

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

## Status update to CPWG

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# Overview

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- Face-to-face meeting at Kuala Lumpur
  - General Information
  - Charter Questions (CQs) Discussed
  - Progress update
  - Pending matters
- Next steps
  - Release of Phase 2 Initial Report for Public Comments
  - Opportunities for ALAC to comment
- IDN Implementation Guidelines
- Summary of CQs

# Background

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- ❖ The EPDP on IDNs develops policy for managing IDN Variants at the top (Phase 1) and second (Phase 2) levels
  
- ❖ Principles evolved by the EPDP on IDNs Phase 1 work on IDN variants:
  - RZ-LGR as the sole source of variants
  - The integrity of the variant set
  - The “Same Entity” Principle
  - The principle of Conservatism
  
- ❖ The EPDP Team’s work since ICANN78
  - Phase 1 Final Report published (Nov 2023) after considering inputs received through public comments
  - A face-to-face meeting was scheduled in order to expedite the completion of discussions on the remaining CQs

# Comparing Phase 1 and Phase 2

Aspect	Phase 1	Phase 2
Focus	Top-level IDN variants	Second-level variants
Current situation	No policy exists for IDN variants at the top level	Registry-level policy exists for 2nd level variants
Meant for	ICANN, particularly for the next round of new gTLDs	Mostly for registries
Main stakeholders	ICANN, applicants, registries	Registries, Registrars, Resellers, Registrants, end-users
Identification of variants	Through the Root Zone LGR	Through registry-level IDN Tables
End-user importance	Generally low	Higher, as end-users have to work with IDN variant domain names

# KL meeting: General information

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- In-person attendance by a total of 18 participants (12 community members, 6 Staff); one remote participant
- The newly appointed Vice Chair, Farrel Folly (NCSG), couldn't join the meeting
- Most AC/SOs represented at the meeting (including Nigel from GAC)
- ALAC was represented by AK, Hadia and Satish
- The objective of the meeting completing initial deliberations on the remaining CQs

# Phase 2 CQs

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- The Phase 2 Charter questions included the following topics
  - How the principles applies to Phase 2:
    - At the second level, RZ-LGR is not used. Instead, a registry-level mechanism called IDN tables is used. In order to achieve uniformity, a further step called harmonization would be required
    - There are discussions whether harmonization should be registry-level or across registries for a given script(s)
    - Also, the same-entity principle is applicable and the second level, but may work differently, as there are no mechanisms currently in place that makes the identification of an “entity” feasible within or across registries
    - The definition of the variant set may need to be expanded to include the second-level variants of all the top-level variants of the gTLDs
    - Transitional exceptions (aka “Grandfathering”) would be required for some cases of existing/delegated gTLDs
  - Examining how legal/contractual would change at the second-level when variants are to be accommodated

# Progress at KL

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- Preliminary discussions completed on all CQs
- One CQ (C4) required more discussion between RySG and technical Staff at ICANN. A small group has been constituted to resolve the existing differences by the end of Dec 2023
- A few questions require language changes although there is rough consensus
- The ALAC team's inputs were well received through the EPDP's work
- The Phase 2 Initial Report will be published for Public Comments in Feb 2024 (which will extend until after ICANN79)
- During the Public Comment period, the EPDP Team will be presenting the important CQ at CPWG meetings for inputs

# IDN Implementation Guidelines

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- Although v4.0 of IDN Implementation Guidelines were published by the Expert Working Group in 2018, GNSO Council asked for more time to study it, given that the recommendations were contractually binding on Registries
- The topic of work of the Experts WG were considered as “...somewhere between technical standards of IETF and consensus policy of GNSO”
- Some of the technical recommendations actually overlapped with consensus policy that would later be developed by the EPDP on IDNs
- GNSO recommended to the Board that these items should be deferred. The Board published the non-deferred items as v4.1 of IDN Implementation Guidelines



# Question to the EPDP

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- The EPDP was asked in CQ G1 “What should be the proper vehicle to update the IDN Implementation Guidelines?”
- Options considered were: (a) an EPDP; (b) and CCWG; and (c) an improved version of the Experts Working Group
- Since this was a technical group, the CCWG was not considered appropriate
- Given that at the level of IANA, there was no difference between GNSO or ccNSO *vis-à-vis* the security and stability issues, both groups need to be involved
- This rules out the EPDP model, which is GNSO-centric
- Consequently, the EPDP suggested a more rigorous version of the Expert Working Group model

# Summary of CQs (1/2)

CQ	End-user Impact	Topic	Rec no
C4	High	Mutual coherence of IDN tables	1
C5	Low	Method used for harmonization	
C6	Low	Format for IDN tables: XML?	
C1	High	"Same entity" at 2nd level	2
C1	Medium	Grandfathering of existing DNS	3
C2	Medium	Same entity for existing variant DNS	4
C3	Low	Identifying the registrant for "same entity"	
C3a	Low	Additional requirements if ROID is to be used	
D4	Medium	"Same entity" across life cycle of DN	5
D4	Medium	"Same entity" across life cycle of DN	6

# Summary of CQs (2/2)

CQ	End-user Impact	Topic	Rec no
D6	Medium	Transfer policy modification for "Same entity"	7
D7	Medium	Domain Name Suspension and "Same entity"	
C4a	Low	2nd level variant labels of already delegated gTLD	
D5	High	For reporting & fees, should the variant domain name set be considered as a single atomic set?	
D8	Low	Changes to RA	
G1	Low	Vehicle for IDN implementation guidelines	
G1(a)	Low	Separate mechanism for implementing IDNs for registries	
F1	Low	Rights-Protection Mechanisms	
D6(a)		TMCH	
D7(a)		UDRP	
		URS	
F2			

**Thank you!**