ICANN 73
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Internationalized Domain Names Expedited Policy Development Process

D1b, B4, B4a, B5

IDN-EPDP Team ICANN73 Session | 9 March 2022

D1b

Charter Questions D1b

D1b: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD? What should be the process by which an applicant applying for a new IDN gTLD could seek and obtain any allocatable variant(s)? What should be the associated fee(s), including the application fees and annual registration fees for variant TLDs? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided?

Part 1: A new applicant seeks to apply for a new gTLD and allocatable variant label(s) of that gTLD

Part 2: An existing Registry Operator seeks to activate allocatable variant label(s) of its existing gTLD

Part 3: Associated fee(s) and specific implementation guidance

Part 1 Recap

D1b: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD? What should be the process by which an applicant applying for a new IDN gTLD could seek and obtain any allocatable variant(s)? What should be the associated fee(s), including the application fees and annual registration fees for variant TLDs? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided?

Part 1: A new applicant seeks to apply for a new gTLD and allocatable variant label(s) of that gTLD

Summary of Discussion:

- General agreement that an applicant for a new gTLD and its variant label set should go through one application process, that is, only be required to submit one application for the new gTLD and its variant label set
- Applicant needs to prove to the evaluator that it can manage both the gTLD and its variant(s), as well as explain how it will operate the set. There should be additional application questions to address how the set will be handled
- Some members support the idea of completing the evaluation and objection of the variant set up front

Part 2 Recap

D1b: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD? What should be the process by which an applicant applying for a new IDN gTLD could seek and obtain any allocatable variant(s)? What should be the associated fee(s), including the application fees and annual registration fees for variant TLDs? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided?

Part 2: An existing Registry Operator seeks to activate allocatable variant label(s) of its existing gTLD

Summary of Discussion:

- Some support for a simplified process before the next round to allow registry operators to seek to activate variant labels
- Processes from the 2012 round may need to be taken into account, including resource/staffing needs and evaluation elements to ensure variants are introduced and managed in a secure/stable manner

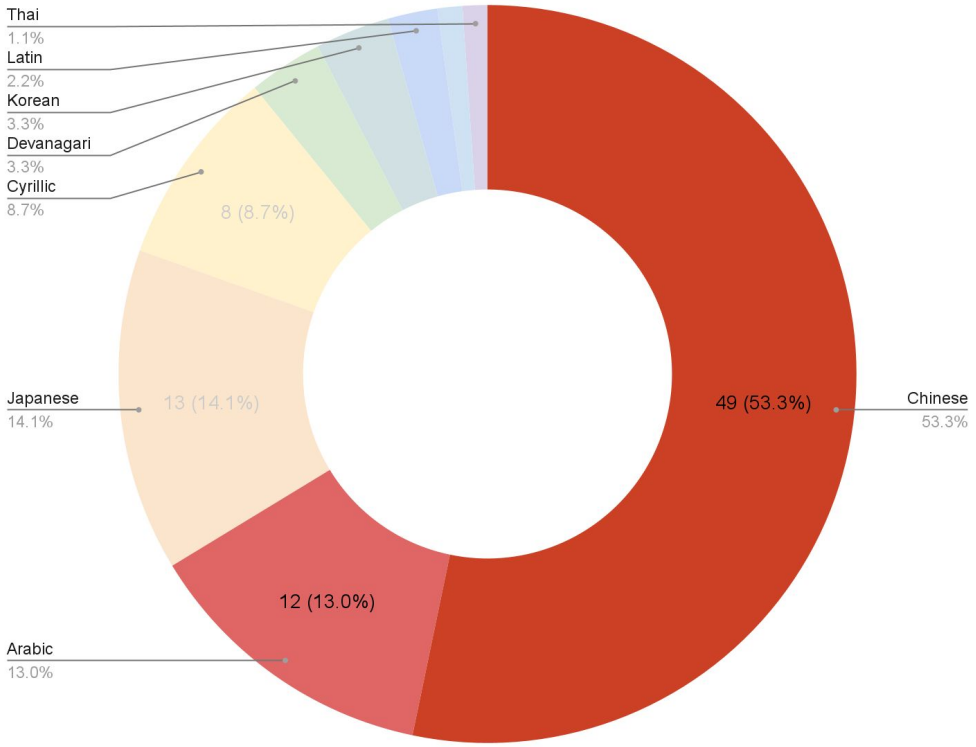
Delegated Non-Latin Script gTLDs with Allocatable Variants

