

Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN76 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The EPDP Team will conduct two back-to-back working sessions on Saturday, 11 March 2023: one from 9:00–10:00 EST, and the other from 10:30–12:00 EST. Please check the ICANN76 meeting schedule for the confirmed time. During the sessions, the working group will discuss topics within its charter and finalize its preliminary recommendations for inclusion in its Phase 1 Initial Report to be published for Public Comment shortly after ICANN76.

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:

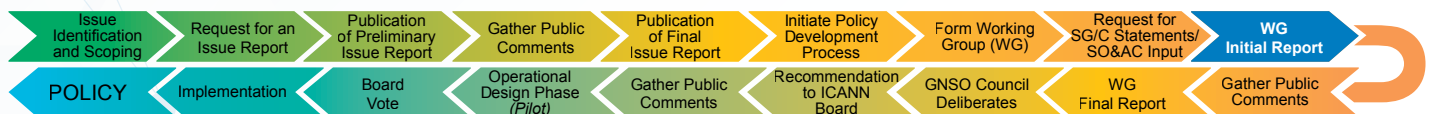
- The definition of all TLDs and the management of variant labels to facilitate the delegation of variant gTLDs in the root zone, while achieving the security and usability goal of variant labels in a stable manner.
- How the IDN Implementation Guidelines that contracted parties are required to comply 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 began meeting in August 2021. During the course of its deliberation, the EPDP Team has taken into account the [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 November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the [project change request](#) from the EPDP Team. It plans to complete its work in two phases, with Phase 1 focusing on topics related to top-level IDN gTLD definition and variant management, and Phase 2 focusing on topics related to second-level IDN variant management. The EPDP Team believes that this two-phased approach will help prioritize the



current implementation planning of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP Outputs that are focused primarily on the top-level.

By ICANN76, the EPDP Team will have completed the substantive deliberations on all Phase 1 charter questions. The EPDP Team is in the process of reviewing the feedback received from ICANN org for a subset of its draft recommendations before finalizing them for inclusion in the Phase 1 Initial Report. This feedback was based on ICANN org's implementation and operational perspectives.

The EPDP Team also conducted outreach activities seeking critical input externally to facilitate its deliberations. Following ICANN75, it requested the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Generation Panels to initiate additional work on identifying characters that should not be allowed to become single-character TLDs in the Han script. As IDNs are an important topic for the GAC, the EPDP Team also conducted a targeted outreach event in February 2023 to help brief GAC representatives on the EPDP Team's work and encourage the GAC to get involved in the upcoming Phase 1 Initial Report Public Comment.

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. The EPDP Team and the ccPDP4 periodically hold joint sessions 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 and work toward developing its Phase 1 Initial Report, which is expected to be published for Public Comment shortly after ICANN76. During ICANN76, the EPDP Team plans to work toward finalizing its preliminary recommendations for inclusion in its Phase 1 Initial Report.

In addition, the EPDP Team is expected to conduct data collection efforts to prepare for deliberation on Phase 2 charter questions related to second-level IDN variant management.

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 substantive EPDP deliberations, 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.

A Public Comment period will be held on the EPDP Team’s Phase 1 Initial Report following ICANN76. All are welcome to contribute to the Public Comment period.

MORE INFORMATION

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

RESPONSIBLE STAFF: Ariel Liang, Steve Chan, Emily Barabas