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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Public Comment Statement on gTLD IDN Tables Review Process When Reference LGR is not available

Preamble

On 01 August 2024, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the gTLD IDN Tables Review Process When Reference LGR is not available. An At-Large workspace was created in preparation for this Public Comment submission. The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) reviewed the gTLD IDN Tables Review Process When Reference LGR is not available and decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop and submit an ALAC Public Comment Statement.

Ratification Record

On 01 August 2024, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the gTLD IDN Tables Review Process When Reference LGR is not available. On 28 August 2024, Hadia Elminiawi and Harold Arcos discussed the comments for the ALAC statement during the CPWG call. The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) decided it would be in the interest of end users to develop and submit an ALAC statement for this Public Comment proceeding. Hadia Elminiawi and Harold Arcos volunteered to draft the initial ALAC statement.

On 4 September 2024, the initial draft statement was shared with the CPWG for review and input. On 04 September 2024, the At-Large Public Comment Statement was finalized. The ALAC Chairs, Jonathan Zuck, requested that the Public Comment Statement be ratified by the ALAC before submission to the ICANN Public Comment feature.

On 09 September, staff confirmed the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with 14 out of 15 votes in favor. 0 votes against, and 1 abstentions. Please note 100% of ALAC members participated in the poll. The ALAC members who participated in the poll are (alphabetical order by first name): Aziz Hilali, Bill Jouris, Bukola Oronti, Claire Craig, Eduardo Diaz, Joanna Kulesza, Jonathan Zuck, Justine Chew, Lilian Ivette De Luque, Marcelo

Rodriguez, Pari Esfandiari, Raihanath Gbadamassi, Satish Babu, Shah Zahidur Rahman, and Tommi Karttaavi. You may view the results here:
https://tally.icann.org/cgi/results?e=29b0881cc54.

ALAC and At-Large Comment

The ALAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed gTLD Review Process when Reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs) are not available. Reference – Label Generation Rules (LGRs) are essential for preventing end-user confusion and ensuring the security of domain names. While the Unicode standard encodes 161 scripts, only 26 are currently supported by ICANN's Ref. LGRs, leaving many scripts uncovered.

The ALAC strongly supports enabling any community to have its entire online space in its own language, in line with digital inclusivity and ICANN's strategy for IDNs. Therefore, having a process to develop Ref. LGRs for unsupported scripts is critical.

While timelines for the process cannot be guaranteed, ICANN's role, as outlined in the proposed process, includes providing support and guidance to the community led Ref. LGR panels. We recommend enhancing ICANN's role by incorporating a mechanism to incentivize timely completion. This can be achieved by setting milestones and target timelines as guidelines to ensure the process progresses efficiently.

Finally, we would like to thank ICANN for putting forward a process to Review IDN tables without Ref. LGRs. The proposed process plays a crucial role in enabling all communities to have a presence in the domain name space, fostering digital inclusivity and representation.