Chairs draft Interim paper WG 1 of the IDN ccPDP

26 February 2010

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Chairs draft Interim Paper

Internationalised Domain Names country code name supporting organisation policy development process working group on Selection and Delegation of IDN ccTLDs (IDNccPDP WG 1).

PLEASE NOTE: This is a chairs draft paper for discussion. This document has not been signed-off by the Working Group whose members will continue to provide their own comments and input during this consultation period.

A. Introduction

The purpose of the IDN country code policy development process Working Group 1 (IDN ccPDP WG 1) is to report on and identify a feasible policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs associated with the territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 (IDN ccTLDs) within the framework of the IDN ccPDP.

The scope of the IDN ccPDP WG 1 is to focus on, without limitation, examination of the topics raised in the joint GAC-ccNSO Issues paper and comments received on that document. It shall also take into account the proposals and recommendations of the IDNC Working Group and the Fast Track Implementation Plan based on the work of the IDNC WG.

As this WG will undertake its activities within the framework of the IDN ccPDP, the limitations on the scope of a ccPDP, in particular by Article IX of and Annex C to the Bylaws, shall limit the scope of the WG's work accordingly.

If issues outside this scope become apparent to the WG, the Chair of the WG should inform the ccNSO Council of such an issue so that it can be taken into account and dealt with more appropriately.

B. Scope of the Interim Paper

The purpose of this paper is to report to the community on structure and potential directions of the recommendations for the overall policy.

Building on the Topic Paper, an initial draft for the proposed policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs (Draft Recommended Policy), and any documentation necessitated by the Draft Recommended Policy is presented for discussion. The proposed policy follows the Methodology for the Fast Track process as proposed by the IDNC Working Group and implemented under the Fast Track Process.

A number of general overarching principles have been developed which structure, guide and set conditions for the policy and its implementation. These principles are based on the substantive input received in the development of the Fast Track Methodology, the Fast Track process and takes into account the experience so far with the Fast Track process and other developments. The principles are presented in Section B. In Section C, the process for selection and evaluation of the IDN ccTLD

string is described. This includes but is not limited to the criteria for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings and the role and responsibilities of actors. In the following section (D) it is suggested to create an authoritative list over time.

At this stage we seek your comments and inputs on the following:

Is the proposed overall approach adequate? If not, what alternative do you propose?

Should process steps be added or excluded?

Should criteria be included, or excluded?

Should the criteria be changed?

To be most helpful please submit your comments before 2 April 2010

C. Overarching Principles

The purpose of the overarching principles is to set the parameters within which the policy recommendation should be developed, interpreted and implemented. They take into account the experiences of the IDN Fast Track Process and subsequent discussions. They have been developed to structure, guide and set conditions for the recommended policy.

a) **Association of the (IDN) country code Top Level Domain with a territory.** Under the current policy for the delegation of (ASCII) ccTLDs, only those territories listed on the ISO 3166-1 list are entitled to be delegated a ccTLD.
   The broad acceptance of the use of the ISO 3166-1 list suggests that the same link should be maintained as a first step to guide the introduction of IDN ccTLD strings.

b) **(ASCII) ccTLD and IDN ccTLDs are all country code Top Level Domains.** (ASCII) ccTLD and IDN ccTLDs are all country code Top Level Domains and as such are associated with a territory listed on the ISO 3166-1 list.
   Whilst there may be different specific additional provisions required due to the nature of IDN ccTLDs (for example criteria upon which the IDN ccTLD string in selected, adherence to the IDNA Protocols) all country code Top Levels Domains should be treated in the same manner other than in respect to those specific, additional provisions.

c) **Preserve security, stability and interoperability of the DNS.**To the extent different, additional rules are implemented for IDN ccTLDs these rules should:
   - Preserve and ensure the security and stability of the DNS;
   - Ensure adherence with the IDNA protocols and IDN guidelines;

d) **The purpose of introducing IDN ccTLDs.** The purpose of the introduction of IDN ccTLDs is to provide accessibility (at the top level of the domain name system) for those for whom ASCII script is inaccessible (for example linguistically or in practice).

e) **An IDN ccTLD is a (non ASCII) ccTLD .** ASCII ccTLDs are those ccTLDs where the script used contains the 26 letters listed in the US ASCII character set either in their basic forms or with combining marks.

IDN ccTLDs are those ccTLDs where the script used does not contain the 26 letters listed in the US ASCII character set either in their basic forms or with combining marks.

