

Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP on IDNs)

Update to / Consultation with At-Large CPWG

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24 November 2021



Agenda

- EPDP on IDNs
 - Some context
 - Overview of Charter Questions: 8 parts – A to G

- Status of EPDP deliberations as at 18 Nov 2021
 - Important Notes on RZ-LGR Procedure and LGR Tool
 - Charter Questions a1 & a2
 - Charter Questions a3

Some context to appreciate

- NgTLD 2012 application round relied on some ASCII and IDN string / label requirement; did not allow variant TLDs
- RZ-LGR Procedure initiated in 2013 with ICANN Board approval for use with **gTLDs and ccTLDs**
- In brief, our challenge is to figure out how RZ-LGR:-
 - Might be used for all TLDs: generic AND country code
 - Might be used to support checking the validity and allocatability of any not-yet-delegated IDN variant labels at TL (if any)
 - If used, results in any consequences to already delegated TLDs which require mitigative action
 - Might be used to manage variant labels at SL

Overview of Charter Questions

- There are 8 parts – A to G

Part	Deals With	Charter Qs
A	Consistent definition and technical utilization of RZ-LGR	CQ a1 – a10
B	<u>IDN Variant TLD Mgt</u> : “Same entity” at the top-level	CQ b1 – b5
C	<u>IDN Variant TLD Mgt</u> : “Same entity” at the second-level	CQ c1 – c6
D	Adjustments in RA, registry service, registry transition process, and other processes/procedures related to DN lifecycle	CQ d1 – d8
E	Adjustments to objection process, string similarity review, string contention resolution, reserved strings, and other policies & procedures	CQ e1 – e6
F	Adjustments in registration dispute resolution procedures and TM protection mechanisms	CQ f1 – f2
G	Process to update the IDN Implementation Guidelines	CQ g1

Status of Deliberations as at 18 Nov 2021

- We are now at **Charter Question a3**
- We earlier asked for more background on RZ-LGR workings to better understand how it might be used
- Request resulted in capacity building:

Presentations by ICANN Org's Sarmad Hussain and Pitinan Kooarmornpatana on **RZ-LGR Motivation, Design, Usage & Status**; and **LGR Tool demo**

- EPDP Call #9 on 7 Oct:
<https://community.icann.org/display/epdpidn/2021-10-07+IDNs+EPDP>
- EPDP Call #10 on 13 Oct:
<https://community.icann.org/display/epdpidn/2021-10-14+IDNs+EPDP>
- But presentations were very useful since they also help with other CQs down the line

Important Notes about the RZ-LGR

Root Zone – Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR) Procedure & LGR Tool

RZ-LGR Procedure

Generation Panels

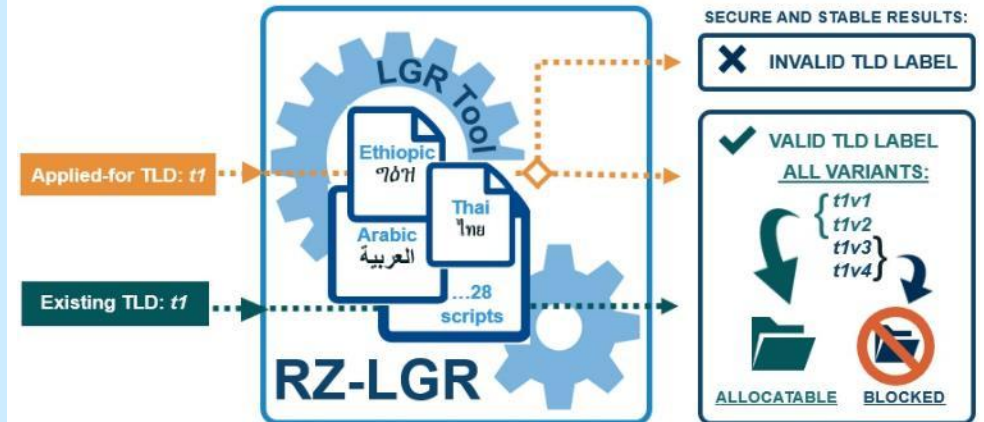
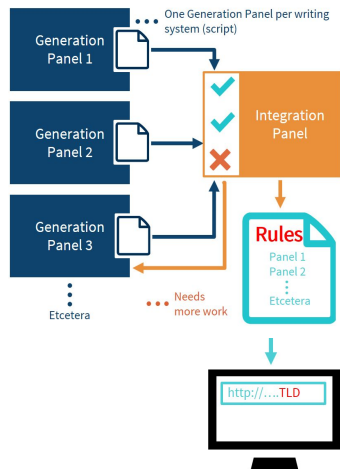
- Generate proposals for script specific LGRs, based on community expertise and linguistic, security and stability requirements

