

# **Draft Initial Report on the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Policy Develop Process**

## **Status of this Document**

This is a Draft Initial Report of the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP Working Group, prepared by ICANN Staff. This Draft Report is to be presented by the Working Group members to the community during ICANN 51 in Los Angeles. An Initial Report will be published shortly after and put out for public comment

**Table of Content**

**Objectives and Next Steps..... 4**

**Mission and Scope ..... 5**

**Approach taken by the Working Group ..... 7**

**Deliberation and Recommendations ..... 10**

**Community Input..... 16**

**Background..... 17**

## Executive Summary

### **Objectives and Next Steps**

This is a Draft Initial Report that will be presented to the Community during the ICANN 51 Meeting in Los Angeles to gather feedback on the various options the Working Groups is considering. The WG will review the feedback and prepare an Initial Report that will be published and put out for public comment. Following the further review of any public comments received on the Initial Report, the WG will prepare a Final Report to be presented to the GNSO Council for its review and possible adoption.

## **Mission and Scope**

The Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group is concerned with the way that contact information data – commonly referred to as ‘Whois’ – is collected and displayed within generic top-level domains (gTLDs). According to the [Charter](#) (see also Annex A), the PDP Working Group “is tasked to provide the GNSO Council with a policy recommendation regarding the translation and transliteration of contact information. As part of its deliberations on this issue, the PDP WG should, at a minimum, consider the following issues:

- Whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script?
- Who should decide who should bear the burden translating contact information to a single common language or transliterating contact information to a single common script?”

In relation to the first question the Charter notes “text requests and content returned by Domain Name Registration Data Services (such as WHOIS) are historically encoded using US-American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII). This is a character-encoding scheme originally based on the English alphabet. While the WHOIS protocol does not specify US-ASCII as the exclusive character set for text requests and text content encoding, the current situation is that no standards or conventions exist for all WHOIS protocol implementations to signal support of character sets other than US-ASCII.”

The second question “relates to the concern expressed by the Internationalized Registration Data Working Group (IRD-WG) in its report that there are costs associated with providing translation and transliteration of contact information. For example, if a policy development process (PDP) determined that the registrar must translate or transliterate contact information, this policy would place a cost burden on the registrar.”

Finally, the Charter also encouraged the Working Group to consider the following issues related to its two core charter questions:

- What exactly the benefits to the community are of translating and/or transliterating contact data, especially in light of the costs that may be connected to translation and/or transliteration?
- Should translation and/or transliteration of contact data be mandatory for all gTLDs?
- Should translation and/or transliteration of contact data be mandatory for all registrants or only those based in certain countries and/or using specific non-ASCII scripts?
- What impact will translation/transliteration of contact data have on the WHOIS validation as set out under the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement?
- When should any new policy relating to translation and transliteration of contact information come into effect?

### **Approach taken by the Working Group**

The Translation and Transliteration Working Group convened its first meeting on 19 December 2013. The Working Group prepared a [work plan](#), which has been reviewed on a regular basis, and revised when necessary. Also, Constituency and Stakeholder Group statements with regard to the Charter questions (see Annex A) were solicited. This request was also directed to other ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) and a summary of responses can be seen in the [public comment review tool](#). Considering that the first overarching question that the WG was chartered to answer is binary (i.e. whether or not it is desirable to translate/transliterate contact information), the Group spent considerable time discussing the community input received, to understand better the arguments brought forward by various stakeholders. The Group prioritized taking the community's views into consideration in order for their deliberations to be informed by the arguments brought forward by the community. This is also the reason that the Group decided to create a straw man proposal to drive forward the debate on whether or not it is desirable to translate/transliterate. This document provided a focal point to the Group's discussion and was updated on a regular basis.

### **Membership**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation*</b>
Anthony Oni	NCUC
Ching Chiao	RySG
Chris Dillon (co-Chair)	NCSG
David Cake (Observer)	NCSG
Dennis Tan Tanaka	RySG
Edmon Chung	RySG
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Jim Galvin	SSAC
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Justine Chew	Individual
Mae Suchayapim Siriwat	GAC
Patrick Lenihan	NCUC
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Vinay Kumar Singh	Individual
Volker Greimann (Observer)	RrSG
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\*ALAC – At-Large Community

RrSG – Registrar Stakeholder Group

RySG – Registry Stakeholder Group

CBUC – Commercial and Business Users Constituency

NAF – National Arbitration Forum

NCUC – Non Commercial Users Constituency

IPC – Intellectual Property Constituency



ISPCP – Internet Service and Connection Providers Constituency

NCSG – Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group

The Statements of Interest (SOI) for the Working Group members can be found at

<https://community.icann.org/x/WDd-Ag>

The attendance records can be found at <https://community.icann.org/x/VIF-Ag>

The email archives can be found at <http://forum.icann.org/lists/gnso-contactinfo-pdp-wg/>

## **Deliberation and Recommendations**

This section provides an overview of the deliberations of the Working Group. It is intended to serve as a record of the discussion and analysis of the Working Group, in support of the recommendations made in the following section.