Thus in the context of this policy development process IDN ccTLDs are only considered in 'non-Latin scripts' being any script that does not contain the twenty-six letters listed in the US-ASCII character set (a-z), either in their basic forms or with combining marks.

f) **Ongoing Process.** Requests for the delegation of IDN ccTLDs should be an ongoing process and thus open to enter when ready. Currently the delegation of a ccTLD can be requested at any time, once all the criteria are met.

g) **The IDN ccTLD string should be non-contentious within the territory.** Delegation of an IDN ccTLD should only be possible where the IDN ccTLD string is non-contentious within the territory. This is evidenced by the support/endorsement of the relevant stakeholders in the territory for the string.

h) **Criteria determine the number of IDN ccTLDs .**The criteria to select the IDN ccTLD string should determine the number of eligible IDN ccTLDs per Territory, not an arbitrarily set number.

D. String Selection Process
Two stage selection process
Currently the country code used to designate the ccTLD string for a Territory is the two letter codes obtained from the ISO 3166-1 list and designating the Territory. As stated this mechanism cannot be used for the selection of IDN ccTLD strings. Based on the experiences in the Fast Track Process, a two stage process is recommended for the selection of an IDN ccTLD string for the Territory.

Stage 1: Preparing string selection in Territory
Stage 2: Evaluation of proposed string

1. Preparing string selection in Territory
This part of the process should ideally be performed by the local actors in Territory. Typically this would involve:
- The selected delegate. This actor initiates the process and provides the needed information and documentation
- The relevant public authority of the Territory associated with the selected IDN ccTLD,
- Parties served by the IDN ccTLD. They are asked to show that they support the request and that it meets the interests and needs of the local Internet community:

In cases where a delegate is not yet selected in the Territory the relevant public authority of the Territory may perform the role of the "selected delegate" until the Territory is ready to request delegation.

The actors in Territory should ideally:
a. Identify the script and language for the string and IDN table.
b. Select String .The selected string must meet the meaningfulness and technical requirements

c. Document endorsement /support by actors in Territory for identified script, language and selected string.
d. Prepare IDN table
e. Select intended IDN ccTLD manager

a. Eligibility

To be eligible the country, dependency or other area of particular geopolitical interest that is listed on the 'International Standard ISO 3166-1, Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions – Part 1: Country Codes', or, in some exceptional cases is listed on the reserved ISO 3166-1 code elements (hereafter referred to as: Territory or Territories).

b. Identify the script and language for the string and language table.

The criteria to identify the script and language are:

- The script in which the language is represented has to be non-Latin
- The language must be an 'official' language[1]

i. Non- Latin Scripts

In the context of this policy development process IDN country code strings are only considered in non-Latin scripts. ASCII country codes TLDs are selected, delegated, re-delegated and retired on the basis of the current practice for ccTLDs. Therefore the introduction of (additional) ccTLDs in (extended) ASCII, implies changing the current rules for the delegation ASCII ccTLDs.

ii. "Official language"

Official language criteria

For the purpose of the Fast Track, an 'official' language is one that has a legal status in the Territory or that serves as a language of administration (hereafter: Official Language).

This definition is based on: "Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names", United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names, United Nations, New York, 2002.

A language is demonstrated to be an Official Language:
1.   If the language is listed for the relevant Territory as an ISO 639 language in Part Three of the "Technical Reference Manual for the standardization of Geographical Names", United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (the UNGEGN Manual) (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/default.htm); or

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[1] The limitation to official language is recommended as criteria for reasons of stability of the DNS. According to some statistics currently 6909 living languages are identified. See for example: http://www.ethnologue.com/ethno_docs/distribution.asp?by=area. If one IDN ccTLD would be allowed per territory for every language this would potentially amount to 252*6909 or approximately 1.7 million IDN ccTLDs.

2. If the language is listed as an administrative language for the relevant Territory in ISO 3166-1 standard under column 9 or 10; or

3. If the relevant public authority in the Territory confirms that the language is used in official communications of the relevant public authority and serves as a language of administration.

iii. Specific circumstances
a. Two or more official language using one and the same script

b. One official language using two or more scripts
In some cases languages have established orthographies and conventions that require the commingled use of multiple scripts. However, even with this exception, visually confusable characters from different scripts will not be allowed to coexist in a single set of permissible code points unless a corresponding policy and IDN table are clearly defined.

c. Selection of the String

The selected string must meet the "association" and technical requirements

1. Visual Association of the IDN country code string and name of Territory
As stated, for (ASCII) ccTLDs, the two letter codes on the ISO 3166-1 list are the country code used to designate the ccTLD string for a Territory. The principle behind the selection and association of the two letter codes on the ISO 3166 with a Territory is a visual association between the name of the Territory (in English, French or sometimes in another language) and their corresponding code elements[2].

