

INTERNATIONALIZED DOMAIN RESOLUTION UNION

idru.org

5 December 2010

Ms. Sophia Bekele
Executive Director
DotConnectAfrica Organization
Reg. IDCT8710DCA90

The dot.Africa project
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Dear Ms. Bekele,

Subject: Endorsement of the DotAfrica (.africa) Initiative

The Internationalized Domain Resolution Union (IDRU) endorses, with a broad-based majority amongst its members, your efforts for the “dotafrica” initiative. DotConnectAfrica is applying for delegation of a regional identifier top level domain – ‘.africa’ – from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Then .africa will be made available to the Pan-African community.

Ms. Bekele, as a former gNSO advisor to ICANN, you have worked hard and long to champion Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). You have made the case within ICANN for a policy development process that will see IDNs in service of the world community. And you have done so successfully.

IDRU stands ready to assist DotConnectAfrica in its gTLD application for ‘.africa’ in regard to the various African languages that it would support. At the international level, these include Arabic and French and Portuguese; at the local level also – for example – Amharic and Swahili.

IDRU brings a group of operators and inventors of IDN who have practical expertise installing IDN capabilities and running IDN registries, for numerous years prior to ICANN's current interest in IDNs. IDRU aims to make the Internet accessible in all the world's many script writing systems. Then the world's citizens will be able to access the Internet in their native languages.

Very truly yours, David Allen, Executive Director
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Concord, MA 01742, USA
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*For over ten years, informal predecessor efforts have been delivering
IDNs so that all peoples can access the web.
Now IDRU is formal.*