

## **Message relating to Board Resolution 07.89 regarding a fast-track for IDN ccTLDs**

During its meeting in Los Angeles the ICANN Board passed Resolution 07.89 relating to a possible fast-track for IDN ccTLDs. While the GNSO, in general, supports efforts to explore the feasibility of a fast-track for allocation of a limited number of IDN TLDs representing territories designated in the ISO 3166-1 that may have a special need, the GNSO council has one primary concern: Before policy can be finalized regarding new IDN TLDs, criteria must be developed to determine how TLDs will be apportioned into the ccNSO and GNSO for policy development purposes.

There does not appear to be any documented definition of what TLDs from the name space fall into the name spaces for which the supporting organizations have policy development responsibilities. To this point in time it has generally been accepted that:

- The ccNSO is responsible for policy development for the 2-letter ASCII country code TLDs as defined in the ISO 3166-1 list as described in RFC 1591.
- The GNSO is responsible for policy development for generic top level domain names (gTLDs), although there does not seem to be a formal definition of gTLDs.

With the introduction of IDN TLDs, it is envisioned that both the ccNSO and GNSO develop policies and procedures for introducing new TLDs to the DNS. It therefore seems critical to develop community supported criteria for answering questions like the following:

- What are the criteria for apportioning TLDs from the general TLD namespace into the name space for which the ccNSO has policy management responsibility?
- What are the criteria for apportioning TLDs from the general TLD namespace into the name space which the GNSO has policy management responsibility?
- Should any TLD not defined in the ISO 3166-1 list of 2-letter ASCII country codes be classified as a gTLD whether IDN or ASCII?
  - If not, what criteria would qualify an IDN TLD to fit into the ccNSO policy area?
- Should IDN TLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 list of 2-letter ASCII country codes automatically become the policy arena for the ccNSO?
  - If so, is it possible to develop a process for determining which IDN TLDs become the policy arena for the ccNSO?
  - If not, what criteria would be applied to make this decision?

The GNSO Council does not presume to have the answers to these questions but does strongly believe that the community as a whole should collaboratively work together to develop answers that we can all support.

It is crucial to recognize that decisions like the above must be made by the full ICANN naming community. It would not be appropriate for either the GNSO or the ccNSO to primarily take the lead in this task but both policy management organizations should participate equally along with open participation by impacted community members outside of the two supporting organizations.

Because the work of the IDNC regarding fast track IDN TLDs representing territories designated in the ISO 3166-1 list of 2-letter country codes is primarily an effort led by the

ccNSO and GAC, it would not be appropriate for this group to make these decisions; at the same time, implementation of any recommendations the IDNC might make may depend on the decisions. Similarly, the introduction of new IDN gTLDs could be dependent on such decisions, which the GNSO may not be able to make without full participation by the ccNSO.

Therefore, the GNSO Council recommends the following:

- A new ICANN working group should be formed independent of groups already working on fast track IDN TLDs or new gTLDs.
- The ccNSO, GNSO, GAC and ALAC should jointly develop the statement of work of this group along with any participants from other ICANN bodies as desired.
- This group should operate concurrently with present efforts such as the IDNC and the implementation efforts regarding new gTLDs with a goal of completing final recommendations within 120 days.