In order to maintain the visual association of the IDN country code string and the name of the Territory under the overall policy, it is recommended that the following criteria for visual association of the country code string and the name of the Territory shall be used.

A country code string has to be a meaningful representation of the name of the Territory in an official language of that Territory. A country code is considered meaningful if it is:
a)   The name of the Territory; or
b)   Part of the name of the Territory that denotes the Territory in the official language; or
c)   A short-form designation for the name of the Territory, recognizably denoting the name it in the official language.

Where the selected string is listed as the long form or short form name of the relevant Territory in of the UNGEGN Manual then the string should be considered to be meaningful. If the string is not so listed then meaningfulness will need to be documented by the selected delegate of the IDN ccTLD.

The selected string is considered to meet the criteria if:

1. The identified language is an Official language of the Territory in accordance with the definition above, and

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[2] Section 5.1 Relationship with Names, ISO 3166-1: 2006(E/F).

2. The selected string is the long or short form name of the relevant Territory in the identified language in the UNGEGN Manual, Part Three column 3 or 4

In all other cases additional documentation should be provided at the time the IDN ccTLD is requested.

Other cases include:

(i) the selected string is a part of the long or short form name of the Territory in the UNGEGN Manual in the selected language or

(ii) an acronym of that name or

(iii) the Territory or the language do not appear in the UNGEGN Manual.

It is recommended that at the time of the request adequate documentation is provided to authenticate the meaning of the selected string in the Official Language and that its meets the criteria. It is further recommended that the selected delegate submits a statement from an internationally recognised expert to authenticate the meaning of the selected string both in the Official Language and in English.

It is further recommended that the ICANN Board provides a list of suggested internationally recognised experts or expert entities

b. Technical requirements
To be usable in the DNS and to ensure the stability and security and interoperability of the DNS an IDN must meet the following technical requirements

i. General Technical criteria
A domain name consists of a series of "labels": (separated by "dots"). The ASCII form of an IDN label is termed an "A-label". All operations defined in the DNS protocols use A – labels exclusively. The Unicode form, which a user expects to be displayed, is called a "U-label". Please note the aforementioned description of "A" and "U-label" is used for introductionary purposes only. The normative descriptions of these terms are specified in the relevant IDNA documents.

General criteria for an IDN country code are the following:
The A-label (i.e., the label as transmitted on the wire) must be valid as specified in technical standards for Domain Names: Implementation and Specification (RFC 1035); and Clarifications to the DNS Specification (RFC 2181).
a. The TLD label must not be longer than 63 characters (A-label). This includes the prefix (the four initial characters "xn--").
b. Upper and lower case characters are considered to be syntactically and semantically identical.
c. The label must consist entirely of letters, digits and hyphens.

ii. Specific Technical Criteria

(PLACEHOLDER)

The following is contained in the Final Implementation Plan regarding specific technical criteria. These criteria may need to be completed and updated as a result of further discussion and experiences from the Panel of Experts reviewing the IDN ccTLD labels requested under the Fast Track process and to take into consideration the related descriptions and definitions in the relevant IDNA documents.

The label must:
• contain only Unicode code points that are defined as "Protocol Valid" and be accompanied by unambiguous contextual rules where necessary.
• be fully compliant with Normalization Form C, as described in Unicode Standard Annex #15: Unicode Normalization Forms. Examples appear in http://unicode.org/faq/normalization.html
• consist entirely of characters with the same directional property. This requirement may change as the IDNA protocol is being revised to allow for characters having no directional property (as defined at http://unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/extracted/DerivedBidiClass.txt) to be available along with either a right-to-left or a left-to-right directionality.
• not begin or end with a digit (in any script).
• meet the criteria of the current or any subsequent versions of the ICANN Guidelines for the Implementation of Internationalized Domain Names. This includes:
○All code points in a single string must be taken from the same script as determined by the Unicode Standard Annex #24: Unicode Script Property.

d. Prepare Documentation of endorsement /support by actors in Territory
It is proposed that with regard to the selection the script and of a string the involvement of the relevant actors in the Territory should be documented in a similar manner as is required for a delegation request, by the selected delegate.

