

# Expedited Policy Development Process: Internationalized Domain Names

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN80 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team plans to conduct one working session at ICANN80 to make progress on its Phase 2 recommendations, following the Public Comment for the Initial Report. Please check the [ICANN80 meeting schedule](#) for the confirmed time. During the session, the EPDP Team will work toward finalizing the Phase 2 recommendations, including the review of public comments received for the preliminary recommendations. Phase 2 covers issues pertaining to second-level variant management.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The EPDP Team is tasked to:

- Determine the approach for a consistent definition of all gTLDs; and
- Develop policy recommendations that will eventually allow for the introduction of variant gTLDs at the top level.

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

On 20 May 2021, the GNSO Council approved the [initiation request](#) for the launch of the EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and adopted its [charter](#), including 48 questions under seven broader topics. The topics ranged from the “same entity” requirement at the top and second levels, to adjustments to ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs. The EPDP Team began meeting in August 2021, simultaneously monitoring activities in the Country Code Names Supporting Organization’s (ccNSO) ccPDP4 on the (de-)selection of IDN ccTLD Strings to ensure that a consistent solution for variant TLDs was being developed.

In November 2022, the GNSO Council approved the [project change request](#) from the EPDP Team to divide its work into two phases. Accordingly, Phase 1 focuses on topics related to top-level gTLD definition and variant management while Phase 2 focuses on topics related to second-level variant management. The two-phased approach was intended to allow the EPDP Team to focus on the charter questions that are most likely to impact the implementation of the Next Round of the new gTLDs and avoid potential delays.



On 8 November 2023, the EPDP Team submitted its [Phase 1 Final Report](#) to the GNSO Council in accordance with its [project plan](#)<sup>1</sup>. The Final Report includes sixty-nine (69) recommendations<sup>2</sup>, most of which strive to operationalize Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP Outputs to allow for future applications of gTLD variant labels through the New gTLD Program. The GNSO Council [approved](#) the report during its 21 December 2023 meeting and submitted its [recommendations report](#) to assist the ICANN Board in its consideration of the Phase 1 Final Report. As mandated by the ICANN Bylaws, a [Public Comment](#) period was opened on 23 January 2024 for the Phase 1 Final Report, seeking input to aid the Board’s consideration of the recommendations, which closed on 12 March 2024. The Board received six (6) submissions and is carefully considering each input on all recommendations to reach a final decision.

With respect to the Phase 2 work, from 6–8 December 2023, the EPDP Team held a dedicated face-to-face workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to expedite its deliberations. During the workshop, the EPDP Team completed initial deliberation of all remaining Phase 2 charter questions, as well as additional issues and topics slated for discussion. On 11 April 2024, the EPDP Team published its Phase 2 Initial Report for [Public Comment](#).

#### **WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

Upon the closure of the Public Comment period on 21 May 2024, the EPDP Team will review all public comments gathered for the Initial Report by August 2024 and publish its Phase 2 Final Report in October 2024 for the GNSO Council’s consideration.

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<sup>1</sup>Identifying that nearly all of its charter questions may have an impact on the next Applicant Guidebook, the GNSO Council submitted to the ICANN Board a revised timeline from the EPDP Team on 25 July 2023, shortening the Phase 2 timeline by 13 months, with the estimated delivery date of the Phase 2 Final Report becoming October 2024. The two-phased approach remained unchanged.

<sup>2</sup>Phase 1 Initial Report, which was published for Public Comment on 24 April 2023, included 68 preliminary recommendations. Upon the closure of the Public Comment on 19 June 2023, the EPDP Team received input from 12 submissions, with the Team later developing 69 recommendations for the Final Report.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Since the EPDP Team has completed most of its work and passed several significant milestones, those interested in this topic are welcome to contribute input through Public Comment opportunities, including those for the Phase 2 Initial Report and the Final Report. Those interested can also follow the EPDP Team's progress by signing up as observers.

### MORE INFORMATION

- [EPDP webpage](#)
- [EPDP workspace](#)
- [EPDP Phase 2 Initial Report Public Comment](#)

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