



Notice of Intent to Form a New GNSO Constituency

Important Notices:

- (1) This form's purpose is limited to notifying the ICANN Board, community, and public of the applicant's intention to form a new GNSO constituency. It is not a substitute for, or replacement of, formal petition requirements stipulated in the ICANN Bylaws nor does its receipt, acceptance, or acknowledgement represent an implicit or explicit Board approval.
- (2) In addition to the Board, this form will be provided to the GNSO Council and constituencies and will be publicly posted [Note: phone and fax numbers supplied below will be removed].

Submit to ICANN Board at new-constituency@icann.org [Note: If you do not receive a confirmation after submittal or have questions, please contact policy-staff@icann.org].

Your Name:	S. Subbiah
Your Company/Organization:	i-DNS.net International Pte. Ltd.
Tel. Number:	[Redacted]
Fax Number:	[Redacted]
Email Address:	[Redacted]
Submission Date:	9 April 2009

Section 1.0: Constituency Mission/Purpose

- 1.1 What name/title do you propose to give the new constituency and in which Stakeholder Group are you recommending that it be associated, including rationale?

IDNgTLD Constituency (hereinafter to be referred to as the IDNgTLDC) is proposed to be a part of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) according to Article X (5) of the ICANN bylaws, which became effective on December 15, 2002.

- 1.2 What is the intended purpose of the new constituency?

The purpose of the **IDNgTLD Constituency** is to primarily represent the views and interests of those who have been and/or are engaged and/or intend to be involved in the advocacy, promotion, provision, implementation, popularization, research and development of IDN TLDs on the Internet. For the purposes of this document and the proposed constituency, the term "IDNgTLD" shall be limited to only languages and scripts that do not use the LATIN Unicode set ("LATIN"). Thus it does not include languages and scripts that use Roman characters such as French, Indonesian, German, Afrikaans and ASCII (English). The rationale for such a limitation is that the needs of countries/communities that rely primarily on LATIN IDNs have already been adequately cared for by ICANN through the widespread availability of IDN.ASCII (as well as ASCII.ASCII) domain names in both the ccTLD and the gTLD sectors - e.g. <german>.de and <spanish>.com. Thus, IDNgTLD shall be so defined to exclude LATIN (n.b. Cyrillic and Greek for example are non-LATIN under Unicode and therefore fall under the IDNgTLD definition used here). Defined this way, of the 2008 World Population of some 6.5 billion humans, about 4 billion people need to be served by IDNgTLDs. Also of the 1.58 billion Internet users in 2008,



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about 720 Million users come from countries/communities that need to be more properly served by IDNTLDs.

This Constituency is further created to provide a formal voice and official representation in ICANN processes to for-profit and/or non-profit organizations, government agencies, research and educational institutions and individuals in their personal capacity, etc, that are engaged in or intend to be engaged in at least one of the following activities, namely, those that:

- a) serve IDNgTLD interests;
- b) provide services such as registry, registrar, multilingual web information and other Internet services for IDNgTLDs (i.e. non-LATIN IDN TLDs);
- c) involved in research, development and education of non-LATIN IDNs and related Internet multilingualism;
- d) engaged community organizing in non-LATIN language communities, and in promotion of associated Internet multilingualism, e.g. promote public interest in IDNgTLDs in policy advocacy particularly in non-English and non-LATIN speaking communities; and
- e) promulgate human rights and the advancement of the Internet as a global communications system for the hitherto neglected segments of society, specifically, those non-English speaking or non-LATIN character writing communities.

1.3 How will the addition of this constituency improve the GNSO's ability to carry out its policy-development responsibilities?

So far, the ability of GNSO to carry out policy development responsibilities in the specific target groups of non-English speaking or non-Latin writing communities is particularly weak and not well targeted at the ground level, with the lack of language proficiency in and the lack of cultural familiarity with these communities a significant handicap. Working to bridge the gap between ICANN and its largely English speaking communities with the targeted communities, this proposed Constituency will provide the vital linkage that will truly make the Internet a global communications system and the global information infrastructure of all peoples.

1.4 How will the establishment of this new constituency augment, complement, and otherwise contribute differential or unique value to the GNSO and ICANN's existing structures?

