IDNs EPDP Update
### Overview

#### Overall Progress

- **Charter contains 47 questions** - 28 related to top-level IDN variant management and 19 related to second-level
  - Completed deliberation on 65% of top-level related charter questions
  - Has not started deliberation on second-level related charter questions

- **Project behind schedule** - likely not able to meet key milestone dates (publish Initial Report in Dec 2022, submit Final Report in Apr 2023)

#### Key Challenges

- **Diversity and Complexity of IDN Issues**
  - Charter includes diverse and complicated issues related to IDNs
  - Significant preparation and study are required to understand most charter questions
  - Example: String Similarity Review related questions required 13 weeks of deliberations by a dedicated small group and additional discussion by full EPDP Team

- **Additional Data Collection Needs for Second-Level Deliberations**
  - Deliberation on second-level charter questions depends on analysis of additional data from contracted parties
  - Explore appropriate venues and approaches to collect data, including consultation with CPH TechOps group

- **Non-Existing SubPro IRT**
  - Many charter questions require coordination with SubPro IRT to address overlapping topics
  - Has to make assumptions about SubPro implementation in order to address those charter questions
Two-Phased Proposal

Proposal to Complete EPDP in Two Phases

| Phase 1: Covers charter questions and recommendations related to top-level IDN variant management | Phase 2: Covers charter questions and recommendations related to second-level IDN variant management |

Rationale

- No Known Interdependency Between Top-Level and Second-Level Charter Questions
  - Top-level labels and second-level labels are distinct from each other in the DNS
  - Recommendations pertaining to second-level should not impact or change recommendations pertaining to top-level

- Facilitating SubPro Implementation Planning
  - EPDP recommendations on top-level have direct impact on New gTLD Program and are closely linked to SubPro outputs
  - Does not remove interaction of second-level work by EPDP Team with SubPro implementation

- Breaking Workload into Manageable Chunks
  - Helps make recommendations more digestible by the ICANN community and ICANN Board
  - Helps GNSO Council better monitor progress against milestones
## Potential Timeline Extension

### Rationale

- **Extended duration for deliberating on remaining charter questions**
  - Three (3) weeks to deliberate on each character question (on average)

- **Time period for additional data gathering efforts**
  - Eight (8) months to collect data (pending CPH TechOps group’s feedback during Contracted Parties Summit)
  - This effort will take place concurrently with Phase 1 work and should complete before start of Phase 2

- **Front load review of ICANN org input for draft recommendations**
  - Ten (10) weeks to review ICANN org input in each phase, ensuring that the Initial Report has already taken operational considerations into account

- **Public comment review and Final Report completion**
  - Six (6) weeks to review of public comments received for Initial Report in each phase
  - Twelve (12) weeks to finalize recommendations in each phase (additional topics may arise as a result of public comment)

### Conservative Projection of Key Milestone Dates

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<th>Phase 1 (projection with more confidence)</th>
<th>Phase 2 (projection with more uncertainty)</th>
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| - Publish Phase 1 Initial Report for Public Comment by **Apr 2023**  
  - Submit Phase 1 Final Report to GNSO Council by **Nov 2023** | - Publish Phase 2 Initial Report for Public Comment by **Apr 2025**  
  - Submit Phase 2 Final Report to GNSO Council by **Nov 2025** |
Impact of Change

Scope: Not changed, but charter includes catch-all questions to potentially include additional issues for deliberations. EPDP Team has already identified additional issues

Timeline: An additional 31-month extension to the overall project completion from the original project plan. While the requested extension seems long, the remaining workload is significant

Resourcing: Additional community volunteer time is needed, as well as commitment from staff and liaisons. IDN subject expertise is concentrated on a limited number of individuals

Other Considerations:
● GNSO Council may consider impact on potential new work to be launched in 2023-2025
● ICANN community and ICANN Board may consider impact on SubPro implementation

EPDP Team welcomes GNSO Council suggestions and guidance to ensure that the EPDP adheres to updated project plan and new target delivery date

● Two meetings per week?
● Dedicated face-to-face meeting?
● Dedicated remote event?
● Other ideas?