
Public Comment Summary Report

Phase 2 Final Report on the EPDP-IDNs for ICANN Board Consideration

Open for Submissions Date:

Monday, 23 December 2024

Closed for Submissions Date:

Monday, 03 February 2025

Summary Report Due Date:

Tuesday, 18 February 2025

Category: Policy

Requester: ICANN Board

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Open Proceeding Link: <https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/phase-2-final-report-on-the-epdp-idns-for-icann-board-consideration-23-12-2024>

Outcome:

Under the ICANN Bylaws, before any action by the ICANN Board of Directors (hereafter “ICANN Board”) on proposed policies that substantially affect the operation of the Internet or third parties, it is required that a reasonable opportunity is provided for the community to comment on these policies. The Bylaws also obligate the ICANN Board to consider any timely advice that may be duly submitted by the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) as part of the ICANN Board’s decision-making.

For the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council-approved Phase 2 Final Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) (hereafter “EPDP-IDNs”) that included twenty Outputs (fourteen [14] policy recommendations and six [6] implementation guidance), the ICANN Board allowed for the community to provide relevant feedback during the Public Comment period. The Public Comment proceeding was open from 23 December 2024 to 03 February 2025. The ICANN Board received a total of three (3) submissions from groups and individuals, all supporting the Final Report as drafted and recommending the ICANN Board to adopt all recommendations.

ICANN would like to thank the community for its valuable input. This process will assist the ICANN Board in their decision-making process.

Section 1: What We Received Input On

Following the GNSO Council’s approval on all twenty (20) Outputs, the ICANN Board sought the community’s input on the Phase 2 policy recommendations documented in the Final Report, covering issues pertaining to second-level variant management. There were fourteen (14) policy recommendations focusing on the following topics:

- “Same entity” at the second level and IDN Table harmonization
- Adjustments in registry agreement, registry service, registry transition process, and other processes/procedures related to the domain name lifecycle
- Adjustments in registration dispute-resolution procedures and trademark protection mechanisms
- Process to update the IDN Implementation Guidelines

A total of three (3) Public Comments were submitted from the community. They will be transmitted to the ICANN Board for consideration as it reviews the recommendations prior to Board action.

Section 2: Submissions

Organizations and Groups:		
Name	Submitted by	Initials
Registrar Stakeholder Group	Sarah Wyld	RrSG
Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registries Stakeholder Group	RySG	RySG

Individuals:		
Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Initials
Felix Opilli	AFRALO	

Section 3: Summary of Submissions

The ICANN Board received a total of three (3) submissions through the Public Comment proceeding on Phase 2 EPDP-IDNs Final Report. All comments fully supported the Final Report as drafted and recommended the ICANN Board to adopt all policy recommendations, affirming that they are in the best interest of the ICANN community and align with ICANN’s mission to ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet.

Section 4: Analysis of Submissions

All comments provided during the Public Comment proceeding were supportive and/or non-actionable at this stage. One commenter acknowledged that the EPDP-IDNs Working Group (WG) thoroughly reviewed the Public Comment submissions concerning the Phase 2 Initial Report and incorporated numerous suggestions, where necessary, to the preliminary

recommendations. Another considered the recommendations to be well-balanced, taking into account the needs of various stakeholders as well as the security and stability of the Domain Name System.

Both commenters above stressed the importance of a realistic and practical implementation process, seeking further guidance and caution from the EPDP-IDNs WG, especially related to topics such as an appropriate response to domain name query, harmonization of IDN Tables, limiting automatic activation of variant domain names, and IDN Implementation Guidelines. However, the EPDP-IDNs WG states in the Final Report that the specific details and mechanism for these issues will not be prescribed at this time and will be left to the discretion of the stakeholders involved (i.e., gTLD registry operators, registrars, etc., during the implementation stage and/or in accordance with their policies).

Finally, one submission requested that ICANN org conduct extensive education and outreach efforts to help stakeholders understand the implications of the “same entity” principle and the variant domain name management. Webinars, FAQs, and multilingual resources were among some of those efforts suggested.

The ICANN Board will carefully consider all submissions on all recommendations during its Public Comment review process.

Section 5: Next Steps

The ICANN Board will review all the Public Comments received for the EPDP-IDNs Phase 2 Final Report. Taking them all into account, the ICANN Board will decide on the Phase 2 Final Recommendations. As part of the decision, the ICANN Board will give direction to ICANN staff on the necessary next steps.