This proposed Constituency contributes a much belated effort to bring IDNgTLD communities into the ICANN fold, particularly in the GNSO fold within ICANN. In fact, in the present structure of GNSO, as demonstrated some two years ago and as prominently documented in pages 12 to 21 of the ICANN Board Guidelines for GNSO Improvements of January 2008 (i.e. the document that is the progenitor of the current "Notice of Intent to Form a New Constituency"), owing to the decade-old structural impediments, it was well nigh impossible for people and institutions with long-standing involvement at ICANN meetings to join the GNSO IDN Working Group to contribute meaningfully to policy or have their voices heard. As such the past disenfranchisement deeply felt in these communities will not be solved unless a new Constituency targeted for the IDNgTLD community like the one in the current proposal is formed.



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Section 2.0: Membership

- 2.1 What connection do you have to this proposed constituency and what membership representation do you propose (e.g. market/interest-area/community; expertise/knowledge of members).

I have been involved since the inception of IDNs when it was invented and implemented in 1998, from the popularization in Asia Pacific test-beds to representations to ICANN and ITU. I have been involved with almost all defunct and active groups in the IDN space for the past decade.

I propose for membership representation all groups that have been involved with promoting and implementing IDNgTLDs, in the past and present, as well as those making plans to do so in the future. These represent all the key stakeholders in IDNgTLDs.

- 2.2 If this constituency will be formed from other pre-existing entities, please describe current memberships, including size/reach, and any public exposure offered (e.g. websites, email lists).

This proposed Constituency will be formed from scratch, separate from any pre-existing entities. However, it will draw from organizational and individual members who have participated in previously unsuccessful efforts and encourage them to join in this new proposed Constituency to start afresh our efforts to promote IDNgTLDs. We will be trying to recruit from various other language communities in existence and absorb those which presently are not suitable for other existing or newly proposed GNSO constituencies. Potential members from the Cyrillic Language Working group, the Arabic Internet Names Consortium, CJK IDN Standards Working Group and others will make good candidates for recruitment into this proposed Constituency.

- 2.3 What organizations/entities would be eligible/ineligible to join this constituency?

Organisations, companies and individuals that do not have past experience or a track record in IDNgTLDs, either via research, testing or other implementations will not be immediately eligible to join as a full voting member. Those new to IDNgTLDs can sign up for observer status or participate as associate members until they have demonstrated involvement in IDNgTLDs.

- 2.4 How would the Constituency adequately represent its membership on a global basis?

On an *ad hoc* basis or in partnership with other organizations, the proposed members of this Constituency have previously organized in the past decade and will continue to organize international events and conferences of the target communities it explicitly and uniquely serves. These prospective members have done so, and will propose to do so, through this proposed Constituency, without dilution or mission creep towards other communities, in order to focus on their specific needs.

The presence of such communities stretches across the global and represents a large swath of the un-internetised world. Outreach will involve all routes, including governmental and grassroots community groups.



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This proposed Constituency will hold conferences at least annually in such locations in the world where there is a big need for such activities that serve its mission as stated above.

While promoting globalism, the conduct of meetings shall be in International business and scientific English with the appropriate translations relevant to the communities being targeted. For example, if we were holding our conference in Sri Lanka, we would provide translation for English into Sinhala and Tamil equally.

2.5 What plans for recruitment/expansion do you envision for the constituency?

While recruitment is pending the proposal for this new Constituency, we have managed over the past months to secure in principle agreement from those listed below to join in this new Constituency, if it is approved.

Those listed below are credible organizations and individuals who have demonstrated sustained commitment towards IDNgTLDs over the past years, and some have had many previous meetings in the past on the sidelines of ICANN and elsewhere over the years. They will form the core and critical mass of stakeholders needed to launch a successful global Constituency that this proposal aims to achieve.

The inaugural formal conference on IDNgTLDs as a new ICANN constituency is expected to be held shortly upon approval with representation from the following founding stakeholder members mostly representing their organizations as institutional members, with mass recruitment of individual membership to follow.

