

ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee

Terms of Reference

Version 1.0 - June 2023

Date of adoption by ccNSO Council: [20 July 2023]

Date of next review due: [by 2025]

1. Statement of Purpose

Universal acceptance refers to the concept of treating all domain names equally and ensuring that they are recognized, accepted, and functional across all internet applications, systems, and devices.

The purpose of the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee (UAC) is to provide the ccTLD community a platform to interact and share information at a global level and with other groups under the ICANN umbrella on topics related to UA and acceptance of IDNs. The initiative should not overlap with other related efforts.

In keeping with the nature of the ccNSO, the purpose of the Committee is not to formulate any policy or standards, recognising that these issues are within scope of individual ccTLDs and out of scope of the ccNSO.

2. Scope of Activities

The Committee will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on the following three areas of activity:

a. Liaison UASG

The ccNSO has appointed a liaison to the UASG. This liaison should be encouraged to be more active and truly act as a liaison, informing the ccNSO through its Council what is happening in the UASG and vice-versa

b. Information

sharing

- Assist in organising sessions on UA readiness and practices, e.g. at Tech Day or during ccNSO Members Meetings sessions by for instance IGLC or DASC.
- Liaise with other relevant ICANN groups (e.g. UASG, GAC IDN WG, Board IDN/UA WG), incorporating the role of the ccNSO appointed UASG liaison. For example, this group would in future be a point of contact to assist ICANN org with respect to its interaction with ccTLDs.
- Coordinate with interested ccTLDs and ccTLD regional organisations to share IDN/UA readiness case studies and working models, to highlight and share knowledge on current practices in IDN support and UA readiness
- Provide a report repository on EAI adoption in ccTLD zones.

c. Explore additional activities

The UA standing committee is tasked to explore further activities. However, potential new activities are subject to community consultation, and support as well as approval by the ccNSO Council. The community consultation and council approval process are deemed necessary, to avoid that the ccNSO

undertakes efforts that could be perceived to overstep its mandate. Moreover, overlap with activities by others should be avoided.

It is particularly important to emphasise that the UAC is being established to fill (perceived) gaps in information sharing and as a point of contact and is complementary to already existing efforts at local and regional and global levels, and does not duplicate those efforts.

3. Membership

a. Committee Members

Committee membership is open to representatives from ccTLD managers. The Committee should represent ccTLDs globally with members appointed from time to time by the ccNSO Council. Participation is purely voluntary.

b. Chair of the Committee

The members of the Committee will nominate a Chair, who will then be appointed by the ccNSO Council. If considered appropriate by the Committee, they may also nominate a Vice-Chair and be appointed by the ccNSO Council.

c. Liaisons and Observers

Once the Committee has been established, the Chair will invite entities which the Committee deems relevant to its purpose, to appoint a liaison to the Committee. In consultation with the members of the Committee, the chair of the Committee may invite observers from other relevant stakeholders. However, it is expected that this will be a more long-term evolution of the Committee. The members, liaisons, observers will be listed on a dedicated web page on the ccNSO website.

d. Subgroups

The Committee may create a sub-group to carry out any of its tasks. Members of the wider ccTLD community who are not members of the UAC are welcome to join any of the sub-groups, should there be a call for volunteers. Sub-group members, observers etc. are appointed by the Chair of the UAC. The support staff will maintain sub-group roster(s).

e. Chair, Vice-Chair of Subgroups

The members of a sub-group nominate the Chair and Vice-Chair of a sub-group, who will then be appointed by the Chair of the Committee.

f. Support

Support will be provided by ICANN's ccNSO support staff. Meeting notes, recordings etc. will be published on a wiki-page and/or a dedicated web page on the ccNSO website.

4. Miscellaneous

Omission in or Unreasonable Impact of the Terms Of Reference

In the event these Terms Of Reference do not provide guidance and/or the impact is unreasonable for conducting the business of the group, the Chair of the Committee, after consulting the members, may ask the ccNSO Council for a review of the Terms of Reference, or suggest an alternative course of action.

Review of the Charter and activities of the Terms Of Reference

A review of the Terms of Reference and the activities of the Committee will take place every two years, or earlier when considered necessary. An update of the Terms of Reference will only become effective after it has been adopted by the Committee and the ccNSO Council and has been published on the ccNSO website. Before publishing the updated Terms of Reference, the ccNSO Secretariat will include the version number and insert the date of adoption.

Closure

If the Committee does not undertake any activities or if there is a lack of participation or interest in the work of the Committee, the Committee will be closed by the ccNSO Council, either at the request of the chair of the Committee or at the suggestion of at least 6 Councillors, five appointed by the ccNSO Members and from each Region and one NomCom Appointee.