the Commission can be contacted for any clarification of this matter at [sbaffoe-bonnie@uneca.org](mailto:sbaffoe-bonnie@uneca.org) or [tel:+251 115 44 33 78](tel:+251115443378).

**Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim**  
**Commissioner**  
**Infrastructure and Energy**  
**Africa Union**  
**Addis Ababa,**  
**Ethiopia**



Date: 21 September 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 a 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 an expression 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](mailto: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