During its initial discussion the Working Group identified a number of further issues and questions that are directly linked to the Charter questions, including relevant taxonomy.

Details can be found on the Working Group's wiki page:

<https://community.icann.org/x/WwmuAg>.

The Working Group decided to define clearly what is meant by 'Contact Information', relying on the Final Issue Report on the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information that is based on the definition in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement 2013: "In the context of these issues, 'contact information' is a subset of Domain Name Registration Data. It is the information that enables someone using a Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service (such as WHOIS) to contact the domain name registration holder. It includes the name, organization, and postal address of the registered name holder, technical contact, as well as administrative contact."<sup>1</sup>

### ***Deliberation on the two main Charter questions***

*Is it desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script?*

A key issue that emerged early on in the Group's discussion was the agreement that their recommendation should bear in mind that the main purpose of transformed<sup>2</sup> data is to allow those not familiar with the original script of a contact information entry, to contact the registrant. This means that the accuracy of contact information data that is entered and displayed is paramount. There remains however some divergence in the Working Group

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<sup>1</sup> See also:

<https://community.icann.org/display/tatcipdp/1+What+is+contact+information+and+What+Taxonomies+are+Available>

<sup>2</sup> 'Transformed' is used throughout this Report, meaning 'translated and/or transliterated'; similarly 'transformation' is to mean 'translation and/or transliteration'.

about whether the need for accuracy is an argument in favour of transformation or not – and this is also reflected in the public comments received (see ‘Community Input’ below). At this stage, the Working Group has decided to summarise the different viewpoints discussion and put them to the community to gauge support levels:

**Working Group’s arguments supporting mandatory transformation of contact information in all generic top-level domains**

- Mandatory transformation of all contact information into a single script would allow for a transparent, accessible and easily searchable database. Currently all data returned from the Whois database in generic top level domains (gTLDs) is provided in ASCII and such uniformity renders it a very useful global resource. Having a database with a potentially unlimited number of scripts/languages might create logistical problems in the long run and be counter-productive to the core purpose of collecting registration data, namely the ability to contact registered name holders.
- Without proper translation/transliteration of contact information, the contact information record system (currently Whois) might lose its clarity, which may cause difficulties for the domain holders in confirming that they have updated and correct contact information.
- The proposal for a next generation gTLD Directory Service, as outlined in *the Final Report from the Expert Working Group (EWG) on gTLD Directory Services*, currently has no Internationalized Registration Data (IRD) functionality.
- Mandatory transformation of contact information will also avoid unnecessary legal actions (including alternative dispute resolution) because the registered domain name holder can be properly identified and/or contacted.
- Transformation would to some extent facilitate communication among stakeholders not sharing the same language. Good communication inspires confidence in the Internet and makes bad practices more difficult.
- Searching contact information is easier in one language.

**Working Group’s arguments opposing mandatory transformation of contact information in all generic top-level domains**

- Consistent transformation of contact information data across millions of entries is very difficult to achieve, especially because of the continued globalisation of the Internet with an increase in users that are not familiar with Latin script.
- Mandatory transformation into one script could be problematic for all those interested parties that do not speak/read/understand that one script. For example, whereas transformation from Mandarin script to a Latin script might be useful to law enforcement in countries that use Latin scripts, it would be ineffectual to law enforcement in other countries that do not read that Latin script.
- A growing number of registered name holders do not use Latin script, meaning that they would not be able to transform their contact information themselves. Therefore, transformation would have to take place at a later stage, through the registrar or the registry. Considering the number of domain names in all gTLDs this would lead to considerable costs and be detrimental to accuracy and consistency – key factors for collecting registered name holders' contact information data in the first place.
- The usability of transformed data is questionable because registered name holders unfamiliar with Latin script would not be able to communicate in Latin script, even if their contact information was transformed and thus accessible to those using Latin script.  
  
