Meaningfulness Criteria and related Processes & Procedures

Version 01

27 November 2020

2.1.2 Criteria for the selection of an IDN ccTLD string

B.   The IDN ccTLD string must be a Meaningful Representation of the name of a Territory. The principle underlying the representation of Territories in two letter (ASCII) code elements is the visual association between the names of Territories (in English or French, or sometimes in another language) and their corresponding **code elements**[1].

The principle of association between the IDN country code string and the name of a Territory should be maintained. A selected IDN ccTLD string must be a meaningful representation of the name of the

Territory. A country code string is considered meaningful if it is:

a)   The name of the Territory; or

b)   Part of the name of the Territory that denotes the Territory; or

c)   A short-form designation for the name of the Territory, recognizably denoting the name.

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[1] See ISO 3166-1: 2006 Section 5.1

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Section in Document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review/inclusion in list	Proposed next step	Adjust wording	Proposed Wording
2.1.2 B	**The IDN ccTLD string must be a Meaningful Representation of the name of a Territory**. The principle underlying the representation of Territories in two letter (ASCII) code elements is the visual association between the names of Territories (in English or French, or sometimes in another language) and their corresponding code elements. The principle of association between the IDN country code string and the name of a Territory should be maintained. A selected IDN ccTLD string must be a meaningful representation of the name of the Territory. A country code string is considered meaningful if it is: a) The name of the Territory; or b) Part of the name of the Territory that denotes the Territory; or c) A short form designation for the name of the Territory, recognizably denoting the name.	ICANN must ensure consistency between the policy to assign an ASCI ccTLD and an IDN ccTLD. In detail, the "meaningful representation" criteria should be crystal clear when it comes to territories that have multiple, official languages. To what extent does the selected IDN ccTLD string need to be (remain?) to be recognised as a ccTLD even if you do not know the language?	The criteria need to be reviewed in depth in PDP. Rationale: Proposed criteria have been adopted by the ccNSO Members in 2013. They are very similar to the criteria used in the Fast Track Process.		

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D. A Meaningful Representation of the name of the Territory must be in a Designated Language of the Territory

The selected IDN ccTLD string should be a meaningful representation of the name of the territory in a "designated" language of that Territory. For this purpose, a "designated" language is defined as a language that has a legal status in the Territory or that serves as a language of administration[2] (hereafter: Designated Language)[3].

The definition of Designated Language is based on: "Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names", United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names, United Nations, New York, 2002.[4]

The language is considered to be a Designated Language if one or more of the following requirements are met:

1. The language is listed for the relevant Territory as an ISO 639 language in Part Three of the "Technical Reference Manual for the standardization of Geographical Names", United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (the UNGEGN Manual) (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/default.htm).
2. The language is listed as an administrative language for the relevant Territory in ISO 3166-1 standard under column 9 or 10. (Needs to be checked if still correct)
3. The relevant public authority in the Territory confirms that the language is used in official communications of the relevant public authority and serves as a language of administration.

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[2]

[3] The limitation to Designated Language is recommended as criteria for reasons of stability of the DNS. According to some statistics currently 6909 living languages are identified. See for example: http://www.ethnologue.com/ethno_docs/distribution.asp?by=area. If one IDN ccTLD would be allowed per territory for every language this would potentially amount to 252*6909 or approximately 1.7 million IDN ccTLDs.

[4] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/documents/Glossary_of_terms_rev.pdf

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Specific requirements regarding documentation of Designated Languages are included in the procedures and documentation recommendations.

E. **If the selected string is not the long or short form of the name of a Territory then evidence of meaningfulness is required.** Where the selected string is the long or short form name of the relevant Territory in the Designated Language as listed in the UNGEGN Manual, Part Three column 3 or 4 version 2007, or later versions of that list it is considered to be meaningful.

Where the selected string is not listed in the UNGEGN then meaningfulness must be adequately documented. This is the case when:

- (i) The selected string is not part of the long or short form name of the Territory in the UNGEGN Manual in the Designated Language or
- (ii) An acronym of the name of the Territory in the Designated Language or
- (iii) the Territory or the Designated Language do not appear in the UNGEGN Manual.

If such documentation is required, the documentation needs to clearly establish that:

- The meaning of the selected string in the Designated Language and English and
- That the selected string meets the meaningfulness criteria.

Specific requirements regarding documentation of the Meaningful Representation are included in the procedures and documentation recommendations.

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Section in Document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review/inclusion in list	Proposed next step	Adjust wording	Proposed Wording / Comments WG
2.1.2 E	**If the selected string is not the long or short form of the name of a Territory then evidence of meaningfulness is required.** Where the selected string is the long or short form name of the relevant Territory in the Designated Language as listed in the UNGEGN Manual, Part Three column 3 or 4 version 2007, or later versions of that list it is considered to be meaningful. Where the selected string is not listed in the UNGEGN then meaningfulness must be adequately documented […].	ICANN must make the "meaningfulness" criteria crystal clear as in the past ICANN had inconsistent approaches for the evaluation of the "adequate documentation". This applies also to the case when one territory has more than one designated language. Furthermore, the procedure should foresee an appeal step in case the selected string is not accepted because of not being "meaningful".	The criteria need to be reviewed in depth in PDP. Rationale: Proposed criteria have been adopted by the ccNSO Members in 2013. They are very similar to the criteria used in the Fast Track Process.		

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Excerpt 2.1.3 Procedure and Documentation

Stage 1: String Selection stage in Territory

1. General Description

The string selection stage is a local matter in Territory and should ideally involve all relevant local actors in Territory. The actors in Territory must:

1. Identify the script and language for the IDN Table and prepare this Table if necessary,
2. Select the IDN ccTLD string. The selected string must meet the meaningfulness and technical requirements and should not be confusingly similar.
3. Document endorsement /support of the relevant stakeholders in Territory for the selected string, and
4. Select the intended IDN ccTLD string requester before submitting an IDN ccTLD string for validation. In cases where the string requester is not yet selected, the relevant public authority of the Territory may act as nominee for the to be selected string requester.

