

# **The Introduction of a Limited Number of IDN ccTLDs Under A Fast Track Mechanism:**

## **Draft Initial Report**

### **Published for Comment**

**To be most helpful comments need to be received by 26 February 2008.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is a first Discussion Draft of the Initial Report and is published for comment and input from the ICANN community. This document has not been signed off by the IDNC Working Group who will continue to provide their own comments and input during this consultation period

#### **1. Introduction**

Under its charter, the purpose of the IDNC WG is to develop and report on feasible methods, if any, that would enable the introduction, in a timely manner and in a manner that ensures the continued security and stability of the Internet, of a limited number of non-contentious IDN ccTLDs, associated with the ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes (both the official code list of ISO 3166-1 and the list of reserved ISO 3166-1 code elements), while the overall IDN ccTLD policy is being developed.

The scope of the IDNC WG is limited to developing feasible methods (for the introduction of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs) that do not pre-empt the policy outcomes of the IDN cc Policy Development Process (ccPDP) in respect to which an Issue Report is currently being prepared.

In preparing the ccPDP Issue Report, the Issue Manager will identify policies, procedures, and/or by-laws that need to be reviewed and, if necessary revised, in connection with the development and implementation of any IDN ccTLD policy.

In preparing the ccPDP Issue Report the Issue Manager will take into account the joint ccNSO GAC Issues Paper, input from other ICANN supporting organisations and advisory committees, the technical limitations and requirements including the IDNA Guidelines, and any other matters that the Issue Manager considers to be of relevance.

## **2. Scope of this Initial Report**

Under the IDNC WG charter, in considering feasible methods the IDNC WG must take into account and be guided by:

- The overarching requirement to preserve the security and stability of the DNS;
- Compliance with the IDNA protocols;
- Input and advice from the technical community in respect to the implementation of IDNs;
- Current practices for the delegation of ccTLDs.

The fast track approach requires two specific mechanisms which are addressed in this report:

1. A mechanism for the selection of the IDN ccTLD string (section 3 below); and
2. A mechanism to designate an IDN ccTLD manager (section 4 below).

The purpose of this report is to inform and report to the community on the topics and issues as identified by the IDNC WG that need to be considered in developing each of the two mechanisms, and to seek input and comments on them.

This report and the comments received will be used to structure and propose potential mechanisms in the next phase of the fast track (see section 5, Schedule Interim Report).

As stated above the outcome of the fast track cannot pre-empt the outcome of the ccPDP. All of the issues/topics raised in respect to the fast track mechanisms are also being raised under the ccPDP thus the solutions reached for the purposes of the fast track have, of necessity, to be as limited as possible.

## **3. Mechanism for the selection of an IDN ccTLD string in the fast track**

The first task is to develop a selection mechanism for IDN ccTLD strings bearing in mind the limitations and guidelines canvassed in section 2 above. The IDNC WG suggests the following elements are part of such a mechanism:

A. Script Selection:

- (i) Is it necessary to limit the number of scripts for which a territory can have an IDN ccTLD under the fast track? If so what is the limit?
- (ii) Is it necessary for the language represented by the IDN script to have a particular status with the Territory? If so what is the status?

B. String Selection:

- (i) Apart from the overarching requirements to meet the IDNA protocols and any other IDN technical requirements, are there any criteria for a string to be acceptable under the fast track (for example that the string must be a meaningful representation of the name of the Territory or an abbreviation of the name of the Territory in the relevant script)?
- (ii) Does a selected string need to be evaluated against the requirements and criteria and if so by whom?

C. String Proposal:

- (i) Who are the actors from the Territory who need to be involved in making a proposal for a string under the fast track?
- (ii) How is the involvement of those actors demonstrated?

D. Objection procedure:

- (i) Once a string has been selected in accordance with the requirements and any criteria, should objections be allowed?
- (ii) If so, who can object and on what grounds?
- (iii) If an objection is lodged, what is the impact?

