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IDN ccTLDs – Designing An Interim Approach

A. Introduction

At the ICANN Board meeting in Puerto Rico, the Board requested that the ICANN community explore both an interim and an overall approach to IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes and recommend a course of action to the Board in a timely manner.

In respect to an overall approach, the ccNSO Council has requested an Issues Report as a first step in a cc Policy Development Process.

An interim approach would be a methodology to allow for the introduction of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs in a relatively short time frame without pre-empting the outcome of the cc Policy Development Process.

In order to facilitate a substantive discussion on an interim approach by the ccNSO members this document provides an overview of the steps to be taken and decisions to be made to devise an interim approach.

In designing a process to develop and propose an interim approach the following assumptions/requirements have been taken into consideration:

- The proposals for mechanisms have to be developed through a process which all relevant stakeholders have agreed upon and adopted prior to the launch of the process;
- The outcome of the interim approach will feed into the ccPDP;
- Transparency and predictability of such a process should be guaranteed;
- Participation of relevant stakeholders in such a process should be optimized;
- The proposals to the Board (outcome of the process) should be supported by all relevant stakeholders.

In the balance of this paper the necessary steps and decisions are clustered according to phases. Annex A to this document is a decision table summarising the steps and timing goals.

B. Phase 1. Is there a need for an interim approach.

As outlined above, the Council has requested an Issues Report to launch a ccPDP to resolve the policy and institutional issues relating to an all encompassing introduction of IDN ccTLDs, including any necessary by law changes. The duration of this ccPDP and the implementation of its Recommendations could take between 2.5 - 7 years. It is understood that this time frame is of concern to a number of ccTLD managers and governments in a number of territories.

The chair of the ccNSO has written to all ccTLD managers asking them to indicate if there is a pressing need for IDN ccTLDs in the territory associated with their country code. The goal is to assess if there is a pressing need for the introduction of IDN ccTLDs.

Responses to the letter will form the basis of discussion at the ccNSO meeting during the ICANN meeting in Los Angeles.

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C. Moving forward on the assumption there is a need for an interim approach.

In the event that a need for an interim approach is demonstrated and taking into account the assumptions and requirements set out in A above, it is suggested that the ccNSO, GAC, and other relevant ICANN constituencies recommend that the ICANN Board establish a committee (IDNC) to propose mechanisms to introduce a limited number of IDN ccTLDs in a limited timeframe. The proposed methodology will need to be developed according to a predefined process which is accepted by all relevant constituencies, in particular the ccNSO and GAC.

In order to assist with an informed discussion at the Los Angeles meeting on the advisability of an interim approach the ccNSO Council has requested some preparatory be prepared for discussion purposes. This includes

- Draft charter for an IDNC
 - Scope of the IDNC and objective including the parameters within which the IDNC is to develop a methodology for the interim approach;
 - Process to develop proposal for methodology (phase 2-6 of process described in this paper) including a time line
- Description of membership of IDNC. Current thinking on membership is; 5 members of the GAC including its chair; 5 members of the ccNSO including its chair; 2 members of the GNSO including its chair; 2 members ALAC including its chair; one representative of technical community; and 2 senior ICANN staff members.

At the Los Angeles meeting it is intended that the ccNSO will:

- Discuss the need for an interim approach and if agreed that there is such a need;
- Discuss the suggestion of an IDN Committee and if agreed;
- Discuss and, if agreed, adopt the draft charter and proposed membership of IDNC.

It is hoped that the GAC will also be discussing these matter in Los Angeles and will consider making the same or a similar recommendation to the ICANN Board.

D. Phase 3 Adoption of recommendation by the ICANN Board and establishment of IDNC.

Formalities

- Adoption of the Recommendation by the ICANN Board;
- Appointment of IDNC.

The balance of this document (Phases 4, 5 and 6) outlines steps and timelines for the work of the IDNC and assumes that the ICANN Board adopts a recommendation and appoints an IDNC at or soon after the ICANN meeting in Los Angeles.