It would more efficient to allow registration information data to be entered by the registered domain holders in their local script and the relevant data fields to be transformed into Latin script by either the registrar or the registry. This would provide greater accuracy than transformation and it would provide those wishing to contact name holders to identify their email and/or postal address. A similar method

is already in place for some of the country code top level domains (ccTLDs):

```
Domain Name: example.cn
ROID: 20050505s10001s11652376-cn
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
Registrant ID: agent2899-0
Registrant: 中信安控科技股份有限公司
Registrant Contact Email: zxakkj@163.com
Sponsoring Registrar: Canada 001 names Ltd.
Name Server: dns8.66.cn
Name Server: dns9.66.cn
Registration Date: 2005-05-05 05:38:46
Expiration Date: 2022-05-05 05:38:46
DNSSEC: unsigned
LAHO-2819:~ lars.hoffmann$ whois test.cn
Domain Name: test.cn
ROID: 20030312s10001s00063170-cn
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
Registrant ID: xq317v49978fop
Registrant: 北京慧思德科技有限公司
Registrant Contact Email: info@wisdom.com.cn
Sponsoring Registrar: 北京新网数码信息技术有限公司
Name Server: ns15.xincahe.com
Name Server: ns16.xincahe.com
Registration Date: 2003-03-17 12:20:05
Expiration Date: 2020-03-17 12:48:36
DNSSEC: unsigned
```

- Accurate transformation is very expensive. Existing automated systems for transformation are inadequate. They do not provide results of sufficient quality for purposes requiring accuracy and cover fewer than 100 languages. Developing systems for languages not covered by transformation tools is slow and expensive, especially in the case of translation tools. For purposes for which accuracy is important, transformation work often needs to be done manually.<sup>3</sup> For example the translated ‘Bangkok’ is more useful internationally than the transliterated ‘krung thep’. However, the transliterated ‘Beijing’ is much more useful than the translated ‘Northern Capital’. Automated systems would not be able to know when to translate and when to transliterate
- Another consequence of the financial burden of transforming contact information data would be that the expansion of the Internet and provision of its benefits became more difficult, especially in less privileged regions that are already lagging behind in terms of internet access and often don’t use Latin-based scripts.
- It would be near impossible to achieve accuracy in transforming a very large number of scripts and languages – mostly of proper nouns – into a common script and language.

<sup>3</sup> Study to evaluate available solutions for the submission and display of internationalized contact data for further information <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/transform-dnrd-02jun14-en.pdf>.

### **Current state of discussion**

The arguments for and against mandatory transformation have been discussed among Working Group members but there is no clear consensus at this stage. Therefore, the Working Group has decided to use this Initial Report to put forward alternative recommendations and encourage community feedback.

The various draft recommendations currently under consideration by the Working Group are as follows.

#### **Draft Recommendations Alternative #1**

- The WG recommends that it is desirable to make transformation of gTLD registration contact information mandatory.
- The WG recommends that every current and future gTLD registration data entry that is provided in non-Latin script be transformed into Latin-based ASCII.
- The WG recommends that registrants are encouraged to submit their data in Latin script; however, if registrants are not able to provide their data in Latin script, it falls to the registrar to assure accurate transformation.

#### **Draft Recommendations Alternative #2**

- The WG recommends that it is not desirable to make transformation of contact information mandatory.
- The WG recommends that any new Registration Directory Service (RDS) databases contemplated by ICANN should be capable of receiving input in the form of non-Latin script contact information. However, all data fields of such a new database should be tagged in ASCII to allow easy identification of what the different data entries represent and what language/script has been used by the registered name holder.
- The WG recommends that registered name holder enter their contact information data in the primary script that they communicate in with their registrars.
- The WG recommends that the registrar and registry assure that the data fields are consistent, that the entered contact information data is verified (in accordance with the RAA and that the data fields are correctly tagged to facilitate search functions.

- The WG recommends that if Registrars wish to perform transformation of contact information, this data should be entered into the database in addition to the local script entry provided by the registrant, to allow for maximum accuracy.

## Community Input

In accordance with the PDP Manual, the Working Group reached out to ICANN's Support Organizations and Advisory Committees, as well as to the GNSO Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies to gage their input on the Charter questions. Community feedback is of particular importance to the work of this WG because of the binary nature of the overarching charter question of whether or not to recommend mandatory transformation of contact information data. The call for input was sent out to the leadership of the SO/ACs and SG/Cs on 4 February 2014.<sup>4</sup> A reminder was sent out to all community Groups was sent on 3 March 2014 and the Group also encourage community feedback at its [presentation](#) to the GNSO during the weekend session preceding ICANN 49 in Singapore and during its [face-to-face meeting](#) at the same event.

