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STATUS: Ratified

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on Additional Reference Label Generation Rules and Related Updates

Preamble

On 12 May 2026, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the Additional Reference Label Generation Rules and Related Updates. An At-Large workspace was created in preparation for this Public Comment submission. The At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group reviewed the Additional Reference Label Generation Rules and Related Updates and decided it would be in the interest of end user communities to develop and submit an ALAC Public Comment Statement.

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Ratification Record

On 12 May 2026, the Public Comment proceeding opened for the Additional Reference Label Generation Rules and Related Updates. On 27 May 2026, the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) discussed the comments for an ALAC statement. The CPWG decided it would be in the interest of end user communities to develop and submit an ALAC statement for this Public Comment proceeding. Nkoro Essang Nkoro, Satish Babu, and Tinuade Oguntuyi volunteered to draft the initial ALAC statement for CPWG consideration and ALAC endorsement.

On 27 May 2026, a draft statement was shared with the CPWG for review and input. This draft statement was discussed on 27 May 2026 and again on 9 June 2026. On 11 June 2026, the draft ALAC statement was finalized. The ALAC Chair, Jonathan Zuck, requested that the statement be ratified by the ALAC before submission to the ICANN Public Comment feature.

On 22 June 2026, staff confirmed the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with 12 out of 15 votes in favor. 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. Please note 80% of ALAC members participated in the poll. The ALAC members who participated in the poll are (alphabetical order by first name): Adebunmi Akinbo, Aziz Hilali, Claire Craig, Eunice Alejandra Perez Coello, Emilia Zalewska-Czajczynska, Jonathan Zuck, Judith Hellerstein, Justine Chew, Natalie Tercova, Pari Esfandiari, Raihanath Gbadamassi, Satish Babu]. You may view the results here:

The ALAC has been asked to vote on the Additional Reference Label Generation Rules and Related Updates			
Total Voters:15			
Choice 🗳️	View Raw Votes 🗳️	Votes	Percentage 🗳️
Yes		12	100.00%
No		0	0.00%
Abstain		0	0.00%

ALAC and At-Large Community Comments

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the At-Large community appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Additional Reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs) and Related Updates. Although we do not generally respond to LGR-related topics given their language specificity, we have considered it important to respond in this instance for specific reasons outlined below.

The LGRs in this batch are not just routine additions: they have a bearing on whether specific linguistic communities—which At-Large may be interested in—can register domain names in their own scripts at the second level. The timing of this public comment is also interesting: as the DNS is currently in the 2026 Round, having robust second-level LGRs in place for these scripts is a necessary downstream complement to the top-level policy. It ensures that end users in these communities will be able to register meaningful domain names beneath whatever new TLDs emerge. Without corresponding second-level IDN support, gains at the top-level level may remain largely symbolic for many users.

What is interesting for At-Large is that for many of these communities – Indigenous people, regional language speakers, and minority writing system users – the gap between a technical milestone being reached and that milestone actually benefiting users on the ground, could potentially be wide. ICANN's outreach responsibility is therefore as urgent as the technical work itself. Given this, ALAC considers that the timing and impact of these LGRs justify a response from the At-Large community.

Script-specific points

- **Javanese Script (new):** Opens second-level domain name registration for the large group of Javanese-speaking Internet users¹ in Indonesia and the diaspora – a major regional script previously absent from the LGR framework. This development is therefore welcome and should be supported by ICANN outreach and registry implementation.
- **Unified Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics/UCAS (new):** Enables IDN access for Indigenous peoples of Canada including Cree, Ojibwe, and Inuktitut-speaking communities. Affected communities should be actively notified, as awareness of technical developments does not automatically reach marginalized groups. While supporting this development, ALAC calls for outreach efforts to these communities to communicate it.
- **Pegon (Indonesian) characters added to Arabic Script (community change request):** This is a welcome example of the LGR process working as intended. There are opportunities for both end-user communities and language/script communities to build awareness of this development.
- **Algonquian characters added to Latin Script (community change request):** Affirms the same point – the multistakeholder model working as intended for an underserved Indigenous language family of North America.

Suggested action items

ALAC recognises that while some of the following action items may fall outside the remit of the ICANN IDN Program team, and may require engagement with the ICANN Board or Org, we nevertheless flag them here as matters that ICANN as a community needs to address.

- **Targeted outreach to affected communities:** ICANN should proactively communicate the finalization of these LGRs – in relevant local languages – to Javanese-speaking communities in Indonesia, Indigenous communities in Canada using UCAS, Pegon users in Java and across Indonesia, and Algonquian-speaking communities in North America. Publication in English on the ICANN website is insufficient.
- **Coordination with registry operators:** ICANN should ensure that registry operators of relevant TLDs – particularly ccTLD operators such as CIRA (Canada) and PANDI (Indonesia) – are aware of these new and updated LGRs and encouraged to incorporate them into their second-level IDN offerings for the benefit of end users.
- **Enhancing Visibility:** ICANN should publish clear, accessible guidance – in multiple languages – explaining how linguistic communities can request additions or changes to existing LGRs. The Pegon and Algonquian additions demonstrate this process works; more communities should know about the existence of this possibility.
- **Follow-up reporting:** ICANN should report back to the community – including ALAC/At-Large – on what outreach steps were taken following finalization of these LGRs, and whether uptake by the intended communities has been observed.

¹ While the number of Javanese speakers is estimated to be about 70-80 million, the users of the Javanese script is much less, as the Latin script is used by default. However, support for the script in the DNS helps preserve the spaces for this script

- **Role for At-Large:** The At-Large community may have a role, directly or through its ALSes and community, in some of the steps proposed above.

End-user impact

These additional LGRs matter for end users both directly and indirectly. For Javanese-script users, Canadian Indigenous communities, Pegon and Algonquian users, they enable domain name registration in their own scripts, supporting the preservation of linguistic, cultural and literary heritage. More broadly, the additional LGRs demonstrate a pathway through which previously excluded scripts can be brought into the DNS, and show that LGRs are not merely technical accomplishments, but instruments of tangible value to the end-user communities they serve.

Conclusion

In summary, ALAC and At-Large support the development and finalization of these new and updated Reference LGRs, noting that it has happened during the 2026 Round of new gTLDs. ALAC and At-Large call upon ICANN to treat proactive outreach, registry coordination, and long-term visibility of the LGR change-request process as integral components of the implementation phase.