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**Cooperation and liaison with other organizations: international
organizations**

**Report of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names
and Numbers**

Submitted by the Liaison Officer, ICANN **

Summary

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers is a global organization formed in 1998 whose mission is to ensure the secure and stable operation of the Internet’s unique identifier system. It also facilitates policy development by stakeholders from around the globe reasonably related to those technical functions. Its multi-stakeholder model brings together thousands of participants from governments, large and small businesses, technical experts, civil society, researchers, academics and end users from all over the world.

The organization is responsible for managing and coordinating the domain name system to ensure every address is unique and that all users of the Internet can find all valid addresses. It does this by overseeing the distribution of unique Internet Protocol addresses and domain names (see www.icann.org for more information).

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** Prepared by the Senior Director, Global Stakeholder Engagement, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, Patrick L. Jones

Part of the hierarchy of the domain name system includes the identification of top-level domains, the last label that comes after the dot in a domain name. These include generic top-level domains such as .com and country-code top-level domains, such as .ca and .th. The generic top-level domains and country-code top-level domains in the domain name system include internationalized top-level domains as well.

Internationalized domain names programme update

The fast track process for internationalized country-code top-level domains enables countries and territories that use languages based on scripts other than Latin to offer domain names to users in non-Latin characters. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers enabled this process for countries to request top-level domains that reflect their country name in local scripts.

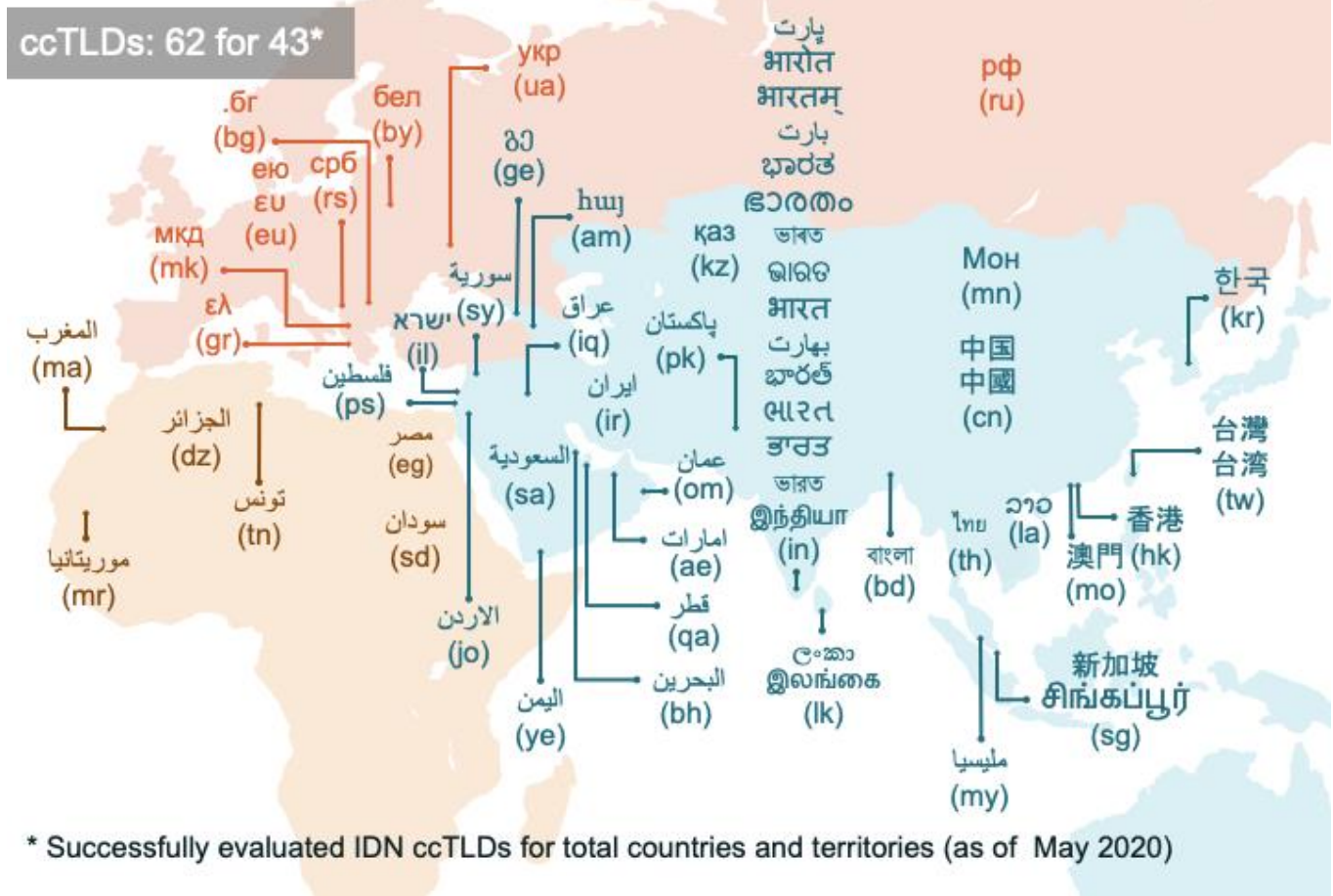
The fast track process was launched on 16 November 2009, and all activities related to the development and implementation of the fast track process can be found at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track>. A complete list of countries and territories that have completed string evaluation is available at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/string-evaluation-completion-en.htm>.

