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# Scoping Team: Internationalized Domain Names

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## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN68 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Scoping Team has delivered its Final Report to the GNSO Council and will not be meeting at ICANN68.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The GNSO Council established a scoping team to study the full extent of the impacts from both the IDN Variant Top-Level Domains (TLD) Recommendations and the IDN Guidelines upon existing registry agreements, registrar agreements and future applicants. The scoping team is limited to the tasks of identifying the scope of the issues related to IDNs and making a recommendation to the GNSO Council primarily on the best mechanism(s) for resolution (e.g., policy development, direct engagement with ICANN org, etc.). The scoping team has been instructed to avoid substantive discussion, especially around potential solutions and outcomes. The scoping team met regularly between August 2019 and January 2020.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

There is currently no solution available for managing IDN variant gTLDs and as such, the ICANN Board **requested** that the GNSO develop policy as it relates to defining and managing IDN variant gTLDs for current gTLDs as well as for future gTLD applications. The ICANN Board also requested that the GNSO coordinates with the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) to ensure a consistent solution is developed for IDN variant gTLDs and IDN variant ccTLDs.

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Most of the scoping team came to agreement on recommending two separate but interconnected work tracks to carry out the GNSO policy work related to IDNs: 1) a Contracted Parties team working directly the ICANN org, focused on **IDN Implementation Guidelines v.4.0** operational issues; and 2) a Policy Development Process (PDP) or an Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) team focused on the policy development of the definition and management of **IDN variant TLDs**. The scoping team also recommended that the GNSO Council send at least one liaison with alternate(s) to monitor the ccNSO PDP4 focused on IDN issues, once it has commenced.

The scoping team delivered its **Final Report** to the GNSO Council on 17 January 2020.

**WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

The GNSO Council will consider the Final Report and determine if it agrees with the recommended mechanisms for resolving the identified IDN issues. In considering next steps and timing, the GNSO Council will also take into account overall capacity to initiate new work.

**HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

As the scoping team has concluded its work and subsequent steps have not been taken by the GNSO Council, there is currently no opportunity to get involved. If and when subsequent steps are taken by the GNSO Council, there may then be an opportunity to get involved in the future GNSO policy work related to IDNs.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- Scoping Team Final Report: <https://go.icann.org/3bdy2dP>
- Scoping Team workspace: <https://community.icann.org/x/b4HkBg>

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