

RyC IDNC Comments

24 Apr 2008

In response to the request for comments regarding the draft Interim Report of the IDNC working group, the GNSO gTLD Registries Constituency strongly endorses the comments submitted by the GNSO Council to the ICANN Board and the ccNSO titled ‘GNSO Comments in Response to the ccNSO-GAC Issues Report on IDN Issues’ and dated 20 February 2008 (<http://forum.icann.org/lists/idn-cctld-issues/docDVmFxZgMir.doc>). Whereas those comments were submitted regarding the overall introduction of IDN TLDs associated with ISO 3166-1 country codes, it should be noted that most of the comments apply to the fast track process being considered by the IDNC and some comments directly relate to the possible fast track process.

In particular, we would like to call attention to the following from that document:

- We support efforts to determine the feasibility of an interim solution whereby a limited number of countries or territories designated in the ISO 3166-1 list that have special needs would be granted IDN labels in the near term provided that no IDN TLDs associated with countries or territories are introduced earlier than IDN gTLDs without prior community concurrence.
- An IDN ccTLD string must represent an entry contained in the ISO 3166-1 list.
- Any added IDN label for a country or territory designated in the ISO 3166-1 list should be for the sole purpose of benefiting the language community (or communities) and country or territory designated by the new label.
- IDN ccTLD strings should be meaningful to the local community and should represent, in scripts of the corresponding country or territory’s choice, a meaningful representation of the country or territory’s name or abbreviation of the country or territory’s name in the selected script.
- There should be only one IDN ccTLD string per ISO 3166-1 entry per relevant script. Measures must be taken to limit confusion and collisions due to variants.
- Confusingly similar strings should be avoided.
- Operators of top-level domain registries for IDN TLDs representing territories designated by the ISO 3166-1 list should be required to follow the ICANN IDN Guidelines in the same way as gTLD registries that offer IDNs.
- ICANN should have a contract or some other form of agreement with the IDN ccTLD operator that includes appropriate technical, operational and financial requirements.

For further discussion on each of the above, please see the above referenced document from the GNSO.