As at 11 January 2023, a total of 62 labels from 43 countries and territories have been successfully evaluated for delegation through the fast track Process. Of those, 61 labels from 42 countries and territories have been delegated in the root zone. The most recent evaluation includes the internationalized country-code top-level domain in the Hebrew language and script for Israel.

Internationalized country-code top-level domains from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers are only granted to requesting countries if they match the country or territory name in an official language and script (non-Latin) for the country and territory as listed in the *Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names 2007*, and subsequent updates, or the selected name is documented as a meaningful representation of their country name by an internationally recognized linguistic expert.

Within the fast track process, the organization has historically utilized assistance from the Group of Experts to identify internationally recognized experts for those countries and territories which may need such expertise in their requests. In addition, it sought assistance from the Group of Experts in creating examples of documentation that would demonstrate that a requested top-level domain is a meaningful representation of a country name.

IDN Country Code Top-Level Domains



Another aspect of the IDN program includes work on the treatment of variants for TLDs. An IDN variant TLD can be defined as one that may look or is considered “same” or interchangeable with another TLD by users of the relevant writing system. For example, a string in traditional Chinese commonly has an equivalent in simplified Chinese.

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) within ICANN is now reviewing its experience with the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process, which has been an experimental program, to develop a more comprehensive policy for evaluating and delegating IDN ccTLD applications. The policy will include Latin script based IDN ccTLDs (which were not covered by the current IDN ccTLD Fast Track process) as well as defining and managing IDN variant ccTLDs. The variant ccTLDs are needed to make the DNS secure as well as promote usability of certain ccTLDs across different geographical regions. The initial report is planned to be published in early of 2023 for public comment. More information is available at <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/idn-ccTLD-strings.htm>.

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) at ICANN approved the [New Generic Top Level Domain \(gTLD\) Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Final Report](#) (the "Final Report") on 18 February 2021 and is also working on Expedited Policy Development Process on IDNs to develop policy related to definitions and variant management of top-level IDN generic TLDs .

Working with community volunteers, ICANN and Internet community participants realized the need to identify a mechanism to handle variant labels. This led to the creation of the [Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels](#) (LGR Procedure). Since 2013, the community-based panels supported by ICANN org have developed proposals for twenty-six scripts including Arabic, Armenian, Bangla, Chinese (Han), Cyrillic, Devanagari, Ethiopic, Georgian, Greek, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Hebrew, Japanese (Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji [Han]), Kannada, Khmer, Korean (Hangul and Hanja[Han]), Lao, Latin, Malayalam, Myanmar, Oriya, Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu, and Thai scripts. These have been integrated into the [Root Zone Label Generation Rules version 5 \(RZ-LGR-5\)](#) and published in May 2022.

Based on the script user community input availability through the RZ-LGR project, ICANN org developed the reference LGRs for the second level using [guidelines](https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/lgr-guidelines-second-level-27may20-en.pdf) (https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/lgr-guidelines-second-level-27may20-en.pdf) , followed by a consultation with the script communities, then finalized after public comment. These reference LGRs are vetted for security and stability by community input. TLD registry operators can use reference LGRs when they develop the rules for IDN registration under their TLDs.

ICANN org has published 46 reference LGRs:

- **30 language-based LGRs:** Arabic, Belarusian, Bosnian (Cyrillic), Bosnian (Latin), Bulgarian, Chinese, Danish, English, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, and Ukrainian.
- **16 script-based LGRs:** Arabic, Bangla (Bengali), Devanagari, Ethiopic, Georgian, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Hebrew, Kannada, Khmer, Lao, Malayalam, Oriya, Sinhala, Tamil, and Telugu.

The reference LGR for additional seven scripts (Armenian, Cyrillic, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Latin, and Myanmar) are being developed and planned to be released for public comment early in 2023.

