

25 May 2021

## **Call for Volunteers: GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)**

Manal Ismail  
Chair, GAC

Dear Manal,

The GNSO Council has [initiated](#) an expedited policy development process (EPDP) on the Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and subsequently adopted the related EPDP Team [Charter](#) during its 20 May 2021 meeting.

This EPDP is expected to provide the GNSO Council with policy recommendations on:

- i) the definition of all gTLDs and the management of variant labels to facilitate the delegation of variant gTLDs in the root zone while achieving the security and usability goal of variant labels in a stable manner; and
- ii) how the IDN Implementation Guidelines, which Contracted Parties are required to comply with, should be updated in the future.

Taking into consideration the scope of this EPDP and drawing on a number of [PDP 3.0 Improvements](#) incorporated in the Charter, the GNSO Council has decided to follow a “Representative + Open” model for this EPDP Team, consisting of Members, Participants, and Observers. This model is designed to enable the EPDP Team to conduct its work in an efficient manner while creating additional opportunities for broader community participation.

Based on the complexity of the subject matter, we anticipate that only a limited number of ICANN community members will have the prerequisite knowledge, background, or expertise. As a result, a limited number of Members appointed by specified community groups, who must collectively possess a level of expertise as detailed in the “Membership Criteria” section in the Charter, should drive the deliberations of the EPDP Team and participate in the consensus designation process for final recommendations.

Nevertheless, as the IDN topic is of interest to the broader ICANN community and impacts various stakeholders, the EPDP Team welcomes anyone to join as a Participant, who can attend and actively participate in all EPDP Team meetings, with the exception of the consensus designation process. Participants are encouraged to possess similar levels of expertise as Members and continuously engage in the EPDP deliberation throughout its lifecycle in order to effectively participate and contribute input.

With that context, the GNSO Council invites the GAC to participate in this expedited policy development process. To ensure timely commencement of the EPDP, **we ask that you identify**

**up to 3 Members to join this EPDP Team no later than Monday, 28 June 2021.** While you may appoint up to 3 Members, you may choose to appoint fewer.

We also request that you take into account the following membership criteria that the GNSO Council considers to be important for this EPDP:

Collectively as a group, Members **MUST** possess:

- Technical knowledge of IDNs, including but not limited to: IDN related SubPro PDP recommendations, RZ-LGR, IDN variant definition and management, IDN tables, IDN implementation guidelines, SSAC advices as they relate to IDNs, and other policy efforts listed in the [Annex B](#) of the GNSO Council IDN Scoping Team Final Report; direct experiences in ICANN's IDN policy efforts is strongly preferred;
- Technical, legal, and/or operational knowledge of ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs, including but not limited to: processes and procedures created for the 2012 New gTLD program, registration dispute resolution procedures and trademark protection mechanisms;
- Technical knowledge of registry/registrar services and domain name life cycle as they relate to IDNs;
- Familiarity with GNSO policy development processes; direct experience is strongly preferred;
- Commitment to participating in EPDP Team meetings on a regular and ongoing basis;
- Highly effective oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills (in simple, comprehensible English);
- Ability to create factual, relevant and easily understandable messages, and able to succinctly deliver them to the EPDP Team;
- Research skills with the ability to discern factual, factually relevant, and persuasive details and sources;
- Commitment to manage a diverse workload, while collaborating with a team of individuals with different backgrounds and interests in driving objectives;
- Knowledge of EPDP Team discussions, actions taken at meetings, and deliverables;
- Understanding of the perspectives and interests of the Members' own stakeholder group or constituency;
- Understanding of what consensus means and how consensus-building process works;
- Commitment to facilitate consensus by listening, explaining, mediating, proposing clear actions, and helping other Members;
- Commitment to avoid blocking consensus by looking beyond the stakeholder group or constituency affiliation of other EPDP Team Members and judging proposals/positions on their merits;
- Commitment to avoid re-litigating closed issues or deliberate obfuscation;
- Commitment to review the [Consensus Playbook](#) and attend potential training related to the Playbook, facilitate consensus building by employing the tools and techniques as detailed in the playbook;

- Maintain high personal levels of ethical conduct and integrity, including transparency of affiliation in the Statement of Interest (SOI), in treatment of others and respecting the professional reputation of all in the ICANN community.

All Members and Participants are required to commit from the outset of the work effort to a Statement of Participation as outlined in Annex A. In addition, all Members, Participants, and Liaisons must complete and maintain an up-to-date Statement of Interest on the GNSO wiki.

The composition of the EPDP Team is included in the Charter and outlined below. Note that some groups may choose not to appoint any members to the EPDP Team. The table below indicates the maximum number of Members that groups may appoint.

Group	Member (up to)	Liaison
RySG	3	
RrSG	3	
IPC	3	
BC	3	
ISPCP	3	
NCSG	3	
ccNSO	3	1*
ALAC	3	
GAC	3	
SSAC	3	
RSSAC	3	
GNSO Council		1
ICANN Org GDS		At least 1

*\*ccNSO has the option to appoint its liaison also as one of its Member(s) who represent the ccNSO in this EPDP Team.*

While the ICANN community groups are specifically asked to appoint members to the EPDP Team in this request, we have included a fuller description and explanation of the different roles in the EPDP Team for your information:

- **Members:** Members are expected to participate during the course of deliberations and in any EPDP Team consensus calls. Members are expected to represent the view of their appointing organization, and may be called on to provide the official position of their appointing organization. Members are required to have a level of expertise in IDN issues, ICANN policies and procedures as they relate to IDNs, and registry/registrar services and the domain name life cycle. See “Membership Criteria” section of the Charter for more details.

