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Governmental Advisory Committee Comments Regarding Phase 1 Initial Report on the GNSO Internationalized Domain Names EPDP

Introduction

The ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) welcomes the opportunity to provide brief comments regarding the Phase 1 Initial Report on the GNSO Internationalized Domain Names EPDP published on 24 April 2023 (see - <https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/phase-1-initial-report-on-the-internationalized-domain-names-epdp-24-04-2023>). Several GAC appointees have served on and observed the EPDP effort, and GAC members have reviewed the Initial Report. It is hoped that these brief comments may inform the GNSO's continuing efforts on this topic.¹

General Comments

The GAC enthusiastically supports the GNSO's development of policy recommendations that will eventually allow for the introduction of variant gTLDs at the top-level. These developments will, in themselves, serve to enhance a multilingual Internet.

GAC Members believe that the new gTLD program should create as many opportunities as possible for new scripts at the top level of the DNS – thereby providing substantial opportunities to address the needs of marginalized communities around the world.

¹ This comment was prepared by the Committee's leadership and is made on behalf of the entire GAC. It has been subjected to review of the GAC membership and is intended to complement, but not replace, any input that may be provided on this topic by individual governments.

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Additionally, the GAC supports an approach on the introduction of gTLD variants which takes account of the excellent work already taking place in the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (see e.g., <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/lgr-proposals-2015-12-01-en>, and <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/root-zone-lgr-2015-06-21-en>) and which can maximize the innovative use of gTLD variants, at an appropriate cost level.

Closing

The GAC is appreciative that it has had an opportunity to contribute to Phase 1 of this EPDP and intends to continue to engage on this important policy development effort which will also take part in Phase 2.

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