It is also recommended that all relevant documentation will be provided at the time a ccTLD string is requested.

e. Prepare an IDN Table
An IDN table must be defined and submitted to IANA in accordance with the practices relating to the maintenance of that repository and requirements for an IDN table. An IDN Table is defined as a list of characters in a script available for registration in domain names according to the registration policy of the IDN ccTLD and contains any variant characters. Variant characters are defined as characters with two or more representations (that may appear confusingly similar to each other).

The IDN table may already exist i.e. has been prepared by another Territory using the same language/script and was already submitted. In this case it should be indicated at the time a request for an IDN ccTLD string is submitted that the existing and submitted IDN table shall be used.

If the same script is used in two or more territories, cooperation is encouraged to define an IDN Table for that script. ICANN is advised either directly or through relevant international organisation to facilitate these processes.

f. Specific requirements and conditions
1. Two or more official language using same script
(PLACEHOLDER)

In the event that there is more than one Official Language in the Territory, it may be possible for the Territory to use the Fast Track for the delegation of one IDN ccTLD in each of those languages.

2. One official language using two or more scripts
(PLACEHOLDER)
In some cases languages have established orthographies and conventions that require the commingled use of multiple scripts. However, even with this exception, visually confusable characters from different scripts will not be allowed to coexist in a single set of permissible code points unless a corresponding policy and IDN table are clearly defined.

3*. Variants*
{PLACEHOLDER}
Currently (February 2010) the delineation between the technical, policy and operational aspects of the variant issues is under discussion by the community. For that reason a proposal to deal with variants from a policy perspective is not included yet in this paper.

2. Evaluation

Basic Premises
The ICANN Board is responsible for the final decision to delegate a TLD. The overall policy sets out a series of criteria that must be met before a delegation is requested. This request and the subsequent general delegation process will ultimately lead to an approval of the delegation by the ICANN Board[3]. However, as it was considered not appropriate for IANA and now for ICANN to determine what is and what is not a country, it is not considered appropriate for the ICANN Board to be required to confirm that a selected string can be associated with a Territory.

Internationally recognised experts on Geographic Names.
In order to assist territories to provide information demonstrating that the string meets the meaningfulness criteria it is recommended that the ICANN Board provides a list of suggested internationally recognised experts, that could provide the territory with external and independent documentation on the meaning of selected string in the Official Language and an authenticated translation of the selected string in English.

Panel of Technical Experts
To provide external and independent advice that, based on the documentation provided, the selected string meets the technical criteria it is suggested that ICANN appoints an independent and external Panel of Technical Experts. If after a request for clarification the Panel of Experts still finds that the selected string does not meet one or more of the criteria, the request for the IDN ccTLD with that particular selected string is not eligible as IDN ccTLD identifier. The Panel should provide a public statement that the selected string meets the technical criteria.

For the purpose of assisting the selected delegate, where the Panel of Experts seeks clarification on some aspect of the string, the Panel of Experts should be able to provide access to a pool of recognised independent technical experts for advice.

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[3] See relevant IANA reports: http://www.iana.org/reports/

As suggested with regard to the meaningfulness criteria of the selected string it is recommended that adequate documentation is provided to authenticate the visual association of the selected string and the name of the Territory.

To validate that the technical requirements are met it is recommend that an external and independent "Panel of Experts" should be appointed to conduct a technical due diligence and provide a report whether the selected string meets the technical criteria.

a. Step 1. Submission of language table into IANA Repository

Unless the selected delegate indicates it intends to use an IDN table for the official language that is already in the IANA Repository, the IDN table must be submitted to IANA in accordance with the practices relating to the maintenance of the repository and requirements for an IDN tables.

b. Step 2. Provision information on script, Official Language and meaningfulness of selected string

Required documentation

Information required from the selected delegate regarding the selected IDN ccTLD:

- selected string in the selected language, script and its equivalent in English:

- selected string in the xn--- format; and

- UNICODE code points.

- Reference to the language and script used;

- the ASCII ccTLD string and name of Territory that the IDN-ccTLD is associated with;

- Variants considered to be "Desired"

- Reference to the IDN table to be used both for the TLD and for delegations under the TLD

Support Documentation
In the event a selected delegate submits the string it must have the support from the country or territory corresponding to the relevant ISO 3166-1 entry, and this support must be satisfactorily documented.