Integration Panel

- Integrates them into common Root Zone LGR while minimizing the risk to Root Zone as shared resource

Label Generation Rules (LGR)

- Which labels are permissible?
- Which variant labels exist?
- Are there any more constraints?



Important Notes about RZ-LGR Procedure include:

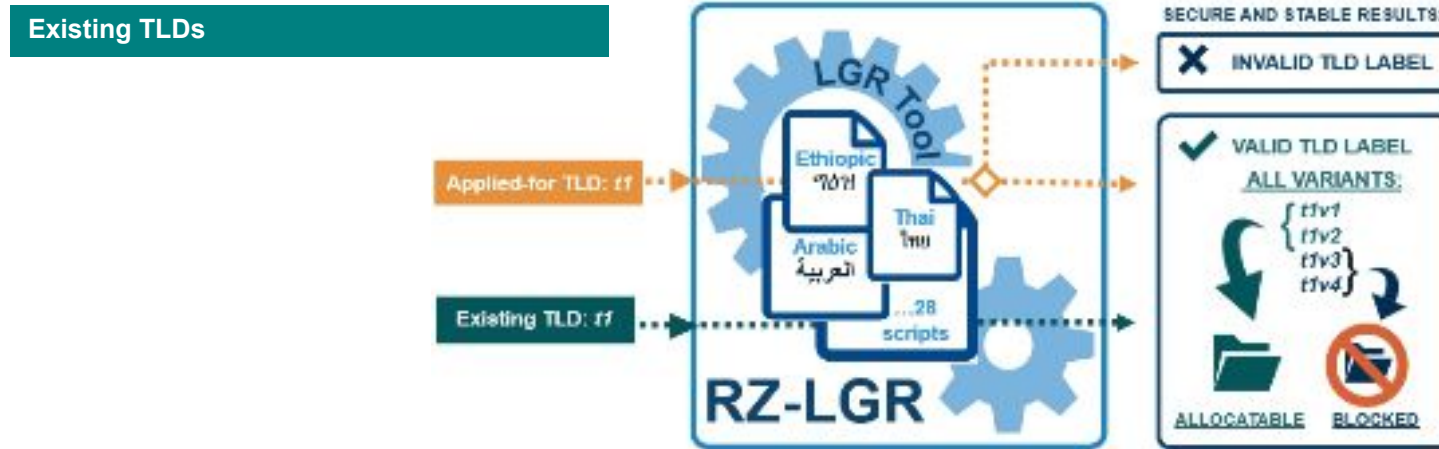
- Establishes procedure for introducing **script-based label generation rules** – which variant labels are valid AND which are allocatable
- Procedure builds-in major technical/linguistic considerations, expertise
- Procedure builds-in **9 fundamental design principles** of Longevity, Least Astonishment, Contextual Safety, Inclusion, Simplicity, Predictability, Stability, Letter, Conservatism
- Each script GP invites community & expert participation – min criteria apply to compel linguistic expertise, diversity (using EGIDS Value) – as well as community input via ICANN's public comment process
- Each GP **LGR reviewed by experts-only IP for integration; handles cross-script impact eg Greek-Latin scripts**
- Procedure started in 2013 with ICANN Board approval **for use with gTLDs and ccTLDs**
- Currently supports 18 scripts, with 7 expected to be added in 2022; 2 more not yet started

