
Public Comment Summary Report

Recommendations for the (de-)selection of IDNccTLDs and related variants

Open for Submissions Date:

Tuesday, 08 October 2024

Closed for Submissions Date:

Friday, 22 November 2024

Summary Report Due Date:

Friday, 06 December 2024

Category: Policy

Requester: ICANN org

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Open Proceeding Link: <https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/recommendations-for-the-de-selection-of-idncclds-and-related-variants-08-10-2024>

Outcome:

- ⦿ In total two (2) submission were received: one from AFRALO and the other from the Pan African Youth Ambassadors for Internet Governance
- ⦿ This Public Comment summary report includes ICANN org staff summary of the comments and observations on the topic in relation to the recommended policy and earlier comments received and responses.
- ⦿ All comments that were received, along with this summary, will be transmitted to the ICANN Board for its consideration.

Section 1: What We Received Input On

ICANN org sought comments and input on the ccNSO policy recommendations regarding the (de-)selection and validation of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) country code Top Level Domains (IDNccTLDs), including the (de-)selection and management of variants of the IDNccTLD. The proposed policy is intended to replace the IDNccTLD Fast Track process.

Section 2: Submissions

Organizations and Groups:

Name	Submitted by	Initials
Pan African Youth Ambassadors for Internet Governance	Abraham Selby	AS
AFRALO	Felix Opilli	FO

Section 3: Summary of Submissions

AS: The recommended policy for the (de-)selection of IDNccTLDs and related variants is a critical step in ensuring linguistic diversity and equitable representation in the Domain Name System. The framework's focus on clear criteria for (de-)selection promotes transparency and inclusivity, while addressing technical stability and policy coherence.

The framework is vital for empowering communities to access the internet in their native scripts, fostering global internet inclusivity, and safeguarding against operational risks associated with variant management.

FO: the IDN ccPDP presents a forward-thinking approach to addressing the digital representation of territories in non-ASCII scripts. By reinforcing inclusivity, DNS stability, and collaboration, this policy can support both technical integrity and the evolving needs of global digital communities. Some suggestions are made relating to additional clarity on “designated” language, ensure stakeholder engagement in implementation and documentation.

Section 4: Analysis of Submissions

The general support for the recommended by both AS and FO policy is welcomed.

As to the specific points raised the following:

- FO's recommends that documentation on the legal or administrative status of a language in a given territory is essential to ensure transparent decision-making and avoid disputes over territorial representation. – The recommended policy includes a requirement that a national linguistic authority assert that the language is used in official communications by the relevant public authority or serves as a language of administration. The policy also requires that the use of the language as such is properly documented. As demonstrated under the Fast Track process, this mechanism provides a sound basis for ensuring that this requirement is met.
- FO's suggests that the implementation of this policy should involve extensive stakeholder collaboration. - As FO states, the implementation of the IDN Fast Track Process demonstrated that engaging government, civil society, and technical communities ensures a broader, more effective adoption of new ccTLDs. – As noted in the Report that was subject to the Public Comment, the recommended IDNccTLD (de-selection) policy builds on the foundation of the IDN Fast Track Process and incorporates extensive stakeholder collaboration in the first

phases of selecting IDNccTLD string(s) and/or related variants. Staff recommends not including any additional mechanisms.

- FO's suggests adding interim reporting mechanisms to identify and address any challenges during the early stages of implementation. – As noted, the core of the recommended policy is based on the Fast Track Process, which has been regularly reviewed and operational since November 2009. It is also noted that in addition to the regular review every 5 years after implementation, the recommended policy suggests an earlier review could be warranted, if extraordinary circumstances would suggest such a review. Therefore, it is suggested that no further review or reporting mechanisms be introduced beyond those recommended in the policy.
- FO recommends providing clear supporting documentation and accessible training for ccTLD managers to ensure a smooth transition and adherence to new guidelines. – Although training, documentation, and other methods to assist IDNccTLD requestors and other stakeholders are considered a matter of implementation and beyond the scope of a ccNSO-developed policy, the ccNSO has advised ICANN to assist potential IDNccTLDs requestors and other stakeholders.

Section 5: Next Steps

The full text of the comments received, along with this summary, will be transmitted to the ICANN Board for its consideration.