To: Unicode Technical Committee

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Subject: Recommendations on additional Wasla proposition

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Here are some recommendations for additional Wasla proposition [1], after reviewing it: L2/17-215 Murodulla Begmatov, Proposal to Encode Additional Wasla Characters for the Holy Quran.

The proposal [1] pinpoints an interesting situation:

How to begin reading with Hamza Wasl, with different vowels, noted by same mark?

Indeed, at Hafs Riwayah, in all printed Mushaf(s), I could personally see, Hamza Wasl is noted by the same mark wasla.

The proposal [1] proposes encoding some new marks to resolve this confused situation.

In my opinion, it will not be accepted to add to Unicode a mark that has never been used in any printed Mushaf. It will be wiser to suggest it beforehand to any Mushaf printer around the world. Mushaf printer will never use a new symbol until it was discussed and approved by specialist committees. Any new Mushaf must pass through the review committee of the Quran in Al-Azhar.

The proposal [1] suggests:

- + to leave U+0671 (Arabic Letter Alef Wasla) character for Alef with an original Fatha;
- + and to add the two new marks:

for Alef with original Damma and for Alef with original Kasra. It proposes also those same marks adapted for isolated and final forms.

Until a Mushaf printer adopts a notation to remove this ambiguity, I suggest another proposal that can solve this problem more correctly.

Indeed, for personal use, I suggest:

- **1.** To borrow the used notation from other Riwayah(s). As I presented at [2], in some Quranic Riwayah(s) sush as: Warsh and Qaloon, Hamza Wasl is marked by a *small dot*. The position of this small dot indicates the Hamza's vowel used when the Hamza is pronounced at starting. *I propose to add this small dot to wasla*. The three cases of Hamza's vowel are:
 - + The Fatha: the small dot is over Alef \bigcirc .
 - + The Damma: the small dot is in the left middle of Alef \cdot ().
 - + The Kasra: the small dot is under Alef \bigcirc .

Letter	Proposal at [1] as 1 character	This suggestion as 3 characters	Comment
Alef with Hamza Wasla in case of original Fatha	0671	0627 + 08C0 + 08C1	08C0 and 08C1 are already proposed at [2]
Alef with Hamza Wasla in case of original Damma	08D2	0627 ¹ + 08C0 [°] + 08C2•○ ·∫	08C0 and 08C2• () are already proposed at [2]
Alef with Hamza Wasla in case of original Kasra	08D3	0627) + 08C0 + 08C3	08C0 and 08C3 are already proposed at [2]

With this suggestion, we won't need any more additional marks, others than the ones already under discussion at Unicode [2].

- **2.** Not to propose a combination mark, as I explained its importance in [3]. We will have a composition:
 - + the base letter Alef 0627, necessary;
 - + with the usual Wasla 08C0 \bigcirc , used at Hafs Riwayah;
 - + and add a small dot, borrowed from others Riwayah(s), varied its position following the original vowels marks.
- **3.** Not to propose any marks for other forms (isolated and final forms), which are no longer used.

The Arab script is semantically encoded in the Unicode, in Arabic and in Arabic Extended-A blocks. Indeed, every letter corresponds to a single Unicode character, independently to its contextual shapes. A great part of Arabic Presentation Forms-A and Arabic Presentation Forms-B blocks is useless and should not be used in general exchanges.

References:

- [1] L2/17-215 Murodulla Begmatov, Proposal to Encode Additional Wasla Characters for the Holy Quran, 2017, (<u>http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2017/17215-wasla-adds.pdf</u>)
- [2] L2/17-252 King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex, Azzeddine Lazrek, *Proposal to encode some Hamza Quranic Marks*, Unicode Technical Committee The Unicode Consortium, 2017 (<u>http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2017/17252-hamza-quranic-marks.pdf</u>)
- [3] L2/17-068 King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex, Azzeddine Lazrek, Suggestions on Hamza Al-Dani Quranic Marks proposition, The Unicode Consortium, 2017 (http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2017/17068-quranic-markssuggest.pdf)