RZ-LGR Terms: Labels, Disposition Value, Code points

A real example of RZ-LGR output for an Arabic label

#	Type	U-label	A-label	Disposition	Code point sequence
1	original	شبكة	xn--ngbc5azd	valid	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+0629
2	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx0cq	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+0647
3	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx0c15a	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+06BE
4	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx0c95a	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+06C0
5	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx0cy6a	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+06C1
6	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx0c26a	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+06C2
7	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx0c66a	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+06C3
8	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx0c31b	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+0643 U+06D5
9	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbc5az1b	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+0629
10	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx2d5u	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+0647
11	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx66ayc	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+06BE
12	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx66a6c	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+06C0
13	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx66agd	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+06C1
14	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx66akd	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+06C2
15	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx66aod	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+06C3
16	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx66a0f	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06A9 U+06D5
17	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbc5a31b	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+0629
18	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx2d9u	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+0647
19	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx96asc	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+06BE
20	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx96a0c	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+06C0
21	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx96a4c	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+06C1
22	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx96a8c	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+06C2
23	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx96ahd	allocatable	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+06C3
24	varlabel	شبكة	xn--ngbx96arf	blocked	U+0634 U+0628 U+06AA U+06D5

Charter Question a1: Use of RZ-LGR on delegated gTLD labels

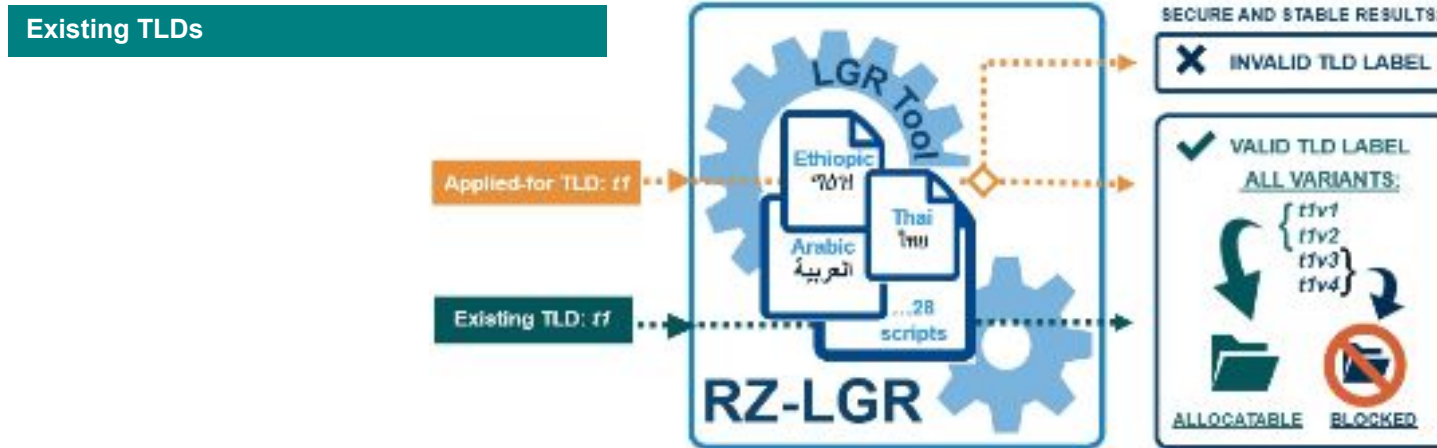


● CQ a1:

○ For existing delegated gTLD labels, should we use RZ-LGR as sole source to calculate variant labels and disposition values?

- EPDP WG agreed to return to CQ a1 after relevant data and metrics are available to support further deliberations.
- WG members from RySG and ccNSO will check with their groups to see if there are any concerns about using the RZ-LGR for existing gTLDs.
- Based on 1930 applications from the previous round, Data Analysis found only 3 anomalies. The group therefore is veering to accepting that RZ-LGR should be considered as the sole source to calculate variant labels and dispositions.