In the event a GNSO SG/C or SO/AC is unable to nominate a member, at least one Participant should be responsible for keeping their respective group informed of milestones and potential recommendations that may affect the group.

- **Participants:** Participants may be from a GNSO SG/C or SO/AC, or may be self-appointed and derive from within the ICANN or broader community. Participants will be able to actively participate in and attend all EPDP Team meetings. Participants are encouraged to participate in the EPDP deliberations throughout its lifecycle and are expected to keep up with all relevant EPDP deliberations to ensure they remain informed and can contribute when needed. However, Participants do not participate in the consensus designation process.

Participants are encouraged to possess similar levels of expertise as Members with respect to IDN issues, ICANN policies and procedures, and registry/registrar services in order to contribute to the deliberations effectively.

No upper limit of participants are expected to be set at the chartering phase. However, the EPDP Team leadership may decide, in consultation with the EPDP Team, whether new Participants can be accepted after the start of the EPDP effort. See details in the “B. Joining of New Members After Project Launch” in the charter.

- **Observers:** Anyone interested in this EPDP may join as an observer. Observers are provided with read-only access to the mailing list and are not invited to attend meetings.
- **GNSO Council Liaison:** The GNSO Council shall appoint one (1) Liaison who is accountable to the GNSO. The GNSO Council Liaison must be a member of the Council, and the Council recommends that the Liaison should be a Council member and be able to serve during the life of this EPDP. See detailed description in the “GNSO Council Liaison” section in the charter.
- **ccNSO Liaison:** The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) shall appoint one (1) Liaison to monitor the deliberation of this EPDP. This is to fulfill ICANN Board’s request that the GNSO coordinates with the ccNSO to ensure a consistent solution is developed for IDN variant TLDs and IDN variant ccTLDs. ccNSO has the option to appoint

its Liaison also as its Member who represents the ccNSO in this EPDP Team. Any person from the ccNSO may participate as a Participant in the EPDP.

- **ICANN Org Liaison(s):** The ICANN Org Global Domains & Strategy (GDS) department shall appoint at least one (1) Liaison, who is expected to provide timely input on issues that may require ICANN Org input such as implementation-related queries and issues requiring subject matter expertise in IDNs. The ICANN Staff Liaison(s) is not expected to advocate for any position and/or participate in any EPDP Team consensus calls.

To confirm your membership, please inform the GNSO Secretariat at [gnso-secs@icann.org](mailto:gnso-secs@icann.org). If you have any concerns about confirming your EPDP Team Members by 28 June 2021, please email [gnso-secs@icann.org](mailto:gnso-secs@icann.org).

Anyone in your group interested in joining the EPDP Team as a participant or an observer should directly contact the GNSO Secretariat at [gnso-secs@icann.org](mailto:gnso-secs@icann.org) to sign up.

On behalf of the GNSO Council

Philippe Fouquart, GNSO Chair  
Pam Little, GNSO Council Vice Chair  
Tatiana Tropina, GNSO Council Vice Chair

## Annex A - Statement of Participation

As a Member or Participant of the Internationalized Domain Names Expedited Policy Development Process Team:

- I agree to genuinely cooperate with fellow Members and Participants of the EPDP Team to deliberate the issues outlined in the Charter. Where there are areas of disagreement, I will commit to work with others to reach a compromise position to the extent that I am able to do so;
- I acknowledge the remit of the GNSO to develop consensus policies for generic top level domains. As such, I will abide by the recommended working methods and rules of engagement as outlined in the Charter, particularly as it relates to rules in [GNSO Working Group Guidelines](#);
- I will treat all Members/Participants of the EPDP Team with civility both face-to-face and online, and I will be respectful of their time and commitment to this effort. I will act in a reasonable, objective, and informed manner during my participation in this EPDP Team and will not disrupt the work of the Team in bad faith;
- I will make best efforts to regularly attend all scheduled meetings and send apologies in advance when I am unable to attend. I will take assignments allocated to me during the course of the EPDP seriously and complete these within the requested timeframe.
- I agree to act in accordance with [ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior](#), particularly as they relate to:
  - Acting in accordance with, and in the spirit of, ICANN's mission and core values as provided in [ICANN's Bylaws](#);
  - Listening to the views of all stakeholders and working to build consensus; and
  - Promoting ethical and responsible behavior;
- I agree to adhere to any applicable conflict of interest policies and the Statement of Interest (SOI) Policy within the [GNSO Operating Procedures](#), especially as it relates to the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of the initial completion and maintenance of my SOI; and
- I agree to adhere to the [ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy and Terms of Participation and Complaint Procedures](#).

As a Member of the IDNs EPDP Team:

- I understand reaching consensus does not mean that I am unable to fully represent the views of myself or the organization I represent. I will abide by the recommended working methods and rules of engagement as outlined in the Charter, particularly as it relates to designating consensus in [GNSO Working Group Guidelines](#).

I acknowledge and accept that this Statement of Participation, including ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior, is enforceable and any individual serving in a Chair role (such as Chair, Co-Chair, or Acting Chair or Acting Co-Chair) of the EPDP Team and GNSO Council Leadership Team have the authority to restrict my participation in the EPDP Team in the event of non-compliance with any of the above.