# Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN73 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The EPDP Team will conduct one working session on Wednesday, 9 March 2022 at 14:30-16:00 AST. Please check the ICANN73 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. During the session, the working group will discuss topics within its charter and seek broader community input.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the **initiation request** for the EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and adopted its **charter** at the same time. The EPDP is expected to provide the GNSO Council with policy recommendations on:

**i.** the definition of all TLDs and the management of variant labels to facilitate the delegation of variant gTLDs in the root zone, while achieving the security and usability goal of variant labels in a stable manner; and

**ii.** how the IDN Implementation Guidelines, which Contracted Parties are required to comply with, should be updated in the future.

The charter includes a total of 48 questions under seven broader topics, ranging from the "same entity" requirement at the top- and second-levels to adjustments to ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs.

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The EPDP Team held its first meeting on 11 August 2021 and is in the early stages of its work.

The EPDP Team received **early written input** from the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), GNSO's Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) on topics contained in its charter. As the Team discusses each topic, it will take into account the relevant early written input received from those ICANN community groups. In January 2022, the EPDP Team conducted an engagement session with SSAC members to discuss their input and exchange views on specific charter questions.

Request for an Issue Report → Publication of Preliminary Issue Report → Gather Public Comments → Publication of Final Issue Report → Initiate Policy Development Process → Form Working Group (WG) → Request for SG/C Statements & SO/AC Input → **WG Initial Report**

POLICY → Implementation → Board Vote → Gather Public Comments → Recommendation to ICANN Board → GNSO Council Deliberates → WG Final Report → Gather Public Comments

In February 2022, the EPDP Team modified the sequencing of tackling the charter questions in order to ensure that a logical order is being followed and provide efficiency to its deliberations. The EPDP Team largely completed its first pass of substantive deliberations on Topic A, the first of its seven main topics that focus on the consistent definition of gTLDs and variant gTLD labels using the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR). The Team is now proceeding with its initial deliberations on charter questions under Topic B regarding the "same entity" principle for variant gTLDs, as well as Topic D charter questions related to the legal and operational framework by which registry operators could apply for, or seek to activate, allocatable variant gTLD labels.

To ensure a consistent solution for IDN variant TLDs, the EPDP Team and ccNSO's ccPDP4 on the (de-)selection of IDN ccTLD Strings have identified liaisons between the two groups in order to keep each other informed of their respective progress.

### WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?
The EPDP Team will continue its substantive deliberations, seeking to reach preliminary outcomes for each of the seven main topics. The EPDP Team will work towards draft responses to charter questions and recommendations, which will be compiled into an Initial Report. The Initial Report will be published for public comment.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
Parties interested in the EPDP on IDNs should coordinate with the members assigned by the respective Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee to stay current and to communicate any input they believe may be useful to the EPDP's deliberations. The EPDP's "representative + open" membership model allows interested parties to join as a participant and take part in EPDP deliberations substantively, with the exception of when an official position is needed from the relevant organization or taking part in the consensus call. Interested parties are also able to follow the working group's progress by signing up as an observer.

### MORE INFORMATION
- **EPDP webpage**
- **EPDP workspace**

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