Overall, the Working Group received feedback from the GAC representatives of Thailand, China, and the European Commission (all representing communities that use rely on non-Latin scripts)<sup>5</sup>, the Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC), the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), and the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG).<sup>6</sup> A summary of the contributions can be found in the [SO/AC and SG/C outreach review tool](#) and the full-length submissions are published on the [WG's wiki page](#).

The Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP Working Group reviewed and discussed the contributions received in great detail. As pointed out above, the binary nature of the charter questions meant that community feedback was particularly valued and during the WG's efforts so far. Where relevant and appropriate, information and suggestions derived from the various contributions were considered and have been included in 'Deliberation and Recommendations' above.

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<sup>4</sup> See Mailing list archive: <http://forum.icann.org/lists/gnso-contactinfo-pdp-wg/>

<sup>5</sup> Within the EU the Greece and Bulgaria use Greek and Cyrillic scripts respectively.

<sup>6</sup> The Working Group also received a contribution from the International Federation of Intellectual Property Lawyers (FICPI). However, as this first call for community feedback is not a public comment but rather an outreach to SO/ACs and SG/C, the contribution was acknowledged but not given the same weight as other submission. The Group noted, however, that FICPI is encouraged to contribute to the forthcoming public comment period and if they failed to do so, to consider its existing contribution more thoroughly at that point.



## Background

Extract from the [Final Issue Report](#)

In April 2009 ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) issued SAC 037, *Display and usage of Internationalized Registration Data: Support for characters from local languages or script*. In this document, the SSAC examined how the use of characters from local scripts affects the Internet user experience with respect to domain name registration data submission, usage, and display. The SSAC made three recommendations:

1. That ICANN's Board of Directors task the GNSO, Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), and the SSAC to form a working group to study the feasibility and suitability of introducing display specifications or standards to deal with the internationalization of registration data.
2. That ICANN host a workshop on the internationalization of registration data during the next ICANN meeting (June 2009, Sydney).
3. That ICANN should consider the feasibility of having applications that query registration data services incorporate "standard" internationalization functionality.

ICANN's Board of Directors acted on Recommendation 1 by approving a resolution (2009.06.26.18) requesting that the GNSO and the SSAC, in consultation with staff, convene working group to study the feasibility and suitability of introducing display specifications to deal with the internationalization of registration data.<sup>7</sup> Subsequently, the SSAC and the GNSO formed the IRD-WG to study the issues raised by the ICANN Board. In November 2010 the IRD-WG produced an Interim Report requesting community input on several questions relating to possible models for

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<sup>7</sup> See ICANN Board Resolutions, 26 June 2009, "Display and Usage of Internationalized Registration Data," <http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-26jun09.htm#6>

internationalizing Domain Name Registration Data.<sup>8</sup> On 03 October 2011 the IRD-WG posted a draft Final Report for a 45-day public comment period.<sup>9</sup>

After considering the public comments received, on 07 May 2012, the IRD-WG submitted a Final Report to the GNSO Council and the SSAC for consideration.<sup>10</sup>

The SSAC approved the Final Report in May 2012. At its meeting on 27 June 2012 (in Prague) the GNSO Council passed a motion by which it approved the delivery of the Final Report to the Board.<sup>11</sup> In its motion, the Council also agreed to review the recommendations in the Final Report and to provide to the Board its advice with regard to those recommendations that may have policy implications.

At its meeting on 17 October 2012, the GNSO Council approved a motion accepting the IRD-WG Final Report recommendations.<sup>12</sup> The motion included the following clauses that resulted in the development of this Final Issue Report:

“WHEREAS the GNSO Council has reviewed the Final Report and considers that while expecting the ICANN Board to respond to the SSAC-GNSO joint letter, the Recommendation 2, translation and transliteration of contact information of IRD, of the Final Report requires timely action at the policy level which involves collaboration among domain name registrant, registrar, and registry.

