

## IDNG Charter

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the IDN Group (IDNG) is to develop and report on:

1. Feasible methods and measures for harmonizing the introduction of new IDN TLDs (including both new IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs)
2. Identify and provide implementation recommendations common across IDN TLDs

### 2. Scope

In considering feasible methods the IDNG should take into account and be guided by:

- The overarching requirement to preserve the security and stability of the DNS;
- Compliance with the IDNA protocols and ICANN IDN Guidelines;
- Input and advice from the technical community in respect to the implementation of IDNs;
- GNSO Policy Recommendations on New gTLDs (<http://gnso.icann.org/issues/new-gtlds/pdp-dec05-fr-parta-08aug07.htm>)
- IDNC WG Board Proposal (<http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/idnc-wg-board-proposal-25jun08.pdf>);
- Draft New gTLD Applicant Guidebook (<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/comments-2-en.htm#expmem>) and subsequent versions as they become available, along with corresponding comments received;
- Draft IDN ccTLD Fast Track Implementation Plan (<http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-18feb09-en.htm>) and subsequent versions as they become available, along with corresponding comments received

The IDNG should at a minimum address the following issues in its reports:

- Should the anticipated time difference between the introduction of the first new IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs to the root be significant, what measures should be taken to avoid conflicts
  - Reasonable / acceptable time difference between the introduction of the first new IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs to the root
  - Feasibility and requirements for an IDN gTLD Fast Track option
  - Other possible measures to harmonize the introduction of IDN TLDs
- Identification of and make recommendations for commonalities and shared attributes for the implementation of IDN TLDs (including both new IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs)
  - Minimum acceptable length of IDN TLDs
  - Management of variants of IDN TLDs in the root (i.e. implementation approach and processes of IDN Language Tables and corresponding variants at the root)
  - Considerations for IDN TLDs intended to mean the same and to serve the same target community with another ASCII TLD or IDN TLD in another language/script
  - Requirements leading to costs for ICANN in handling two or more applications of IDN TLDs intending to mean the same, to serve the same target community and by the same operator
  - Intellectual property rights considerations pertinent to IDN TLDs and common across new IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs

### 3. Reports

Two (2) reports will be produced by the IDNG

- IDNG Initial Report
- IDNG Final Report

Each report should be accompanied with a public comment period to obtain feedback from the community.

#### *IDNG Initial Report*

The IDNG shall produce and publish an Initial Report on the ICANN website for public consultation. The Initial Report should identify issues pertinent to the purpose of IDNG, including the harmonization of the introduction of new IDN TLDs and commonalities in the implementation of IDN TLDs. The Initial Report may also identify possible options and methods for consideration.

#### *IDNG Final Report*

The Final Report should:

1. Review and analyze the comments received from the public comment period;
2. Develop a set of principles and procedural framework for implementing measures to harmonize the introduction of new IDN TLDs;
3. If an IDN gTLD Fast track is recommended, the set of principles and procedural framework for implementation; and
4. Provide implementation recommendations for issues common across IDN TLDs (both IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs)

The Final Report should also take into consideration the then current drafts for IDN ccTLD Fast Track Implementation Plan and the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook to provide specific directives implementable by staff.

In considering its recommendations in the Final Report, the IDNG shall seek to act by consensus. The consensus view of the members of the IDNG shall be conveyed to the GNSO council as the IDNG Final Report. If a minority opposes a consensus position, that minority position shall be incorporated in the IDNG Final Report. The Report shall be published after adoption of the Report by the IDNG and conveyed to the chair of the GNSO council.

After the submission of the Final Report to the GNSO Council, the IDNG should:

- Obtain GNSO Council Support for the IDNG Final Report
- Produce Supplemental IDNG Final Reports (if necessary)
- Prepare an IDNG Board Proposal to the ICANN Board as directed by the GNSO Council

### 4. Membership of the IDNG

The IDNG will have the following members:

- Members of the GNSO and the GNSO Council;
- Members of the GAC;
- Members of the ccNSO;
- Members of the At-Large and ALAC;
- One (1) representative of the technical community;
- One (1) member of the SSAC: and
- Two (2) ICANN staff members.

The IDNG may select its own chair from the members of the Working Group. ICANN will provide adequate staff support to the IDNG.