**4. Mechanism to designate an IDN ccTLD manager.**

The second task is to develop a mechanism for designating the manager for an IDN ccTLD, bearing in mind the limitations and guidelines canvassed in section 2 above. The IDNC WG suggests the following elements are part of such a mechanism:

A. Who can be the IDN ccTLD manager:

- (i) Apart from the overarching requirements to meet the IDNA protocols and any other IDN technical requirements, are there other IDN specific criteria that an IDN ccTLD manager needs to meet?
- (ii) Does the IDN ccTLD manager need to be evaluated against the requirements and criteria and if so by whom?
- (iii) Does the IDN ccTLD manager need to demonstrate a track record of managing a TLD?
- (iv) Does the IDN ccTLD manager need to demonstrate experience with running IDNs in the particular script?

**B. Operation of the IDN ccTLD:**

- (i) Given the overarching requirement to adhere to the IDNA protocols and other technical requirements on an ongoing basis how can ongoing adherence be ensured?
- (ii) Are elements of the registration policies of the IDN ccTLD manager relevant in relation to compliance with the overarching IDNA protocols and other technical requirements? If so how can ongoing adherence to the required policies be ensured?

**5. Schedule and action list Fast Track**

Below is the schedule and work plan for drafting and publishing the Initial, Interim, and Final Report. For reference the IDNC WG Time table - part of the IDNC WG charter - is copied.

**Purpose of Initial, Interim and Final Reports**

- The Initial Report will solidify the topics for the fast track approach and their relation to the ccPDP.
- The Interim Report will propose potential mechanisms.
- The Final Report will set out the IDNC WGs recommendations.

<b>Schedule Initial, Interim and Final Report</b>					
<b>Initial Report</b>					
	<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
1	First Draft Initial Report	Chairs & Staff			16 January 2008
2	Comment First draft	IDNC WG		16 January 2008	28 January 2008
3	Consolidate Comments report	Chairs & Staff	.	28 January 2008	1 February 2008
4	Revised draft Initial Report	Chairs & Staff	Reflect comments made IDNC WG on First draft Initial Report	28 January 2008	1 February 2008

5	<b>Publish + Public Comment Initial Report</b>	<b>IDNC WG + Community</b>	<b>CURRENT PHASE</b> This includes the workshop and constituency discussions at ICANN New Delhi meeting	<b>4 February 2008</b>	<b>26 February 2008</b>
6	Consolidate Comment, revised draft Initial Report	Chairs & Staff	Step 6 and 7 in parallel.	27 February 2008	29 February 2008
7	Draft Final Initial Report	Chairs & Staff	Reflect comments IDNC WG and community on revised draft Initial Report	27 February 2008	29 February 2008
8	Approval Initial Report	IDNC WG	Dissenting opinions, if any, of IDNC WG members to be noted	29 February 2008	7 March 2008
9	Publish Final Initial Report	Chairs IDNC WG		8 March 2008	
<b>Interim Report</b>					
10	First draft Interim Report	Chairs & Staff	Runs in parallel with steps 6 and 7. Based on scope of mechanisms from Initial Report		29 February 2008
11	Comment First draft Interim Report	IDNC WG	IDNC WG comment period.	29 February 2008	20 March 2008
12	Consolidate Comments on First draft Interim Report	Chairs & Staff	Step 12 and 13 are run in parallel	21 March 2008	27 March 2008
13	Revised draft Interim Report	Chairs & Staff		21 March 2008	27 March 2008
14	Publish + Public Comment Interim Report	IDNC WG + community	This includes the special ICANN regional meeting in Dubai.	28 March 2008	25 April 2008
15	Consolidate comments and revise draft	Chairs & Staff	Step 15 and 16 are run in parallel	28 April 2008	7 May 2008
16	Draft Final Interim Report	Chairs & Staff	Reflects comments IDNC WG and community.	28 April 2008	7 May 2008
17	Approval Interim Report	IDNC WG	Dissenting opinions, if any, of IDNC WG to be noted.	7 May 2008	14 May 2008