Delegated IDN gTLDs: 91

Delegated gTLDs w/ allocatable variants: 61

- Chinese and Arabic gTLDs are applicable

Eligible Registry Operators: 47



<<< Proposal For Consideration >>>

Targeted questionnaire to eligible registry operators:

- Interest / need to activate allocatable variant labels
- If interested, how many allocatable variant labels (based on RZ-LGR calculation) to activate
- Timing to do so
- Additional considerations

Part 3 Recap

D1b: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD? What should be the process by which an applicant applying for a new IDN gTLD could seek and obtain any allocatable variant(s)? What should be the associated fee(s), including the application fees and annual registration fees for variant TLDs? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided?

Part 3: Associated fee(s) and specific implementation guidance

Summary of Discussion:

- Some members suggested that applicants from the 2012 round have already paid the application fee of $185,000 and this should potentially be considered in the activation of variants
- Some members stressed the “cost recovery / revenue neutral” principle
- Hard question to tackle without addressing each stage of the application process in detail

Consideration for Part 3

D1b: What should be the process by which an existing registry operator could apply for, or be allocated, a variant for its existing gTLD? What should be the process by which an applicant applying for a new IDN gTLD could seek and obtain any allocatable variant(s)? What should be the associated fee(s), including the application fees and annual registration fees for variant TLDs? Should any specific implementation guidance be provided?

EPDP Team to Consider:

- For future applicants – Should the cost of applying for the primary new gTLD and its variant labels be the cost of one application? In other words, should there be variable pricing associated with an application that includes both the primary new gTLD and its variant labels, or should the "one fee fits all" system apply?
- For existing ROs – Should existing Registry Operators be charged for their request to activate allocatable variant labels of their existing gTLDs? (feedback received from RO questionnaire may be a factor for consideration)
- For both future applicants and existing ROs - Once delegated, what annual registration fees should be charged for the variant TLD labels?

Fees from 2012 Round

Evaluation Fees

- **USD 185,000**
- Covers all required reviews in Initial Evaluation and in most cases any required reviews in Extended Evaluation
- **Ensure the program is fully funded and revenue neutral** and is not subsidized by existing contributions from ICANN funding sources, including generic TLD registries and registrars, ccTLD contributions and RIR contributions

