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Middle East and Adjoining Countries SWG

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers

Dear MEAC-SWG,

I'm writing to you to apply for the 1-day training course on GNSO Policy Development Process recently announced on the Fellowship-Alumni mailing list.

My experience with domain names started when I joined the Sudan Internet society (SIS). SIS is responsible for managing .sd registry. I have been working with SIS as a team leader of open source and programming since September 2016. I was tempted to know more about how DNSs work and are managed, how policies are being developed, and who is administering the whole system. At that point of time, I came to know ICANN. I instantly started looking for events that would get me closer to ICANN community, I applied for the Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG) 2017 in Turkey, and I was accepted as a participant from Sudan. MEAC-SIG was only the promising beginning. I started giving presentations on IG in Sudan as part of our capacity building program that I started and am responsible for at SIS. Then I applied for ICANN 61 meeting in San Juan, and was selected to join the ICANN fellowship program, but it wasn't until ICANN 63 that I was granted a visa to attend an ICANN meeting. After ICANN 63, I was elected to take the position of

chairperson of Sudan Internet Governance Program Committee, and I was responsible for my country's participation in the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) held in Khartoum last year. In addition to that, I was also the master of ceremony and a speaker in four sessions at the AfIGF.

This course will sharpen my knowledge in the domain of policy development for Generic Names, hence, it will allow me to participate effectively and efficiently in Generic Names Supporting Organization. I believe one of the reasons why we have a lack of participation in these organizations from the Middle East is the insufficient knowledge of PDP. Moreover, if we (in the Middle East) don't initiate such trainings, courses, and raise awareness, then we won't have our voices heard and we indeed won't be able to feel we are part of the Generic Names community. Additionally, being exposed to how policies are being developed for Generic Names will help reflect on local policies for our ccTLD, and will help better formulate policies for .sd registry.

Moreover, this course will shed light on New gTLD subsequent procedures that I have been following since ICANN63, as well as the Expedited Policy Development Process on the temporary specification for gTLD registration data.

I would very much like to see more engagement from the Middle East in general and my country specifically in the GNSO.

Looking forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

M.Yousif