Charter Question a2: Conformity of self-identified “variant” TLD labels



● CQ a2:

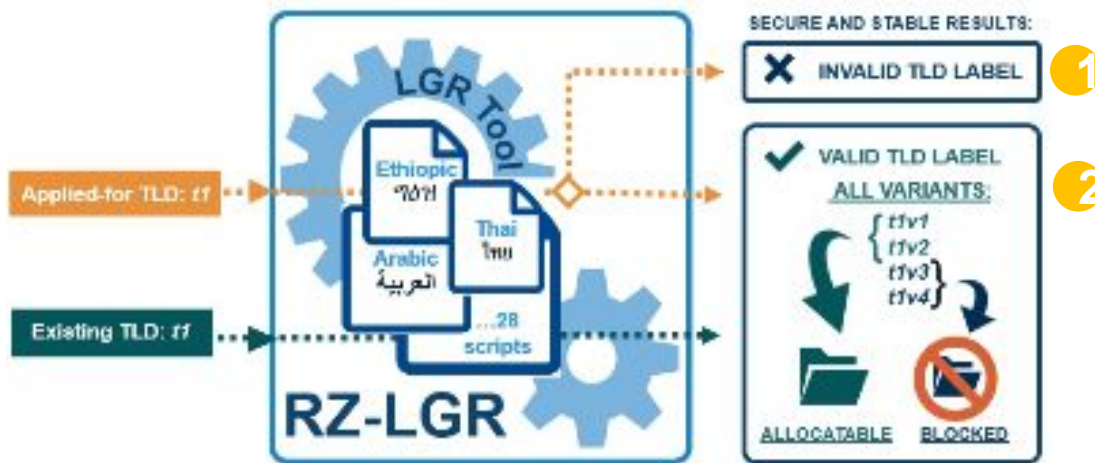
- Before the proposed RZ-LGR mechanism, applicants for IDN gTLDs were asked to identify and list any variant labels (based on their own calculations) corresponding to their applied-for string.
- TSG recommends such applicant self-identified “variant” labels which are also variant labels calculated by RZ-LGR (i.e. **found consistent**) be assigned variant disposition based on RZ-LGR calculation.
- If some such self-identified “variant” TLD labels are **not found consistent** with RZ-LGR calculation but have been used in some way (eg. To determine string contention sets), how should such labels be addressed to conform to RZ-LGR Procedure and RZ-LGR calculations?
 - EPDP WG agreed to return to CQ a1 after relevant data and metrics are available to support further deliberations.
 - WG members from RySG and ccNSO will check with their groups to see if there are any concerns about using the RZ-LGR for existing gTLDs.
 - Discussions going on currently

Background to CQ a3: Possibility of “Challenging” the RZ-LGR?

Applied-for Strings (“Labels”) in new round

Thoughts on policy for next round: **Communication**

- Potential applicants to use LGR Tool (algorithmic tool) to check for validity and allocatability of label they wish to apply for
- Encouraged to do so at any time, esp. ahead of application window opening to enable redress to be taken timeously



Thoughts on implementation for next round

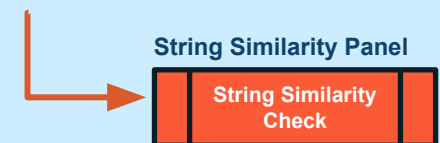
- LGR Tool (algorithmic tool) will be incorporated in the New gTLD Program application system to automate the checking of validity and allocatability of applied-for label
- **Conformity to RZ-LGR is one of several layers of requirements** that applied-for label must meet to be allowed to proceed

Our understanding of Extract of NgTLD application procedure

DNS Stability Panel



- 1 Reviews LGR Tool result to
 - First, evaluate for **VALIDITY OF LABEL**
- 2
 - If found **VALID**, then evaluate for **ALLOCATABILITY**
 - Allocatability: alleviates confusingly similar risk for identified variants
- 3
 - If found **ALLOCATABLE**, then evaluate for further **RISK OF CONFUSION**

