



Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP: Final Report

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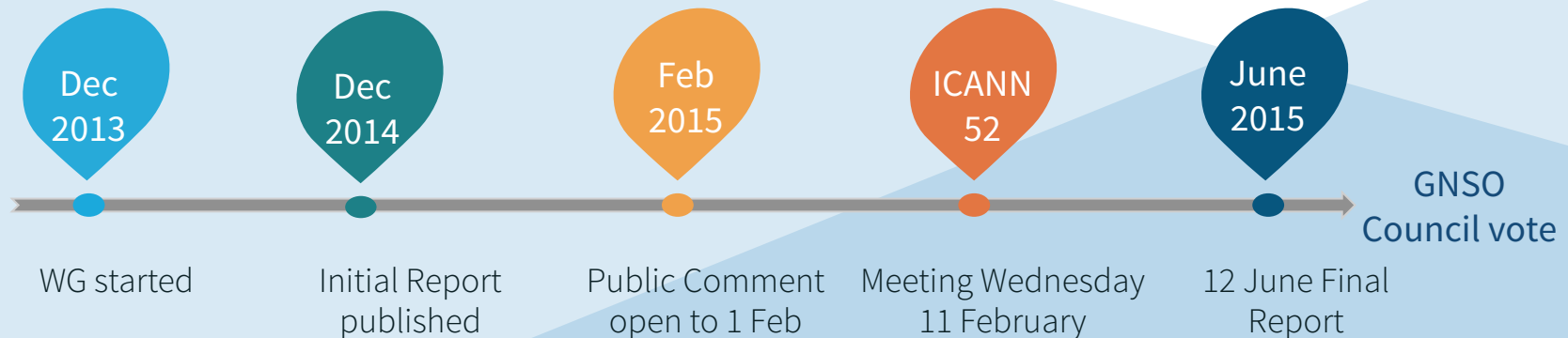
Charter Questions and Timetable

Two Charter Questions

1. Whether it is desirable to translate or transliterate contact information into a single common language or script?
2. Who should decide who should bear the burden of transforming* contact information to a single language or script?

* The WG has uses the short form 'transformation' throughout this presentation as an abbreviation of 'translation or transliteration'.

Timeline



Membership Overview

The Working Group had 26 members plus the GNSO Chair and Vice Chairs acting as observer – they break down as follows:

- ⦿ 6 RySG Group Members
- ⦿ 4 Individual Members
- ⦿ 2 IPC Members
- ⦿ 1 ISPCP Member
- ⦿ 2 NCSG Members
- ⦿ 5 NCUC Members
- ⦿ 1 NPOC Member
- ⦿ 5 RrSG Members

Arguments Brought Forward

Arguments **supporting** mandatory transformation

- It would allow for a transparent, accessible and more easily searchable database.
- It would facilitate communication among stakeholders not sharing the same language.
- It would avoid possible flight by bad actors to the least translatable languages.
- When 'Whois' results are cross-referenced, it may be easier to ascertain whether the same registrant holds different domain names.
- Transformation costs are part of 'doing business'.

VS

Arguments **opposing** mandatory transformation

- It would be near impossible to achieve consistent accuracy in transforming all scripts and languages – mostly of proper nouns – into a common script.
- .is likely to be *alqahira*, not *Cairo* القاهرة
- Accurate translation needs to be done manually and is thus expensive.
- The financial burden could have negative impact on less developed regions that often don't use Latin script.
- The usability of transformed data is questionable because registered name holders unfamiliar with Latin script would not be able to communicate in Latin script.

Issues with Mandatory Transformation

(as identified by the Working Group)

- ⦿ It would be near impossible to achieve consistent accuracy in transforming addresses (proper nouns) into a common script.
- ⦿ Manual translation is expensive — ICANN language services pay a minimum of US\$25 per translation (each new verification would have to be transformed) and accuracy and consistency remain highly challenging.
- ⦿ The WG was not convinced that transformation is a ‘regular cost of doing business’, due to the small number of times transformed data may be called upon, compared to the amount of Whois registration datasets submitted.
- ⦿ Usability of transformed data is questionable because registered name holders unfamiliar with Latin script would not be able to communicate in Latin script.

What non-mandatory Transformation means (as identified by the Working Group)

- ⦿ Submitted data are likely to be as consistent and reliable as possible.
- ⦿ The more consistent the data, the better searchable a database.
- ⦿ Equal costs/opportunities for registrars and registrants regardless of their linguistic/script background.
- ⦿ Language and script should be easily identifiable to facilitate such third-party transformation if/when necessary.
- ⦿ Consumers of contact information – those requesting data – carry the burden of transformation.

Substantive Recommendations

1

Recommendation 1

It is not desirable to make transformation of contact information mandatory. The burden of voluntary transformation lies with the requestor of information.

4

Recommendation 4

Regardless of the language used, the data fields must be consistent, the data entered must be verified, and the script/language used must be easily identifiable.

2

Recommendation 2

Data fields are stored and displayed in a way that allows for easy identification of what individual data entries represent and what languages/scripts have been used.

5

Recommendation 5

If a Whois replacement system is capable of having multiple data sets per entry, and if voluntary transformation is performed, transformed data should be marked as such and presented as additional fields.

3

Recommendation 3

Language(s) and script(s) supported for registrants to submit their contact information data may be chosen in accordance with gTLD-provider business models (as they need to verify).

6

Recommendation 6

Any Whois replacement system, e.g. RDAP, must allow for new scripts/languages to be added and expand its linguistic/script capacity.

Minority View and Consensus

- ⦿ Recommendations 2-6 received **full consensus**.
- ⦿ Recommendation 1 received **consensus**.
- ⦿ One WG member was not able to support recommendation 1 and supplied a minority statement with regard to recommendation 1:

“Working Group member Petter Rindforth, in line with the position taken by his Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency (ICP), recommends mandatory translation and/or transliteration (transformation) of contact information in all generic top-level domains (gTLDs). [...] There are a number of situations where a global WHOIS search, providing access to data in as uniform a fashion as possible, is necessary for the data registration service to achieve its goals of providing transparency and accountability in the DNS.”

Further Information

- ⦿ Final Report: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/transliteration-contact>
- ⦿ Initial Report: <https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/41891667/Draft%20Initial%20Report%20V3.doc>
- ⦿ Redline Final Report from Initial Report: <https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/41890837/Final%20Report%20RedLine.pdf>
- ⦿ Public Comment in Initial Report: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/transliteration-contact-initial-2014-12-16-en>
- ⦿ Webinar on Initial Report: <https://icann.adobeconnect.com/p2lzk3zy0f/>
- ⦿ Wiki Page: <https://community.icann.org/x/FTR-Ag>