18	Publish Interim Report	Chairs IDNC WG			16 May 2008
<b>Final Report (IDNC WG Recommendations)</b>					
19	Draft Recommendation IDNC WG (Final Report)	Chairs & Staff	Final Interim Report will be reflected in Final Report.		14 May 2008
20	Comment Draft Final Report	IDNC WG	IDNC WG comment period	14 May 2008	28 May 2008
21	Consolidate Comments Draft Final Report	Chairs & Staff	Step 20 and 21 are run in parallel	28 May 2008	4 June 2008
22	Redraft Final Report	Chairs & Staff	Reflect comments IDNC WG on draft final Report	28 May 2008	4 June 2008
23	Approval Recommendations	IDNC WG	Dissenting opinions, if any, of IDNC WG members to be noted	4 June 2008	11 June 2008
24	Record views IDNC WG on Report	Chairs & Staff	Record views		12 June 2008
25	Publish Final Report	Chairs IDNC WG	The Chairs to publish Final Report in time for the Paris ICANN meeting	13 June 2008	
26	Support Final Report	ALAC, ccNSO, GAC, & GNSO (see Charter)	Discussion of Final Report by relevant stakeholders and expressions of support. Chair GAC and ccNSO inform Chairs IDNC WG of support ( requirement under charter)	22 June 2008	25 June 2008
27	Incorporate views of relevant stakeholders in IDNC WG Recommendation	Chairs + staff	Requirement under charter	25 June 2008	26 June 2008
28	Board Submission Final Report	Chairs IDNC WG	Chairs of IDNC WG submit Revised Final Report of IDNC WG to the Board.	26 June 2008	

## IDNC WG Time table

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Closure</b>	<b>Minimal Duration</b>
<b>Publish Initial Report</b>	25 January 2008	NA	NA
<b>Public Comment on Initial Report</b>	25 January 2008	15 February 2008	21 days
<b>Publish Interim Report</b>	9 April		NA
<b>Public Comment on Interim Report</b>	9 April	7 May 2008	28 days
<b>Publish Final Report</b>	4 June 2008		NA
<b>GAC and ccNSO Support Final Report</b>	4 June 2008	25 June 2008	21 days
<b>Board Proposal</b>	26 June 2008		NA

## References

ICANN Board resolution 2 November 2007:

[http://www.icann.org/minutes/resolutions-02nov07.htm#\\_Toc55609363](http://www.icann.org/minutes/resolutions-02nov07.htm#_Toc55609363)

Charter IDNC Working Group:

<http://www.ccnsso.icann.org/workinggroups/idnc-charter.htm>

ICANN IDNA Guidelines:

<http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-2-11may07.htm>

Other documents which may be of relevance and not referenced in Charter IDNC Working Group

RFC 4290 Suggested Practices for Registration of Internationalized Domain Names (IDN). J. Klensin. December 2005. (Format: TXT=71115 bytes) (Status: INFORMATIONAL)

<http://www.rfc-archive.org/getrfc.php?rfc=4290>

RFC 4690 Review and Recommendations for Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). J. Klensin, P. Faltstrom, C. Karp, IAB. September 2006. (Format: TXT=100929 bytes) (Status: INFORMATIONAL)

<http://www.rfc-archive.org/getrfc.php?rfc=4690>

"Internationalizing Domain Names for Applications (IDNA): Issues and Rationale", John Klensin, 18-Nov-07, <draft-klensin-idnabis-issues-05.txt>  
<http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-klensin-idnabis-issues-05.txt>

"Internationalizing Domain Names in Applications (IDNA): Protocol", John Klensin, 18-Nov-07, <draft-klensin-idnabis-protocol-02.txt>  
<http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-klensin-idnabis-protocol-02.txt>

"An IDNA problem in right-to-left scripts", Harald Alvestrand, Cary Karp, 12-Jul-07, <draft-alvestrand-idna-bidi-01.txt>  
<http://ietfreport.isoc.org/idref/draft-alvestrand-idna-bidi/>

"The Unicode Codepoints and IDN", Patrik Faltstrom, 18-Nov-07, <draft-faltstrom-idnabis-tables-03.txt>:  
<http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-faltstrom-idnabis-tables-03.txt>

Joint ccNSO GAC Issues Paper  
<http://icann.org/announcements/announcement-2-09jul07.htm>