

Chartering Effort: Internationalized Domain Names

Following the adoption of the [Final Report](#) of the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Scoping Team, the GNSO Council kicked off its efforts related to the IDN policy work track in October 2020. When considering the mechanism in carrying out the work, the GNSO Council agreed with the Scoping Team’s suggestion that an Issue Report is likely not needed in order to initiate the work, and an Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) is the desired approach.

In November 2020, the Council [launched](#) a call for volunteers within the GNSO community for a drafting team to develop a draft charter, as well as an initiation request for the EPDP on IDNs. The drafting team first met on 7 December 2020 and held a total of 19 meetings. In developing the EPDP charter, the drafting team built on the existing body of work related to IDNs, such as IDN related [recommendations](#) from the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP, the [IDN Variant TLD Implementation Staff Paper](#), and [recommendations for the Technical Utilization of the Root Zone Label Generation Rules \(RZ-LGR\)](#).

On 10 May 2021, the drafting team submitted its deliverables to the GNSO for its consideration. 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. The charter also includes a “representative + open” model for the EPDP working group, consisting of members, participants, and observers. This model is designed to enable the working group to conduct its work in an efficient manner while creating additional opportunities for broader community participation.

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the [initiation request](#) for the EPDP on IDNs and adopted its [charter](#). The GNSO Council is expected to conduct an Expression of Interest process for the EPDP chair and issue a call for volunteers to the various

community groups to assign members. ICANN org Global Domain and Strategy (GDS) will also be invited to identify at least one liaison for the working group.

During ICANN71, an outreach session will be held to provide additional information about this EPDP, including its mission and scope, as well as ways to get involved.

Furthermore, to fulfill ICANN Board's request that the GNSO and the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) coordinate to ensure a consistent solution is developed for IDN variant gTLDs and IDN variant ccTLDs, both the GNSO and ccNSO Councils have appointed liaisons to follow each other's policy efforts related to IDNs.

MORE INFORMATION

- [Drafting Team workspace](#)

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