Support of relevant public authority. The documentation of support may be limited to evidence of support, or non-objection, from the relevant government or public authority. This is defined as a signed letter of support, or non-objection, from the Minister with the portfolio responsible for domain name administration, ICT, foreign affairs or Office of the Prime Minister or President; or a senior representative of the agency or department responsible for domain name administration, ICT, Foreign Affairs or the Office of the Prime Minister. The letter should clearly express the government or public authority's support, or non-objection, for the request.

In the event a delegate is not yet selected in the country or territory the relevant public authority of the country or territory may perform the role of the requester until the country or territory is ready to request to request the delegation, at which time the IDN ccTLD manager must be identified.

Community Support. The community support i.e. non-objection needs to documented and submitted. As is the case in delegation and re-delegation processes determining whether support is adequately documented differs by its nature for each Territory. In order to facilitate documentation ICANN is advised to clarify what documentation is considered adequate.

Confidentiality of string submission.
It is recommended that the information and support documentation is kept confidential by ICANN until it has been established the selected string meets all criteria. It should be kept in mind that only after the IDN ccTLD string has been validated, a delegation request can be submitted. Under the current practise for delegation, re-delegation and retirement all exchanges are kept confidential by ICANN.

c. Step 3. Due Diligence Panel of Experts
The selected string is considered to meet the technical criteria if the Panel of Experts establishes that the string meets the technical criteria as defined above.

If necessary the Panel of Experts can seek further clarification from the selected delegate.

d. Step 4. Publication result of validation
It is recommended that ICANN publishes the selected string in the identified language and in English and other relevant formats on its website as soon as the following documentation is available and has been verified:
- The IDN Table has been submitted
- Advice of the Panel of Experts and
- Relevant documentation with regard to meaningfulness of the selected identifier
- Appropriate documentation that the selected string is supported/endorsed by the relevant stakeholders in Territory.

With inclusion of the selected identifier in a publicly available list (see Section E), the selected delegate can request delegation of the IDN ccTLD string.

E. Creation of list over time
As noted above the ISO 3166-1 is not only relevant for the creation of a ccTLD. Once an entry is removed from the list of country names, the ccTLD entry in the root zone database will need to be removed to maintain parity between the ISO 3166 list and the root-zone file[4] (the ccTLD retirement process, which is outside the scope of this policy development process).

Experience has shown that entries on the ISO 3166-1 table change over time. Such a change can directly impact the eligibility for an IDN ccTLD. In order to record these changes, it is recommended that a table will be created over time of approved IDN ccTLDs, its variants and the name of the territory in the official language, both in the official and short form, in combination with the two-

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[4] See: http://www.iana.org/reports/2007/rs-yu-report-11sep2007.html

letter code and other relevant entries on the ISO 3166-1 list. The purpose of creating and maintaining such a table is to maintain a authoritative record of all relevant characteristics relating to the selected string and act appropriately if one of the relevant characteristics changes over time.

F. Transitional arrangement Fast Track IDN ccTLD
1. Closure of Fast Track Process. Upon adoption of the ICANN Board of the recommendations relating to selection of IDN ccTLDs and adjustment of the ccNSO.
2. Grandfathering of IDN ccTLDs delegated under the Fast Track Process if and to the extent the criteria under the recommendations cannot be met.
3. Upon adoption of recommendations IDN ccTLDs delegated under the Fast Track Process wi;l be treated the same as ccTLDs

G. Applicability of adopted policies to (IDN) ccTLDs
Assuming the ICANN Board of directors adopts the recommendations of the ccNSO, and assuming Article IX of the bylaws will not change in respect of the applicability of a ccNSO policy, such a policy only applies to IDN ccTLD managers if:
a. The IDN ccTLD manager has applied for membership of the ccNSO. By applying and becoming a member the IDN ccTLD manager agreed to abide by policies developed and recommended by the ccNSO and adopted by the Board (Article IX section 4.2);
b. The policy is within the scope of the ccPDP (As defined in Annex C of the Bylaws), developed through a ccPDP and has been recommended as such by the ccNSO, provided that the policy does not conflict with the law applicable to the IDN ccTLD manager, which shall at all times remain paramount.

Secondly, once adopted as policy an individual (IDN) ccTLD can exempt itself from a policy, if it provides a declaration to the ccNSO Council stating that (a) implementation of the policy would require the member to breach custom, religion, or public policy (not embodied in the applicable law), and (b) failure to implement the policy would not impair DNS operations or interoperability.