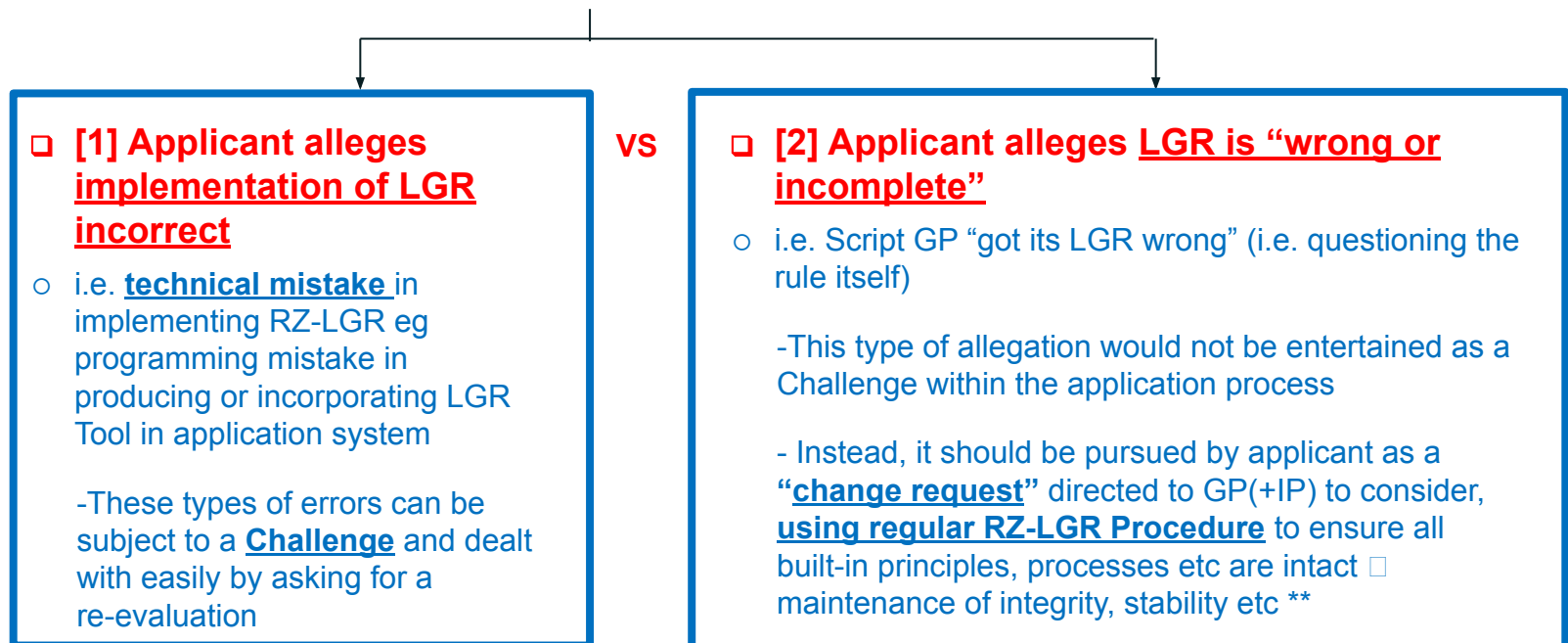


Charter Question a3: Could an Applicant “challenge” the RZ-LGR?

Applied-for Strings (“Labels”) in new round

● CQ a3:

- SubPro PDP recommended challenge mechanism for limited review of certain types of action or inaction that appears inconsistent with AGB
- If an applied-for TLD label whose script is supported by RZ-LGR is found “invalid” should we allow an evaluation challenge against “invalid” decision?
 - Need to first ask why was decision “invalid” or “valid”