Generic Top-Level Domain Program Update

Since the last report to the 2nd UNGEGN sessions in 2021, ICANN has continued to process applications received in the 2012 round for new generic TLDs. As of 11 January 2023, there are 1481 TLDs in the root zone. Several of these are community and geographic labels, representing cities or regions, such as Abu Dhabi, Alsace, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bayern, Berlin, Brussels, Budapest, BZH (for the Breton region in France), Capetown, Cologne, Corsica, Cymru, Dubai, Durban, EUS (for the Basque cultural and linguistic community), GAL (for the Galician cultural and linguistic community), Gent, Hamburg, Helsinki, Istanbul, Joburg, Koeln, KRD (for the Kurdistan region), Kyoto, London, Melbourne, Miami, Moscow, Nagoya, NYC, Okinawa, Osaka, Paris, Quebec, Rio, Ruhr, Ryukyu, Saarland, Scot, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo, Vegas, Vlaanderen, Wales, and Wien.

Many city and regional TLDs are promoting the adoption of these domains for local services. There are now approximately 370 million domain names registered worldwide, 30.6 million of these registrations are in new gTLD extensions launched since 2014.

As of 20 December 2022, a total of 91 IDN gTLDs are delegated in the root zone (a total of 152 IDNs delegated if IDN ccTLDs are included). A number of these delegations include IDNs representing cities or geographic names, such as [.ابوظبي](#) (City of Abu Dhabi in Arabic) and [.佛山](#) (city of Foshan in Chinese).

On 12 December 2022, ICANN org delivered the Operational Design Assessment (ODA) of New Generic Top-Level Domain Subsequent Procedures to the ICANN Board of Directors, <https://www.icann.org/en/announcements/details/icann-delivers-operational-design-assessment-of-subpro-recommendations-to-board-12-12-2022-en>. The ODA is intended to guide the ICANN Board in its consideration of policy recommendations for potential future rounds of new gTLD applications. Further community consultations will occur at the upcoming ICANN 76 meeting in Cancún, México in March 2023, and the ICANN 77 meeting in Washington, DC in June 2023.

Universal Acceptance of Domain Names and Email Addresses

Universal Acceptance (UA) means that all domain names and email addresses work in all software applications. This means that applications should be able to support domain names using the newer short and long top-level domains (TLDs) as well as IDNs. Due to the significance of UA, these have been included as a key part of the ICANN Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. In promoting the Unique Identifier System, ICANN aims to “Foster competition, consumer choice, and innovation in the Internet space by increasing awareness and encouraging readiness for Universal Acceptance ...”.

Increasing UA readiness requires a considered global effort. ICANN has set up a UA Program to plan and undertake this work. The program works closely with the community to mobilize, support and coordinate the community efforts for UA. The community at ICANN has organized and formed the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) and is supported by the UA Program. UASG continues to analyze UA related gaps in current technology deployed globally, develops training materials to address the gaps, and actively conducts outreach and training activities to promote UA readiness. Further details of the work are available at <https://uasg.tech/>. The work on UA is specifically allowing for broader access for domain names and email addresses in local languages and scripts.

ICANN is supporting a global Universal Acceptance Day on 28 March 2023, and is currently calling for event proposals for the inaugural event, <https://uasg.tech/2023/01/uasg-and-icann-announce-inaugural-ua-day-and-call-for-proposals/>.

Cross-Community Working Group on Country/Territory Names

The Cross-Community Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs (<http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/ccwg-unct.htm>) was active between March 2014 and November 2017 to document the representations of country and territory names at the top-level of the DNS. The Working Group considered the historical treatment of two and three-character codes as TLDs. The recommendations were adopted into Work Track 5 of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process for the introduction of new generic TLDs. The Work Track 5 Final Report was incorporated (see Annex J) into the GNSO Final Report on the Subsequent Procedures Process published on 21 January 2021 (<https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/file/field-file-attach/final-report-newgtld-subsequent-procedures-pdp-20jan21-en.pdf>). The report preserves the existing reservation of all two-character letter-letter combinations at the top-level for existing and future country codes. The provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook for new gTLDs

were maintained with clarifications on long-form and short-form names listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard. Additional detail can be found in Annex J of the Final Report.

The next ICANN international public meeting will be a hybrid meeting in Cancún, México from 11-16 March 2023, <https://76.schedule.icann.org/>. In-person registration closes on 8 March 2023, while virtual registration remains available through 16 March 2023. Sessions will be freely available and streamed on the ICANN meeting website.

The ICANN 77 Policy Forum will be held in Washington, DC from 12-15 June 2023, and the ICANN 78 Annual General Meeting will be in Hamburg, Germany from 21-26 October 2023.