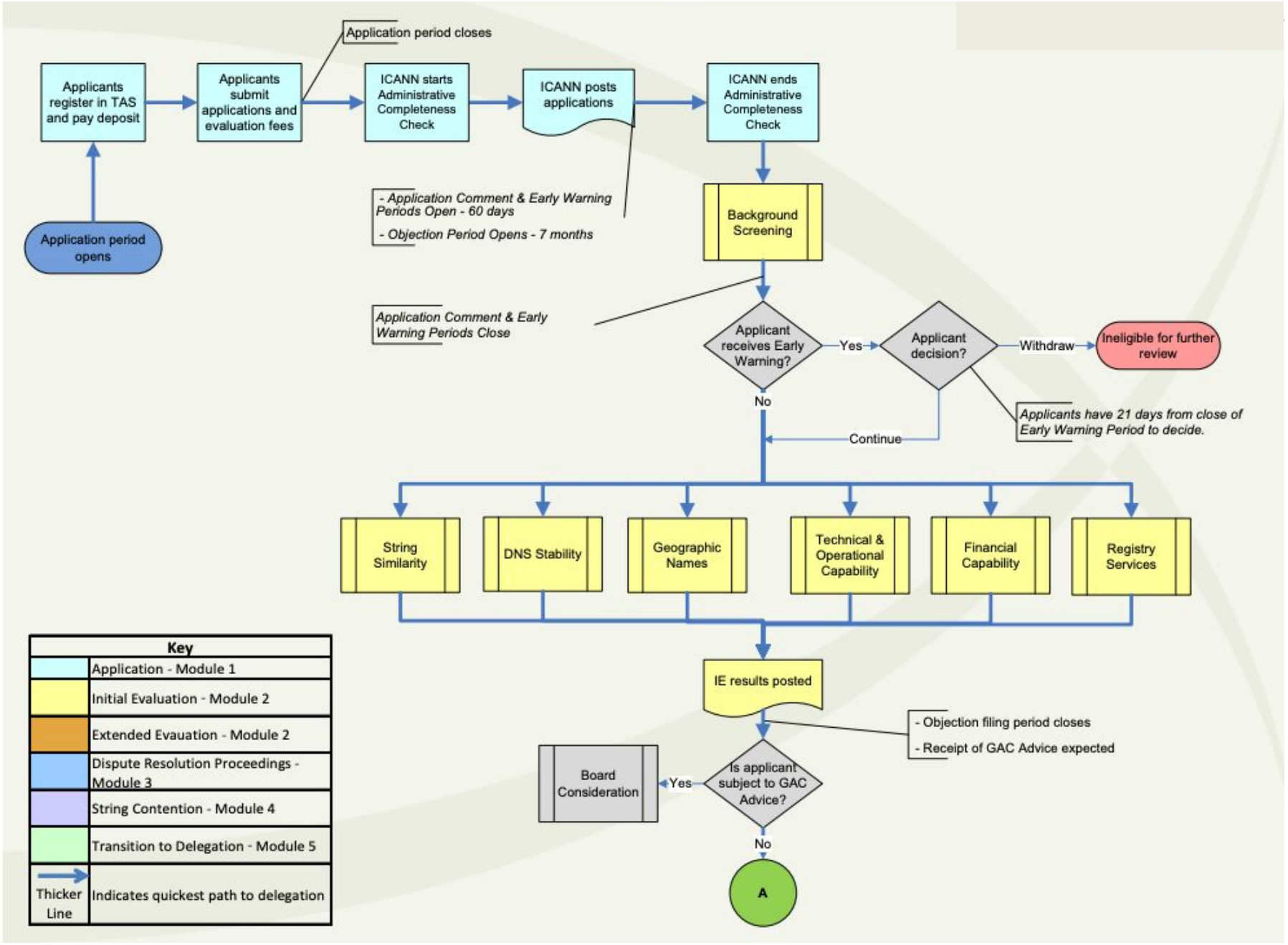
Fees Required in Some Cases

- **Registry Services Review Fee:** USD 50,000 (or more)
- **Dispute Resolution Filing Fee:** USD 1,000-5,000 (or more)
- **Advance Payment of Costs:** adjudication fees - USD 2,000-8,000 (or more); one-member panel hourly rate - USD 32,000-56,000 (or more); three-member panel hourly rate - USD 70,000-122,000 (or more)
- **Community Priority Evaluation Fee:** USD 10,000