Notes and Comments

As stated the string selection stage is a local matter in Territory and should ideally involve all relevant local actors in Territory. Typically this would include:

- The IDN ccTLD string requester. This actor initiates the next step of the process, provides the necessary information and documentation, and acts as the interface with ICANN. Typically this actor is the expected IDN ccTLD manager.
- The relevant public authority of the Territory associated with the selected IDN ccTLD.
- Parties to be served by the IDN ccTLD. They are asked to show that they support the request and that it would meet the interests and needs of the local Internet community.

Additionally these actors may wish to involve recognised experts or expert groups to assist them to select the IDN ccTLD string, prepare the relevant IDN Table or assist in providing adequate documentation.

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Further, and at the request of the actors in Territory ICANN may provide assistance to them to assist with the in Territory Process.

2. Detailed aspects String Selection Stage

<snip>

Documentation of required endorsement / support for selected string by Significantly Interested Parties

Definition of Significantly Interested Parties. Significantly Interested Parties include, but are not limited to:

   a. the government or territorial authority for the country or territory associated with the IDN ccTLD string and
   b. any other individuals, organizations, companies, associations, educational institutions or others that have a direct, material, substantial, legitimate and demonstrable interest.

To be considered a Significantly Interested Party, any party other than the government or territorial authority for the country or territory associated with the selected IDN ccTLD must demonstrate that it is has a direct, material, legitimate and demonstrable interest in the operation of the proposed IDN ccTLD(s).

Requesters should be encouraged to provide documentation of the support of stakeholders for the selected string, including an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the selection of the proposed string via a public process. "Stakeholders" is used here to encompass Significantly Interested Parties, "interested parties" and "other parties."

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Section in Document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review	Proposed next step	Adjust Wording	Proposed Wording/Comments WG
2.1.3 - 2	Documentation of required endorsement / support for selected string by Significantly Interested Parties	In the Fast Track Process and underlying methodology the reference is to Local Internet Community, which was in use up- and until the Framework of Interpretation was adopted and implemented. Going forward the terminology should be used consistently across different ccTLD related policies. Ensure required documentation and terminology is used consistently across the ccTLD related policy documentation (RFC 1591& related Framework of Interpretation, ccPDP 3 and overall policy for selection of IDN ccTLD strings.	Review and update the current proposed policy to ensure consistent documentation and terminology.		

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Classification of input

For procedural purposes the following cases should be distinguished:
- Request for the full or short name of Territory (as defined in Section 3 E).
- Other cases, where additional documentation is required.

In both cases the relevant Government / Public Authority needs to be involved and at a minimum its non-objection should be documented.

Notes and Comments

In case where additional documentation is required:

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1   • Unanimity should NOT be required.
2   • The process should allow minorities to express a concern i.e. should not be used against legitimate concerns of
3   minorities
4   • The process should not allow a small group to unduly delay the selection process.
5
6   ICANN should include an example of the documentation required to demonstrate the support or non-objection for the
7   selected string(s) in the implementation plan.
8

Section in Document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review	Proposed next step	Adjust Wording	Proposed Wording/Comments WG
2.1.3 - 2	Classification of input For procedural purposes the following cases should be distinguished […]. Notes and Comments In case where additional documentation is required: - Unanimity should NOT be required. - The process should allow minorities to express a concern i.e. should not be used against legitimate	To be consistent with previously stated procedures, any issue must be sorted within the territory.	Review the clarifications provided in the text of ccPDP 2. Ensure consistency and clear basis for interpretation.		

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Section in Document	Topic	Comment/Rationale for review	Proposed next step	Adjust Wording	Proposed Wording/Comments WG
	concerns of minorities - The process should not allow a small group to unduly delay the selection process.				

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Documentation of the meaningfulness of the selected IDN ccTLD string

The selected IDN ccTLD string(s) must be a meaningful representation of the name of the corresponding country or territory. A string is deemed to be meaningful if it is in the designated language of the country or territory and if it is:

1. The name of the country or territory; or
2. A part of the name of the country or territory denoting the country or territory; or
3. A short-form designation for the name of the country or territory that is recognizable and denotes the country or territory in the selected language.

The meaningfulness requirement is verified as follows:

1. If the selected string is listed in the UNGEGN Manual, then the string fulfills the meaningfulness requirement.
2. If the selected string is not listed in the UNGEGN Manual, the requester must then substantiate the meaningfulness by providing documentation from an internationally recognized expert or organization.

ICANN should recognize the following experts or organizations as internationally recognized:

a. National Naming Authority – a government recognized National Geographic Naming Authority, or other organization performing the same function, for the country or territory for which the selected string request is presented. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) maintains such a list of organizations at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/nna.html
b. National Linguistic Authority – a government recognized National Linguistic Authority, or other organization performing the same function, for the country or territory for which the selected string request is presented.
c. ICANN agreed expert or organization – in the case where a country or territory does not have access to one of the Authorities listed before, it may request assistance from ICANN to identify and refer a recognized expert or organization. Any expertise referred from or agreed to by ICANN will be considered acceptable and sufficient to determine whether a string is a meaningful representation of a Territory name.

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Notes and Comments

ICANN should include an example of the documentation that demonstrates the selected IDN ccTLD string(s) is a meaningful representation of the corresponding Territory in the implementation plan.

ICANN should include a procedure, including a timeframe, to identify expertise referred to or agreed as set out above under c. in the implementation plan.

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