## 5. IDNG Timeline

Activity	Date	Duration
Publish Initial Report	Month 1	
Public Comment Period on Initial Report	Month 1-2	~30 days
Publish Final Report	Month 3	
Public Comment Period on Final Report	Month 3-4	~30 days
GNSO Council Support of Final Report	Month 4/5	
Board Proposal	Month 4/5	

## 6. Background and References

IDN and IDN TLDs have been an issue discussed at every ICANN meeting formally and informally since 2000. IDN was a subject culminating in a resolution by the ICANN board as early as September 25, 2000. The resolution was especially significant in recognizing "that it is important that the Internet evolve to be more accessible to those who do not use the ASCII character set," and that "the internationalization of the Internet's domain name system must be ... fully compatible with the Internet's existing end-to-end model and that preserve globally unique naming in a universally resolvable public name space" which includes the importance of the introduction of IDN TLDs to preserve a unique global domain name space.

Thereupon, a Topic Paper and a Survey was produced in 2001, followed by two Discussion Papers in 2002 and the first version of the ICANN IDN Implementation Guidelines in 2003. Multiple workshops and discussion sessions were held at different ICANN meetings as well. Besides dedicated sessions, the issue of IDN and IDN TLDs is an issue that has consistently been brought up during public forums and open sessions at ICANN. There can be observed an urgency for IDN TLDs within language communities around the world that do not use English or a Latin based script as a primary language, especially the CJK (Chinese Japanese Korean) communities and the right-to-left directional language communities (e.g. Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, etc.).

The results and learning from these activities fed into the New gTLD process, especially through the GNSO IDN WG. During the deliberations of the New gTLD PDP, a GNSO IDN WG was formed in November 2006 ([http://gns0.icann.org/issues/idn-tlds/idn\\_working\\_group-18nov06.htm](http://gns0.icann.org/issues/idn-tlds/idn_working_group-18nov06.htm)) to address policy issues that may arise from the impending introduction of Internationalized Domain Names at the top level (IDN TLDs). The IDN WG produced a final Outcomes Report (<http://gns0.icann.org/drafts/idn-wg-fr-22mar07.htm>) in March 2007. Recommendations from the Outcomes Report were eventually incorporated into the GNSO Final Report on the Introduction of New gTLDs. Besides the IDN WG, the Reserved Names working group (formed as part of the New gTLD PDP) also deliberated on issues relevant to the introduction of IDN gTLDs. The Reserved Names WG Final Report was also incorporated into the GNSO Final Report on the Introduction of New gTLDs. The findings and recommendations of both working groups should inform the IDNG.

In September 2007 the ccNSO council resolved to recommend to the ICANN Board that an IDNC WG (IDN ccTLD Fast Track Working Group) be formed to discuss the possibility of using an interim approach to IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes. In November 2007 the ICANN Board resolved to establish the IDNC WG 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 IDN ccTLDs while the overall IDN ccPDP is being developed. In June 2008, the IDNC WG submitted its final report to the ICANN board, and the Board directed ICANN staff to commence work on implementation issues. Subsequently 2 draft Implementation Plans for IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process were published in November 2008, March 2009 and May 2009 (<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/draft-implementation-plan-ccTld-clean-29may09-en.pdf>) respectively.

The GNSO Council, in its comments in Response to the ccNSO-GAC Issues Report on IDN Issues (<http://gns0.icann.org/drafts/ccns0-gac-issues-report-idn-ccTlds-gns0-response-20feb08.pdf>), as well as in its comments on the IDNC WG Final Report (<http://gns0.icann.org/issues/idn-tlds/gns0-council-comments-idnc-final-report-14aug08.pdf>) expressed that “the introduction of IDN gTLDs or IDN ccTLDs should not be delayed because of lack of readiness of one category, but if they are not introduced at the same time, steps should be taken so that neither category is advantaged or disadvantaged, and procedures should be developed to avoid possible conflicts.”

Further, the GNSO Council made a resolution in January 2009 to assert that “the GNSO Council strongly believes that neither the New gTLD or ccTLD fast track process should result in IDN TLDs in the root before the other unless both the GNSO and ccNSO so agree.”

As reflected by the IDNC WG Board Proposal (<http://ccns0.icann.org/workinggroups/idnc-wg-board-proposal-25jun08.pdf>), the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Implementation Plan Drafts and the different versions of the Draft Applicant Guidebook, including the revised excerpts (<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gTlds/comments-e-en.htm#matrix>), there are certain common elements that may require implementation recommendations.

These include: the management and implementation of IDN Language Tables for IDN TLDs, especially for handling variants at the root, i.e. at the TLD level and not only second level IDN registrations under a TLD (<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/proposed-implementation-details-idn-tables-revision-1-clean-29may09-en.pdf>); length of an IDN TLD including and in correspondence with recommendations from the IDNC WG for Fast Track IDN ccTLDs (<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gTlds/three-character-30may09-en.pdf>); the implementation of additional data requirements for IDN TLDs; considerations for and cost requirements for IDN TLDs intended to mean the same and targeted to serve the same community.