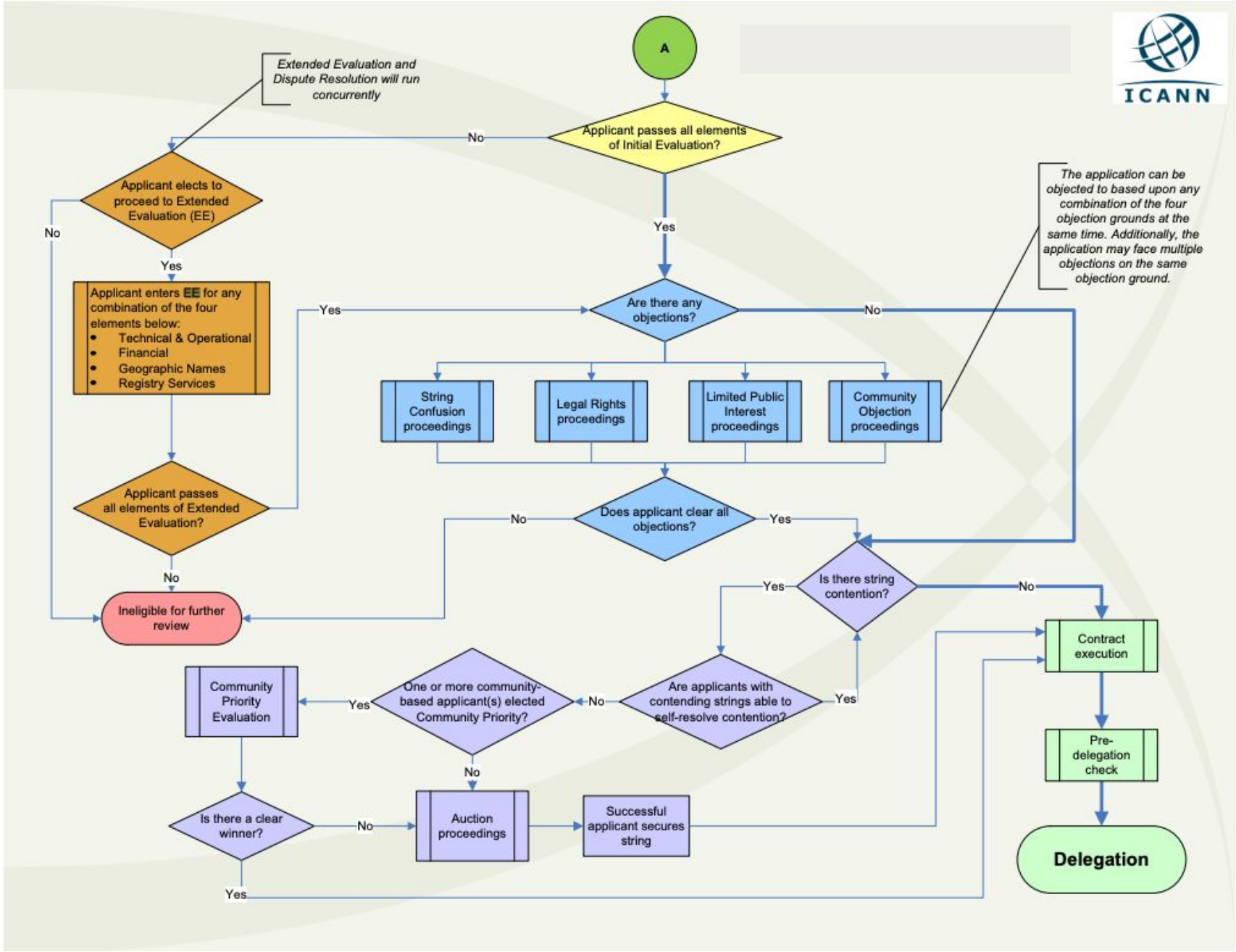
Ongoing Fees Once A gTLD Is Approved by ICANN

- **Fixed fee: USD 6,250 per calendar quarter** (USD 25,000 per calendar year)
- **Transaction fee: USD 0.25 per transaction**
  - Applicable to any “transactions” (e.g., initial registration, renewal)
  - Does not apply until and unless more than 50,000 transactions have occurred in the TLD during any calendar quarter or any consecutive four calendar quarter period in the aggregate (the “Transaction Threshold”)
  - Shall apply to each Transaction that occurred during each quarter in which the Transaction Threshold has been met

Application Process Flow in 2012 Round



Application Process Flow in 2012 Round (Cont.)



Eligible Registry Operators

Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre	Beijing Tele-info Network Technology Co., Ltd.	CITIC Group Corporation	Excellent First Limited	Kerry Trading Co. Limited	Net-Chinese Co., Ltd.	Shangri-La International Hotel Management Limited	Tycoon Treasure Limited
Afilias Limited	Binky Moon, LLC	CNNIC	Global Website TLD Asia Limited	KNET Co., Ltd.	Nokia Corporation	Sina Corporation	VeriSign Sarl
Amazon Registry Services, Inc.	Charleston Road Registry Inc.	CORE Association	Guangzhou YU Wei Information Technology Co., Ltd.	Koninklijke Philips N.V.	PCCW Enterprises Limited	Sponsored Helium TLDs Ltd	Zodiac Aquarius Limited
Aramco Services Company	China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC)	Crescent Holding GmbH	International Domain Registry Pty. Ltd.	Kuwait Finance House	Pontificium Consilium de Comunicationibus Socialibus (PCCS)	Stable Tone Limited	Zodiac Gemini Ltd
Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti.	China Organizational Name Administration Center	Eagle Horizon Limited	Internet DotTrademark Organisation Limited	League of Arab States	Public Interest Registry	Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited	Zodiac Taurus Limited
Beijing RITT-Net Technology Development Co., Ltd	China United Network Communications Corporation Limited	Emirates Telecommunications Corporation (trading as Etisalat)	Jiang Yu Liang Cai Technology Company Limited	Nawang Heli(Xiamen) Network Service Co., LTD.	RISE VICTORY LIMITED	TLD REGISTRY LIMITED OY	

B4 & B4a

Charter Question B4 & Context

B4: The **policy recommendation** advises that variant TLD labels be allocated to the same entity, however a process to apply for a variant TLD does not exist. The WG and the SubPro IRT to coordinate and consider the following questions in order to develop a consistent solution: What should an application process look like in terms of **timing and sequence for an existing and future Registry Operator with respect to applying or activating their allocatable variant TLD labels**?

