

No. 4-9-5/2019

Washington D.C., March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Mrs. Manal Ismail,  
GAC Chair  
GAC Representatives

Dear Chair and Representatives:

The undersigned, on behalf of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) members States, would like to request your support in advising the ICANN Board of Directors to give the eight ACTO member States and the company Amazon Inc. the necessary opportunity to develop a mutually acceptable solution for the “.Amazon” applications.

In accordance with a decision adopted by all eight Amazon countries publicly announced on 5 September 2018, we declined the company Amazon Inc.’s proposal for a “solution” because it did not provide for the participation of our countries in the governance of the “.Amazon” TLDs.

Subsequently, despite our repeated call for the initiation of the necessary dialogue with all involved to develop a solution for the delegation of the “.Amazon” TLDs based on “shared governance”, which would be acceptable to us, a chain of events prompted by a Board resolution of 26 October 2018 prevented the dialogue from starting.

In the midst of the unfortunate events prompted by the Board resolution of 26 October 2018, the company Amazon Inc. conveyed to the Amazon countries a slightly different, but essentially equivalent proposal. The proposal still did not address the main reason for our objection to delegation, for it did not offer any model or mechanism for ensuring the shared governance of the “.Amazon” TLDs by all parties.

We have been eager to discuss with the ICANN President about our concrete proposal for the sharing of the governance of the “.Amazon” TLDs. On 16 January 2019, the ICANN Board reestablished conditions allowing for the initiation of the necessary dialogue between all involved.

The eight Amazon countries have endorsed our experts’ report on the “.Amazon” applications, in particular its paragraph 50, whereby we express our willingness to reach a mutually acceptable solution that is necessary for the delegation of the “.Amazon” applications based on the sharing of the governance of the “.Amazon” TLDs.

In sum, sharing of governance of the “.Amazon” TLDs means that: (1) provision is to be made to allow the control by the company Amazon Inc. of second-level domains that are relevant to its commercial interests (for instance, books.amazon, kindle.amazon, etc); (2) each Amazon country reserves for their use those domains that are relevant to its sovereignty and cultural heritage (for instance, those with geographical names, historical resonance, political implications etc); (3) a governance committee would be established where the eight Amazon countries would be given an opportunity to object to names encroaching on their sovereignty and culture while the company Amazon Inc would be able to expand its list of second-level domains in its fields of activity.

We are not looking for financial compensation. Nor are we after ex gratia concessions to use one or a few second-level domains (it was one to each of the eight Amazon countries that the company offered, and one to ACTO). It is a matter of sovereignty for many of us, and the offer to share the TLDs with the company Amazon Inc. is already a compromise.

We propose to set a strict and realistic timeline for the conclusion of talks between the Amazon countries and Amazon Inc. We are committed to working on a final solution in the coming months. We believe this would be a win for all sides.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

EMBAJADA DEL ECUADOR  
WASHINGTON D.C.

Francisco Carrion Mesa  
AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED STATES