H. Review of policy
It is recommended that the policy will be reviewed within five years after adoption by the Board.

I. Process and references

To help clarify the issues related to the use of IDNs in the ccTLD space, the ICANN Board at its meeting on 8 December 2006 asked the ccNSO and the GAC to produce an issues paper relating to the introduction and selection of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes. (http://www.icann.org/minutes/resolutions-08dec06.htm#_Toc27198296)

At its meeting on 27 June 2007 the ccNSO Council adopted the IDN Issues Paper (http://www.ccnso.icann.org/announcements/announcement-09jul07.htm) as a ccNSO Issues Paper, and resolved to submit it to the ICANN Board in close cooperation with the GAC. The paper was submitted as a joint GAC ccNSO Issues Paper on Selection of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes.

At its meeting on 29 June 2007 the ICANN Board of Directors asked the ICANN community including the GNSO, ccNSO, GAC, and ALAC to respond to the published list of issues and questions that must be addressed to move forward with IDN TLDs associated with the territories referenced on the

ISO3166-1 list (IDN ccTLDs) in a manner that ensures the continued security and stability of the Internet. (www.icann.org/minutes/resolutions-29jun07.htm#l)

At the same meeting the ICANN Board asked the ICANN community, including the GNSO, ccNSO, GAC, and ALAC, to continue to work collaboratively, taking into consideration the technical limitations and requirements, to explore both an interim and an overall approach to IDN ccTLDs and recommend a course of action to the Board in a timely manner (www.icann.org/minutes/resolutions-29jun07.htm#l)

Following a ccNSO Council recommendation and broad support of the ICANN community,including the GAC, GNSO and ALAC, the ICANN Board requested at its meeting in Los Angeles, November 2007, that the chairs of the ALAC, ccNSO, GAC and GNSO to establish the IDNC Working Group and appoint members to this group. The Board further asked that, when established, the IDNC Working Group commence work, in accordance with its Charter (See: http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/idncwg.htm).

At the ICANN meeting in Paris (June 2008) the working group submitted its Final Report to the Board, including statements of the GAC and ccNSO on the proposed methodology. The Board also directed staff to commence work on implementation issues in consultation with relevant stakeholders; and submit implementation reports (version to date proposed final Implementation Plan, http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-30sep09-en.htm)

At its meeting on 2 October 2007, the ccNSO Council resolved to initiate the country code Policy Development Process (ccPDP) to develop policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs and asked ICANN to create an Issue Report, in accordance with Annex B section 1 of the ICANN Bylaws:

1. To determine whether Article IX of the ICANN by laws applies to IDN ccTLDs, and if not, whether Article IX should apply.

2. To recommend whether the ccNSO should launch a PDP to develop the policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs.

At it its meeting on 7 April 2009, the ccNSO Council resolved to initiate a ccNSO policy development process to recommend to the ICANN Board:
-    A policy on the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs and,
-    Changes to Article IX of the ICANN Bylaws to include IDN ccTLDs in the ccNSO.

ccNSO Policy Development Process
Under the Bylaws (Annex B) a PDP must proceed in predefined stages, some of which may involve a minimal period of time. The Issue Report and ccNSO Council decision to launch the IDN country code policy development process concluded the first stage.

The next stage, is to propose resolutions to the issues raised in the Issues Report. This stage will concluded with the submission of the Final report of the Issues Manager to the ccNSO Council. seek comment and input from stakeholders on the issues raised and possible alternative solutions, if any, to resolve the issues.

Taking into account the scope of issue(s) to be resolved and the cross cutting interests involved, and, secondly, the experiences gained with the IDNC Working Group in cross SO / AC cooperation, the

ccNSO Council resolved to establish and appoint two working groups under the IDN ccPDP to propose a feasible policy and changes to Article IX. The purpose of the first working group is to study and report on a feasible policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs. The purpose of the second working group (to be established after the first working group has published its interim paper) is to report on changes to Article IX of the ICANN bylaws necessitated by the policy recommendations by the first working group. The recommendations of the working group will be the substantial part of the Final Report.

The third stage starts with submission of the Final Report to the ccNSO Council and ccNSO members for a vote. If adopted by both the ccNSO Council and the ccNSO members the Recommendations will be submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors for adoption as an ccNSO policy.