“RESOLVED, the GNSO approves the Final Report and requests the ICANN Staff to prepare the IRD Issues Report on translation and transliteration of contact information (IRDIR-Rec2). The Issue Report should consider 1) whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script; 2) who should bear the burden and who is in the best position to address these issues;

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<sup>8</sup> See Interim Report of the Internationalized Registration Data Working Group at: <http://gnsocouncil.org/issuereports/ird/ird-wg-final-report-15nov10-en.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> See Draft Final Report of the Internationalized Registration Data Working Group at: [comment/ird-draft-final-report-03oct11-en.htm](http://gnsocouncil.org/issuereports/ird-draft-final-report-03oct11-en.htm).

<sup>10</sup> See Final Report of the Internationalized Registration Data Working Group at: <http://gnsocouncil.org/issuereports/ird/final-report-ird-wg-07may12-en.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> See <https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocouncilmeetings/Motions+27+June+2012>

<sup>12</sup> See <https://community.icann.org/display/gnsocouncilmeetings/Motions+17+October+2012>

and 3) whether to start a policy development process (PDP) to address those questions.”

As noted above, the ‘contact information’ references in this Final Issue Report is a subset of Domain Name Registration Data. It is the information that enables someone using a Domain Name Registration Data Directory Services (such as the WHOIS) to contact the domain name registration holder. It includes the name, organization, and postal address of the registered name holder, technical contact as well as administrative contact. Domain Name Registration Data is accessible to the public via a directory service (also known as WHOI service). This protocol is a client-server, query-response protocol. The RA (RAA 3.3.1) specifies the data elements that must be provided by registrars (via Port 43 and via web-based services) in response to a query, but it does not require that data elements, such as contact information, must be translated or transliterated.

The IRD-WG defined Domain Name Registration Data as information that registrants provide when registering a domain name and that registrars or registries collect. The RAA (RAA 3.3.1) specifies the data elements that must be provided by registrars (via Port 43 and via web-based services, such as WHOIS) in response to a query. (For ccTLDs, the operators of these TLDs set policies for the request and display of registration information.)

As the SSAC noted in SAC051 *SSAC Report on WHOIS Terminology and Structure*, “The term “WHOIS” is overloaded, referring to protocols, services, and data types associated with Internet naming and numbering resources, i.e., domain names, Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, and Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs).”<sup>13</sup> The Report further notes that WHOIS can refer to any of the following:

1. The information that is collected at the time of registration of a domain name or IP numbering resource and subsequently made available via the WHOIS Service, and potentially updated throughout the life of the resource;
2. The WHOIS Protocol itself, which is defined in RFC 3912 (which

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<sup>13</sup> See SAC051: *SSAC Report on WHOIS Terminology and Structure* at <http://www.icann.org/en/groups/ssac/documents/sac--051-en.pdf>.

obsoletes RFCs 812 and 954); or

3. The WHOIS Services that provide public access to domain name registration information typically via applications that implement the WHOIS protocol or a web-based interface.

The SSAC recommended in its report that the terms Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service (rather than WHOIS) should be used when referring to the service(s) offered by registries and registrars to provide access to (potentially a subset of) the Domain Name Registration Data.

To balance the needs and capabilities of the local registrant with the need of the (potential) global user of this data, one of the key questions the IRD-WG members discussed is whether a Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service, such as the WHOIS, should support multiple representations of the same registration data in different languages or scripts.

The IRD-WG noted that much of the currently accessible domain registration data is encoded in US-American Standard Code for Information Interchange (US-ASCII). US-ASCII is a character-encoding scheme originally based on the English alphabet. This legacy condition is convenient for WHOIS service users who are sufficiently familiar with languages that can be displayed in US-ASCII.

However, US-ASCII data are less useful to the community of Domain Name Registration Data Director Service users who are only familiar with languages that require character set support other than US-ASCII. It is important to note that this community is likely to continue growing. Thus accommodating the submission and display of internationalized registration data is seen as an important evolutionary step for Domain Name Registration Data Directory Services such as the WHOIS.

In general, the IRD-WG recognized that the internationalized contact data can be translated or transliterated into the “must be present” representation. By “must be present” the IRD-WG meant that contact data must be made available in a common script or language. In this context, **Translation** is the process of conveying the meaning of some passage of text in one language, so that it can be

expressed equivalently in another language. **Transliteration** is the process of representing the characters of an alphabetical or syllabic system of writing by the characters of a conversion alphabet. If transliteration were desired, then the “must be present” script would be the Latin script. If translation were desired, then the “must be present” language would be English.

