06 January 2022

RE: Reviewing IDN tables for the IDN ccTLDs for security and stability of IDN implementation

Alejandra Reynoso
Chair
Country Code Name Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Dear Alejandra:

The Board appreciates the policy development work the ccNSO is doing for supporting the Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), following the IDN country code top-level domain (ccTLD) Fast Track process. The Board IDN and UA Working Group (BIUWG) is following this work with interest and ensures that the Board is informed, as appropriate, on its progress.

As part of the existing IDN ccTLD Fast Track process, in keeping with ICANN's stability and security mission, each IDN ccTLD requester agrees to a basic set of terms and conditions, as part of submitting a request for an IDN ccTLD. These include commitments to operate in a stable and secure manner, including adherence to IDN-specific provisions noted below.

These provisions specify that IDNs are registered in accordance with a registration policy that complies on an ongoing basis with relevant applicable standards, such as the IDNs in Applications (IDNA) defined by Internet Engineering Task Force. In addition, the registrations also adhere to the IDN Guidelines as updated and published from time to time on the ICANN website. These are all subject to and within the limits of relevant applicable national law and public policy.

Currently applicable IDN Guidelines 3.0 ask a registry to develop and publish IDN tables in the IANA Repository for IDN Practices. As you know, an IDN table is a technical specification for determining valid domain name labels (and any variant labels) in a particular language or script for registration under any top-level domain. So, using well-designed IDN tables during the registration process contributes towards a secure and stable IDN implementation. For that reason the IDN Guidelines Working Group that also included members from the ccNSO, has recently proposed the updated IDN Guidelines 4.0 which include multiple guidelines related to the design and review of IDN tables, to be considered by the ICANN Board.

IDN tables are included in the applications for IDN ccTLDs as part of the Fast Track process. Due to the importance of the IDN tables, ccNSO's IDN policy development process working group is encouraged to consider if these IDN tables should also be reviewed for a secure

and stable design along with the applied-for string, as part of the evaluation for IDN ccTLD applications. This will benefit the secure and stable implementation of IDNs.

We thank the ccNSO for its consideration.

Sincerely,

Maarten Botterman
Chair
ICANN Board of Directors