- **Korean Hangul and Hanja script** - Koan Cho, CEO of IDNC Consortium (includes many of South Korea's major listed ICANN accredited registrars and top ISPs) and CEO of Digital Names (top Korean Keyword player with top 3 ISP as partners)
- **China (Traditional and Simplified) Chinese script** - PR China - Leo Yu Yang, Head, International Policy, China Organizational Name Administration Center (CONAC), a non-profit affiliated with the Public Sector Reform Commission of the State Council of China (A ministry level Commission under that has authority over the domain names of government and state-owned enterprises)
- **Hebrew script** - Yoav Keren, CEO of Domain the Net, (regular participant of various ICANN IDN and GNSO committees) (dominant ICANN accredited registrar in Israel with all top ISPs)
- **Japanese Katakana, Hiragana and Kanji scripts** - Yoshiuro Takesan, CEO, IDN-Japan (Domain Name Reseller)
- **Ethiopian Amharic/Tigriga script** - Sophia Bekele, CEO of CBS International, (former NSO Councillor, NomCom and various IDN committees), Founder ISOC SFBAY Chapter and DotAfrica gTLD
- **Somali (Ethiopia) script** - Sophia Bekele (see above)



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- **Russian Cyrillic script** - Russia, Sergey Sharikov and Alexei Sozonov, CEO, Regtime, largest private ICANN accredited Registrar (on board of .ru cctld), (participants of various ICANN IDN and GNSO Committees)
- **Kazakhstani Cyrillic script** - Sergey Shevchenko, CEO of SkillTex Inc., Largest Domain Name Seller in Kazakhstan.
- **Ukrainian Cyrillic script** - Alexey Mykhaylov, CEO of UkrNames Inc., (GNSO restructuring Committee) Ukrnames is partnered with the National Internet Agency under the Ministry of Telecommunication and the Ukrainian Minister of Education to promote Cyrillic IDN TLDs.
- **Bulgarian Cyrillic script** - Illya Balzanakov, Chairman of Uuninet Inc., An association of major ISPs and web-hosting companies in Bulgaria (various ICANN IDN and GNSO committees);
- **Iranian Farsi/Persian script** - Shahram Soboutipour, President and CEO of Karmania Technology Inc., Major domain name seller in Iran and Advisory Panel to Iranian Telecommunication Ministry and participant of various ICANN IDN and GNSO committees;
- **Tamil Nadu (India), Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Singapore Tamil script** - S. Maniam, Chair, IDN sub-committee, INFITT – (International Forum for IT in Tamil), Tamil Nadu, India
- **Hindi (India) Script** - Desi Valli, CTO, Net 4 India, India's largest domain name registrar (ICANN accredited).
- **Telugu (India) Script** - R. Rao, VP, Synfosys Pte. Ltd., Andhra Pradesh, India (Multilingual software developer)
- **Singapore Simplified Chinese script** - Prof. Tin-Wee Tan, Professor at National University of Singapore and inventor of IDN
- **Korean script** - Dr. YJ Park (individual capacity), Delft University and Advisor to NIDA, Korean ccTLD operator (various ICANN, IGF committees from being a Councillor on the first ICANN Board of GNSO's predecessor organisation)
- **Togo scripts** - Dr. Mawaki Chango (individual capacity), Syracuse University (various ICANN IDN and GNSO committees and former GNSO Councillor)
- **General** - Dr. S. Subbiah, Chairman, i-DNS.net Inc. (company that pioneered modern IDN concept and IDNA standard in use widely) (various ICANN IDN and GNSO Committees)
- **General** - David Allen, Co-Principal, Collab CPR, Massachusetts (for decades an Internet policy contributor with Harvard affiliation)

Others being currently invited to join the founding group include for example luminaries from the Arabic and Urdu communities.



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It is to be noted that the above proposed Founding Group already includes informal representation from all the key countries where the 10 most globally popular non-LATIN scripts are used. Moreover this group already accounts for 3.5B of the 4B world population within non-LATIN countries. It also accounts for some 617M of the 720M Internet users from non-LATIN countries today.

All meeting minutes recorded and presentations shall be made available online expeditiously. Mailing lists and blog sites will be opened for open, multilingual, and constructive discussions.

Initially the focus will be on institutional membership and will be on the basis of:

- a) Non-Commercial, non-profit Research Development and Educational institutions engaged in IDNgTLDs.
- b) Commercial for-profit entities involved in IDNgTLDs;
- c) Government members (drawing from government agencies responsible for IDNgTLDs and the Internet in part or in toto);

Individual membership will open in the second phase.