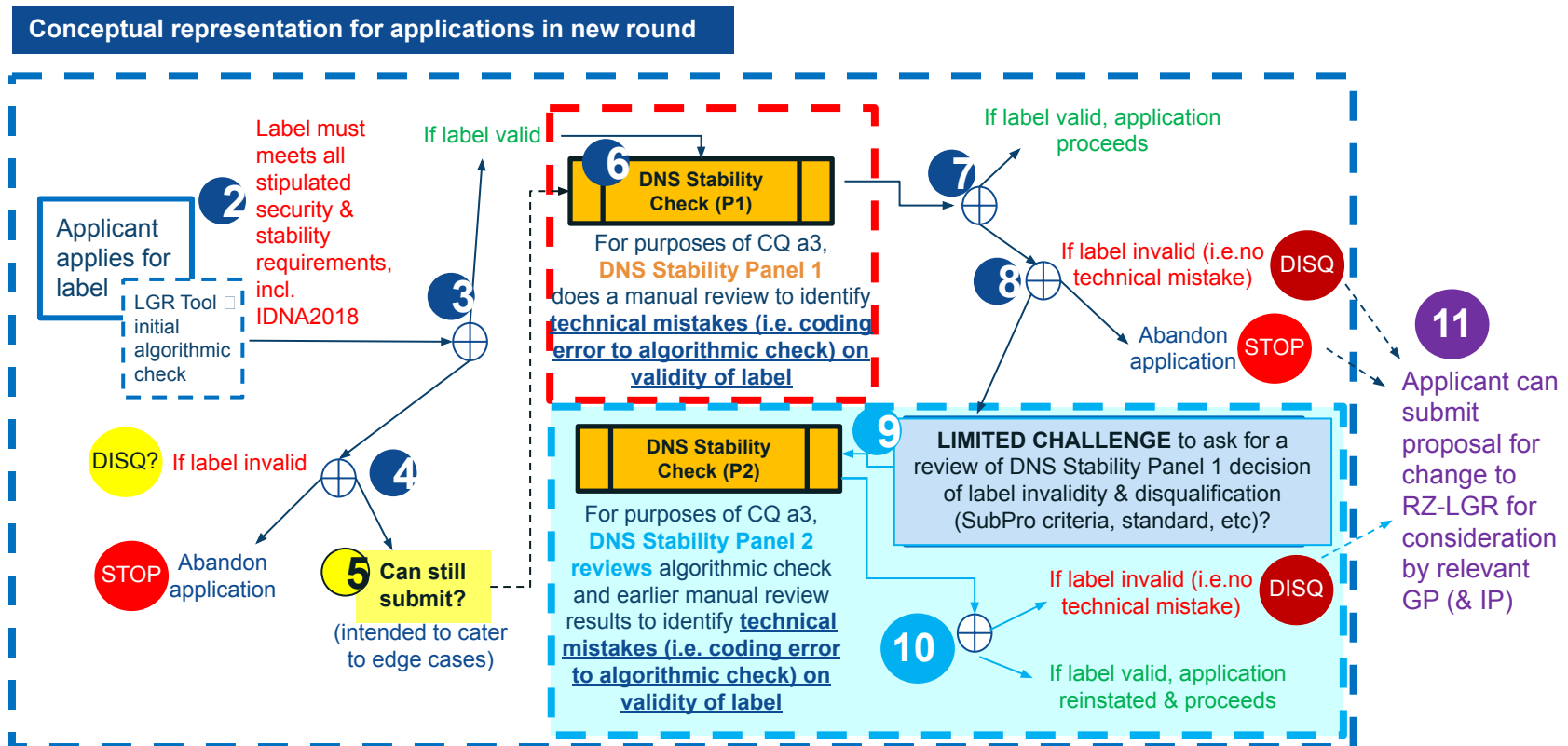
**RZ-LGR Technical Study Group’s Rec. 4 states that, “Policy or procedure must not override the results of the RZ-LGR and that any changes in RZ-LGR by a process outside the LGR Procedure would invalidate the RZ-LGR and thus the definition of the variant TLD”.

Charter Question a3: In-principle consequences of proposed positions

Recall that

- In 2012 round, DNS Stability Panel did checks to ensure only labels which met stipulated ASCII and IDN label requirements were allowed to proceed (no RZ-LGR then)
- LGR Tool is already available now; so potential applicants can at any time check the validity and allocatability of the labels they wish to apply for
- Potential applicants don't need to wait for the application window to find out that their applied-for label is invalid or not allocatable; should timeously submit a proposed change in LGR to relevant GP through RZ-LGR Procedure

Decision Points for Input: **5** **9** **11**



- Questions?

Thank you for your inputs!