

Statement of Interest for the IDN Variant TLDs Issues Project

1. Your Name:

Siavash Shahshahani

2. Current employer and position:

Sharif University of Technology, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Consultant to IRNIC, .ir ccTLD registry

3. Type of work performed:

Department Chairman and Professor at Sharif University.

Occasional Consulting at IRNIC

4. Identify any financial ownership and/or senior management/leadership that are interested parties in IDN Variant TLDs related topics:

As the former director of IRNIC, I was involved with IDNs and variants.

I have no current ownership related to IDN Variant TLDs, but I am part of a team planning to apply for an IDN gTLD. The IDN string we plan to apply for has no variants, but variants will obviously be a concern in the construction of the script table and related policies of that TLD.

5. Identify any type of commercial or non-commercial interest in IDN Variant TLDs related topics. Are you representing other parties? Describe any arrangements/agreements between you and any other group, constituency or person(s) regarding your nomination/selection as a team member:

I volunteered to participate entirely on my own initiative without any financial sponsorship. My participation in the VIP meeting of Arabic script in Qatar was financially covered by the VIP project and/or Qatar hosts.

6. IDN Variant Case Study Team members are expected to demonstrate knowledge or expertise in aspects related to the IDN Variants. Please, identify any knowledge, expertise or experience you have that would be relevant to the work on IDN Variant TLDs Issues Project:

I became involved with IDNs as the director of IRNIC in 2001 and have been aware of variant problems since very early on. I believe I had the first formal presentation on variant problems in the root at ICANN in November 2005 Meeting of Vancouver. I consider myself fairly knowledgeable in all aspects of variants, especially in Arabic script. I am also an active participant in IDN PDP Working Group 2 of ccNSO proposing changes to ICANN by laws as they relate to ccNSO.

- 7. Describe any tangible or intangible benefit that you receive from participation in such processes, for example, if you are an academic or NGO and use your position to advance your ability to participate, this should be a part of the statement of interest, just as should employment by an organization that has an interest in IDN Variant TLDs:**

My employment at the university is totally unrelated to this work; I use my leaves and vacations to attend ICANN-related meetings (usually one or two a year). I have not sought IRNIC financial assistance for attending IDN-related meeting for over two years. Obviously the experience I am gaining from participation will be beneficial to me and my team in our plans to apply for a gTLD.