



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

3 December 2014

Jonathan Robinson
GNSO Chairman

Subject: Documenting issues relevant for IDN Implementation Guidelines

Dear Mr. Jonathan Robinson:

The IDN Implementation Guidelines have been developed for IDN registration policies and practices, designed to minimize the risk of cybersquatting and consumer confusion, and respect the interests of communities using local languages and scripts. These Guidelines are for registry operators to implement IDNs at the second level. Registry operators that offer IDNs under the new gTLDs, resulting from the 2012 application round, are contractually bound to adhere to the Guidelines per Specification 6 of the Registry Agreement. All other gTLDs and ccTLDs including IDN ccTLDs are encouraged to follow these Guidelines.

Historically, the IDN Implementation Guidelines have been updated when there was a change to relevant protocols or other demand from the community, but not on a regular basis. To date, there have been five versions of the Guidelines, available through the link: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/implementation-guidelines-2012-02-25-en>. The current Version 3.0 was developed through a community-based effort and finalized on 2 September 2011. Version 3.0 was endorsed by the ICANN Board of Directors on 28 October 2011: [https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2011-10-28-en - 1.2](https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2011-10-28-en-1.2)

Since publication of the 2011 version of the Guidelines, there have been changes in the terminology around IDNs and language tables (e.g. see Appendix 2 of [Integrated Issues Report](#)), as well as a formal [representation](#) of the latter to make them machine parse-able. Additional analysis is also available, including [Maximal Starting Repertoire](#) (MSR), informational RFC 6912 and [revised IDNA tables](#) for Unicode 6.3.0. Finally there have been recommendations for consistency and manageability of variants across different levels in a domain name, e.g. in the [User Experience Study](#) and related SSAC comments in [SAC 60](#) report.

ICANN is reaching out to the GNSO council and its members for specific advice. GNSO is requested to provide detailed guidance by compiling an initial set of issues it considers relevant in the context of updating these Guidelines.

We look forward to the initial set of recommendations by the GNSO. We would appreciate if the initial list of issues can be communicated to ICANN by January 30, 2015.

With kind regards,

Akram Atallah
President, Global Domains Division
ICANN