

25 July 2025

Dear Lars,

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP provided Recommendation 25.4 to allow single character gTLDs for ideographic scripts in the next round, provided that they do not introduce confusion risks that rise above commonplace similarities. The IDNs EPDP Phase 1 Final Report put forth important additional detail and limitations on 25.4, prescribing that the single character gTLDs be limited to the Han script and that applications must not be accepted until relevant guidelines are developed and put in place by the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (CJK) Generation Panels (GPs). It was subsequently determined that the CJK GPs, as currently established, do not have work of this nature within their existing scope, which resulted in an apparent inability to implement the recommendation as written.

The GNSO Council liaisons to the SubPro Implementation Review Team (IRT), Anne Aikman-Scalese and Susan Payne, submitted the issue to the Council, with the support of the IRT. In submitting the issue to the Council, the liaisons included your explanatory [summary document](#) to help with understanding.

In initial discussions, the Council contemplated the appropriateness of different mechanisms to perform the work, including such options as the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) or an Expert Working Group (EWG). Additionally, the Council also considered the External Expert Advice mechanism identified in Section 13.1 of the ICANN Bylaws. After subsequent discussions, the Council isolated the issue to be the absence of an appropriately chartered and qualified party to perform the implementation work as envisioned in IDN EPDP Recommendation 3.17. The implications of doing so are that the path forward can therefore be limited to identifying an appropriately chartered and qualified party to address the development of the requisite guidelines; this limited task does not seem appropriate for any of the procedurally rigorous options identified. The Council believes that ICANN org staff possess the needed expertise to identify the appropriate party to address the development of the guidelines to allow for single character Han script gTLDs.

In conclusion, the Council kindly asks that ICANN org staff in charge of implementing SubPro recommendations and IDNs EPDP Phase 1 recommendations:

- Identify an appropriately chartered and qualified party to develop the required guidelines, envisioned to be performed under IDNs EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 3.17; in seeking to execute this work, staff is encouraged to solicit community expertise as is deemed helpful.
- Once the appropriate party is identified, support the implementation of SubPro Recommendation 25.4 and IDNs EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 3.17. At a high-level, the Council understands the implementation work to encompass the development of guidelines to allow for the application of single character Han script gTLDs where such gTLDs “do not introduce confusion risks that rise above commonplace similarities.”

The Council would like to emphasize that it does not consider the implementation of these recommendations to be a prerequisite for the initiation of the immediate Next Round, expected to occur in April of 2026.

The Council stands ready to provide assistance or answer questions as necessary.

Best regards,

Greg DiBiase, GNSO Chair