



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/17363 Geneva, 12 June 2026

Mr. Kurt Erik Lindqvist
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and
Numbers (ICANN)

E-mail: Contact Redacted

Subject: Strategic Partnership between ITU BDT and ICANN

Dear Mr. Lindqvist,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 5 June 2026 and the enclosed Draft Concept Note regarding the establishment of a strategic partnership between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It was equally a pleasure connecting with you earlier this year at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

The ITU deeply values our long-standing relationship with ICANN and shares your commitment to fostering a truly multilingual Internet through the implementation of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and the Universal Acceptance (UA) of all valid domain names and email addresses.

We agree that this effort directly aligns with the Baku Action Plan adopted during the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) and supports for advancing universal and meaningful connectivity. It also advances several of our core mandates, including WTDC Resolution 82 (Kigali, 2022), and ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 133 (Bucharest, 2022), which underscore the necessity of promoting IDNs and overcoming linguistic barriers to create an inclusive information society.

We have reviewed your Concept Note and welcome the proposed objectives to increase global awareness, build capacity, and develop indicators to assess progress on IDN implementation and UA adoption. While we recognize the milestone achievement of having more than 150 top-level domains available in 37 languages, universal acceptance across devices, software, and applications remains a primary challenge. With recent studies showing that merely 26.3% of deployed email servers accept local language addresses, we agree that collaborative action is essential.

To move this partnership forward and to further discuss the proposed activities, I have assigned Ms. Sofie Maddens - Chief, Digital Knowledge Society Department Contact Redacted to serve as the focal point for the BDT. She will be in contact with Mr. Janis Karklins, Head of Government and IGO Engagement, to initiate these important discussions.

I look forward to continuing our partnership and bringing our teams together to support linguistic and cultural diversity in the digital space.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava'.

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director