

Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN75 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The EPDP Team will conduct two back-to-back working sessions on Saturday, 17 September 2022: one from 9:00–10:00 MYT, and the other from 10:30–12:00 MYT. Please check the ICANN75 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. During the sessions, the working group will discuss topics within its charter and seek broader community input.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the [initiation request](#) for the EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and adopted its [charter](#). The EPDP is expected to provide the GNSO Council with policy recommendations on:

- The definition of all TLDs and the management of variant labels to facilitate the delegation of variant gTLDs in the root zone, while achieving the security and usability goal of variant labels in a stable manner.
- How the IDN Implementation Guidelines that contracted parties are required to comply with should be updated in the future.

The charter includes 48 questions under seven broader topics, ranging from the “same entity” requirement at the top and second levels, to adjustments to ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs. ([Learn More](#))

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The EPDP Team held its first meeting on 11 August 2021 and is in the early stages of its work.

The EPDP Team received [early written input](#) on topics in its charter from the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), GNSO’s Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC). In January 2022, the EPDP Team conducted an engagement session with SSAC members to discuss their input and exchange views on specific charter questions. These inputs and views were published in [SAC120](#) in April 2022.



By the end of August 2022, the EPDP Team completed its first pass of substantive deliberations on more than half of its charter questions, specifically:

- Group 1 charter questions related to the definition of all gTLDs using the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR);
- Group 2 charter questions related to the “same entity” principle at the top-level; and
- Group 3 charter questions related to variants’ impact on the New gTLD Program.

A small group within the EPDP Team was formed to discuss variants’ impact on the String Similarity Review and Objection Processes in the New gTLD Program. The small group completed its work assignment after 11 meetings and presented their recommendation for consideration by the EPDP Team.

The EPDP Team is also conducting outreach activities to seek critical external input to facilitate its deliberations. For example, it conducted a survey among Arabic and Chinese gTLD registry operators to assess their potential interest in activating variants of their gTLDs. The team received 23 responses. The EPDP Team is also consulting with Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Generation Panels regarding additional work on identifying Han characters that should not be allowed to become single-character TLDs.

To ensure a consistent solution for variant TLDs is being developed, the EPDP Team monitors the activities in the ccNSO’s ccPDP4 on the (de-)selection of IDN ccTLD Strings. In July 2022, the EPDP Team held a joint session with ccPDP4 to discuss their preliminary recommendations, compare similarities, and understand the differences.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The EPDP Team will continue its substantive deliberations, seeking to reach preliminary outcomes for each group of charter questions. The EPDP Team will work toward drafting responses to charter questions and recommendations that will be compiled into an Initial Report, which will be published for public comment.

The EPDP Team plans to submit a project change request to the GNSO Council and propose to first publish Part 1 of its Initial Report by focusing on the recommendations on variant management at the top-level. Due to additional data collection needs, the EPDP Team would like to defer substantive deliberation of the second-level related topics and address recommendations on those topics in Part 2 of its Initial Report. During ICANN75, the EPDP Team plans to discuss which remaining charter questions should be included in Part 1 of the Initial Report in preparation for the project change request.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Parties interested in the EPDP on IDNs should coordinate with the members assigned by the respective Stakeholder Group, Constituency, Supporting Organization, or Advisory Committee and communicate any input they believe may be useful to the EPDP's deliberations. The EPDP's "representative + open" membership model allows interested parties to join as a participant and take part in EPDP deliberations substantively, except when an official position is needed from the relevant organization or for a consensus call. Interested parties are also able to follow the working group's progress by signing up as observers.

MORE INFORMATION

- [EPDP webpage](#)
- [EPDP workspace](#)

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