E. Phase 4 Development of feasible methodologies for interim approach

The IDNC will be tasked with developing a methodology or a number of alternative methodologies for an interim approach to the introduction of IDN ccTLD in a limited timeframe. The proposed methodology or methodologies would be discussed by the relevant stakeholders, in particular by the ccNSO and GAC. It is hoped this could be done at the ICANN meeting in Delhi (10-15 February 2008).

Preparatory work

- IDNC to develop feasible methodologies;
- Face-to face meeting IDNC to discuss draft methodologies;
- IDNC to provide initial report on feasible methodologies for public consultation (1 February 2008);
- Discussion on feasible methodologies at ICANN meeting in Delhi in February 2008;
- IDNC to prepare interim report on feasible methodologies containing a review of all

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comments received and assessment thereof.

Formalities

- Publish Initial Report on feasible methodologies for public consultation;
- Public consultation on Intermediate report, which includes a face-to-face consultation with the ccNSO, the GAC and other relevant constituencies at the ICANN meeting in Delhi (10-15 February 2008);
- Publish Interim report, within reasonable time after the Delhi meeting.

F. Phase 5 IDNC proposal for an interim approach

Based on the Initial Report and the Interim Report the IDNC prepares a Final Report for an interim approach. This Report contains the proposed methodology, if any, recommended by the IDNC for introduction of limited number of IDN ccTLDs.

The Final Report is published before and considered at the ICANN meeting in Paris (22- 27 June 2008). In the event that the draft proposal is supported by the ccNSO and GAC it would be submitted to the ICANN Board. If the ccNSO or the GAC does not support the draft proposal, then it will not be submitted. The IDNC may, at its own discretion, submit an amended Final Report to the ccNSO and GAC to seek support.

Preparatory work

- IDNC to prepare draft proposal;
- Tentatively face-to-face meeting IDNC to discuss draft proposals;

Formalities

- Publish draft proposal;
- ccNSO to discuss and if agreed, support draft proposal;
- GAC to discuss and if agreed, support draft proposal;
- IDNC submit Final Proposals to the Board

G . Phase 6 Adoption Final Proposals as submitted by the ICANN Board

Assumed formalities

- Public comment period of 28 days
- Adoption of proposal as interim approach
- Direct ICANN staff to implement proposals

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Annex A:
Decision table IDNC track

What	Who	When	End date	Comment
Initiate exploration & feasibility	ccNSO Council	2 October	22 October	Initiate exploration + preparatory steps (defining process etc.)
Agree process	ccNSO membership, including ccTLD managers & GAC	Tuesday 30 October	30 October	ccTLD managers have to agree upon process by consensus, as do other relevant stakeholders such as GAC
Approve Advice to the Board on IDNC track	ccNSO Council	Wednesday 31 October		ccNSO/GAC recommendation on process and scope of IDNC track
Board adoption Advice	ICANN Board	2 November		Appointment of IDNC, adopting of process as defined and supported by ccNSO & GAC, adoption of time line.
Publish report on feasible models (Initial Report)	IDNC	25 January 2008		IDNC to produce document for discussion of feasible models and issues associated with interim approach.
Public Consultation feasible models	Stakeholders, including ccTLD managers	25 January 2008	15 February 2008	Public Consultation on Initial Report This includes full discussion of report at ICANN meeting in Delhi
Publish Interim Report	IDNC	9 April 2008		Document with collected comments + analyses and tentative direction(s) for proposal
Public Consultation Interim Report	stakeholders	9 April 2008	7 May 2008	This may include regional hearings etc.
Publish Final Report	IDNC	4 June 2008		This Report includes preferred model based on

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				extensive consultation
Discussion and Support Final Report ccNSO and GAC	ccNSO Members + ccTLD managers and GAC	4 June 2008	25 June 2008	ccNSO membership + ccTLD managers have to support the proposals (by consensus). If not there will be no Proposals on implementation. GAC will need to be able to support proposals of IDNC If no consensus, potential one round of consultation ending at F2F meeting autumn 2008. To be determined by IDNC.
IDNC Board Proposal	IDNC	26 June		IDNC will submit Board Proposal for adoption.
Board Vote,	ICANN Board	27 June ?		