The IRD-WG considered five models to address the translation and transliteration of domain name registration data contact information, but it was unable to reach consensus on a single model.<sup>14</sup> However, it recognized that the translation and transliteration of contact information had policy implications, and thus its Final Report contained the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 2:** The GNSO council and the SSAC should request a common Issue Report on translation and transliteration of contact information. The Issue Report should consider whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script. It should also consider who should bear the burden and who is in the best position to address these issues. The Issue Report should consider policy questions raised in this document and should also recommend whether to start a policy development process (PDP).

The Affirmation of Commitments signed on 30 September 2009 between ICANN and the US Department of Commerce contains specific provisions for periodic review of four key ICANN objectives, including WHOIS Policy.<sup>15</sup> The WHOIS Policy Review Team completed its review and published its Final Report on 11 May 2012.<sup>16</sup> In its Final Report the Review Team echoed the IRD-WG by calling for a Working Group to be formed (Recommendations 12 and 13) to develop internationalized domain name registration requirements that would include a data model that would address, “(any) requirements for the translation or transliteration of the registration data.” In addition, the SSAC further emphasized the IRD-WG’s recommendation in SAC055: *WHOIS: Blind Men and an Elephant*

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<sup>14</sup> See Annex A: Different Models Proposed in the Internationalized Registration Data Working Group Final

<sup>15</sup> See Affirmation of Commitments at

<http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/aoc/affirmation-of-commitments-30sep09-en.htm>.

<sup>16</sup> See WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report at: <http://www.icann.org/en/about/aoc-review/whois/final-report-11may12-en.pdf>

*(SSAC Comment on the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report)*.<sup>17</sup> In the Report the SSAC agreed with the recommendations of the Review Team on translation/transliteration of registration data and called on the ICANN Board of Directors to adopt Recommendation 2 in the IRD-WG's Final Report. The SSAC also stated that the ICANN Board should pass a resolution clearly stating the criticality of the development of a registration data policy defining the purpose of domain name registration data.

On 08 November 2012 the ICANN Board of Directors provided a rationale for several resolutions (2012.11.08.01 - 2012.11.08.02) relating to the WHOIS, in response to the recommendations it received from the WHOIS Policy Review Team and the SSAC described above.<sup>18</sup> In particular, the Board directed the CEO to:

launch a new effort to redefine the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data, and consider safeguards for protecting data, as a foundation for new gTLD policy and contractual negotiations, as appropriate (as detailed in the 1 November 2012 Board paper entitled, "Action Plan to Address WHOIS Policy Review Team Report Recommendations" – ICANN Board Submission Number 2012-11-01 [PDF, 266 KB]), and hereby directs preparation of an Issue Report on the purpose of collecting and maintaining gTLD registration data, and on solutions to improve accuracy and access to gTLD registration data, as part of a Board- initiated GNSO policy development process;<sup>19</sup>

The Board's Action Plan envisions the possibility of a PDP on the issue of translation and transliteration of contact information as follows: The Board directs the CEO to have Staff: 1) task a working group to determine the appropriate internationalized domain name registration data requirements, evaluating any relevant recommendations from the SSAC or GNSO; 2)

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<sup>17</sup> See SAC055: Blind Men and an Elephant (SSAC Comment on the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report) at <http://www.icann.org/en/groups/ssac/documents/sac-055-en.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> See <http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/resolutions-08nov12-en.htm#1.a>

<sup>19</sup> See the Action Plan to Address WHOIS Policy Review Team Report Recommendations at: <http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/briefing-materials-1-08nov12-en.pdf>.

produce a data model that includes (any) requirements for the translation or transliteration of the registration data, taking into account the results of any PDP initiated by the GNSO on translation/ transliteration, and the standardized replacement protocol under development in the IETF's Web-based Extensible Internet Registration Data Working Group.

The Action Plan further tasks the CEO to create an Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services to: create material to launch GNSO policy work and inform contractual negotiations, as appropriate. Working group output is expected within 90 days and will ideally include a straw-man model for managing gTLD registration data. The working group's output form the basis for an Issues Report to accompany Board-initiated, expedited GNSO policy work that is expected to result in consensus policy that, at a minimum, addresses the purpose of collecting, maintaining and making available gTLD registration data, and related accuracy, data protection, and access issues. On 13 December 2013 the ICANN CEO announced the formation of the Expert Working Group. On 14 February 2013 ICANN announced the selection of the members of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> See the EWG homepage for all information, including membership, Initial Report, Status Report, and Final Report: <https://community.icann.org/x/VQZIAg>.