Context:

- "Policy recommendation": SubPro recommends adopting the "same entity" principle for future gTLDs; the EPDP Team affirmed the "same entity" principle also be applied to existing gTLDs (charter questions B1 & B2)
- "Timing": Within a gTLD application round OR on a rolling basis
- "Sequence": In a single package OR separately; may be tied to how the "timing" question is answered
- Relations with D1a/D1b:
  - *Future Applicants*: EPDP agreement on submitting one application for primary new gTLD and its variant label set
  - *Existing ROs*: Some support for a simplified process before next round to allow ROs to seek to activate variants

Consideration for B4

B4: What should an application process look like in terms of **timing and sequence for an existing and future Registry Operator with respect to applying or activating their allocatable variant TLD labels**?

Future gTLD Applicants:

- Can allocatable variant labels of future new gTLDs be applied for outside an application round?
- Can an applicant apply for variant labels separately on rolling basis? Or does the applicant have only one opportunity to submit a single package that covers all allocatable variant labels of the primary gTLD it is interested in?

Existing Registry Operators (feedback received from RO questionnaire may be a factor for consideration):

- Can a registry operator also request to activate allocatable variant label(s) of its existing gTLD in an application round?
- Can a registry operator request to activate allocatable variant labels separately on a rolling basis? Or does the registry operator have only one opportunity to request to activate all interested allocatable variant labels at once?

Charter Question B4a & Context

B4a: For the variant labels with status "**withheld for the same entity**" (i.e. not requested for allocation in the application process), **what role do they play**?

Context:

- Should the "withheld same entity" variant labels be set aside in the initial "application" or "request for activation" step?
- Role of "withheld same entity" variant labels in objection, string similarity, string contention, and other steps is expected to be discussed later (Topic E)

B5

Charter Question B5 & Context

B5: Do restrictions that apply to a TLD (e.g., community TLDs, dot brand TLDs) also apply to its variants? Are these labels equally treated as different versions of the same string, or completely independent strings not bound by the same restrictions?

What types of gTLDs does this charter question refer to?

Existing and future gTLDs that have different application questions, evaluation processes, contractual requirements, post-delegation activities, and other non-standard treatments, including but not limited to:

- **Community-based TLDs** - *application questions, evaluation process, contractual requirements*
- **Brand TLDs** - *application questions, contractual requirements*
- **TLDs Subject to Category 1 Safeguards** - *evaluation process, contractual requirements*
- **GeoTLDs** - *application questions, evaluation process*

What does this charter question focus on?

Discuss the principle for treatment of variant labels, not the detailed policies and procedures regarding those types of gTLDs

Examples of Existing gTLDs with “Restrictions”

Community-based TLDs
Examples: .كاثوليك .天主教 .政务

A gTLD operated for the benefit of a clearly delineated community

- Submit written endorsement by established institution(s) representing the community
- Community Priority Evaluation to resolve contention
- Specification 12

Brand TLDs
Examples: .アマゾン .微博 .電訊盈科

A gTLD using a brand name and operated by a corporation that owns the brand

- Submit proof that the applied for string is identical to a registered trademark of the Registry Operator
- Cannot be a Generic String
- Specification 13

GeoTLDs
Examples: .ابوظبي .深圳, .广东

A gTLD denoting geographical, geopolitical, ethnic, social or cultural representation

- Provide a documentation of support or non-objection from relevant governments or public authorities
- Applications evaluated by the Geographic Names Panel (GNP)

TLDs Subject to Category 1 Safeguards
Examples: .クラウド .健康 .書籍

A gTLD deemed applicable to highly sensitive or regulated industries

- Adopt relevant Category 1 Safeguards as contractually binding requirements in Specification 11 (mandatory PIC)
- For future gTLDs, a specific evaluation panel to confirm whether applied-for gTLDs fall into the category