

04 June 2019

Mr. Keith Drazek
GNSO Chair

Re: GNSO Council Request for Deferral of ICANN Board Vote on IDN Guidelines 4.0

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 30 April 2019, informing the ICANN Board of the GNSO Council's ("the Council") concerns about consideration of the Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Implementation Guidelines 4.0 and requesting additional time for the Council to consider policy implications under the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) remit. The letter is posted at <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/drazek-to-chalaby-30apr19-en.pdf>.

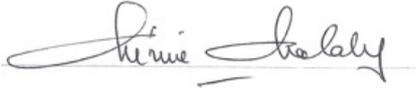
The ICANN Board respects the Council's request and has deferred the vote on the Guidelines to allow the Council time to study the matter further. The ICANN Board is pleased to learn that the Council has already begun its review and consideration of Recommendations for Managing the IDN variant top-level domains (TLDs), following the Board's resolution on 14 March 2019, and that it may consider the subject of variant labels and any associated policy implications holistically both at the top and the second levels, with appropriate coordination with the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO).

Kindly note that the IDN Implementation Guidelines, as these may be updated from time to time, are an existing contractual obligation for the gTLD registries and registrars. The IDN Implementation Guidelines 4.0 are being considered by the Board because they have been updated according to the same community-based process used to update the previous versions.

As the Council undertakes this analysis, it should also consider that though there are some common aspects between the recommendations on IDN Variant TLDs and the IDN Implementation Guidelines, where consistency of solutions will be necessary (e.g., methodology for allocating second-level variant labels to the same registrant), the recommendations and the guidelines have been developed with different motivations. The recommendations for IDN Variant TLDs focus on the management mechanisms for possible delegation of IDN Variant TLDs in the future, whereas the IDN Implementation Guidelines are aimed for secure use of IDN registrations at the second level. Therefore, these should ideally be considered separately as well.

The ICANN Board looks forward to engaging further on this topic with GNSO Council. The Board requests the GNSO Council to share its plan on how it intends to move forward with IDN Implementation Guidelines at its earliest convenience, ideally before ICANN66 meeting in Montreal, Canada. The Board and ICANN org are available for further discussion at ICANN65, if deemed helpful.

Sincerely,



Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors