**Progress on JIG Final Report on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs**

**12 July, 2014**

The Joint ccNSO‐GNSO IDN Working Group (JIG) was created to discuss issues of common interest between the ccNSO and the GNSO on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), especially IDN TLDs. In Nov. 2013, JIG released [Final Report on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs](https://ccnso.icann.org/announcements/announcement-18nov13-en.htm) which contains the following recommendations for actions to be taken by ICANN and the ICANN community to address the issue of Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs in support of the implementation of IDN gTLDs and IDN ccTLDs.

1. Recommend IDN TLD operators (including IDN ccTLD, IDN gTLD and IDN gTLD Accredited Registrars) to support Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs in their own systems
2. Allocate specific resources for the advocacy of Universal Acceptance beyond the development of informational materials and toolkits
3. Development of informative reference materials for new IDN TLDs (including gTLD and ccTLD) to handle issues of Universal Acceptance
4. Direct efforts, lead by staff, with the participation from the community, for further studies to investigate the scope of the issue and what other services or actions could be taken by ICANN to support the Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs beyond outreach and awareness campaigns

ICANN has responded by starting the Universal Acceptance initiative to address technical acceptance issues with the use of domain names and related Internet Identifiers. On 18th July, 2014 the proposed draft road map for the [Universal Acceptance initiative](https://www.icann.org/public-comments/tld-acceptance-initiative-2014-06-18-en) has been published for public feedback. This abridged road map, an outcome of the JIG Final Report on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs and other work, presents a proposal, based on community input to date, as to how ICANN's energy, resources, and actions should be applied as part of the initiative. The road map has a broader scope across all TLDs, including the IDN TLDs.

The abridged road map emphasizes ICANN's multi-stakeholder model by limiting its scope to ICANN's role and possible actions. Identifying and addressing the issues and obstacles require work and collaboration among many stakeholder groups who have documented their activity independently. ICANN views its primary role as one of active coordination and facilitation, acting as a catalyst in connecting relevant stakeholders with each other and with parties who are in a position to remove these obstacles. The vision includes implementing a 'corporate memory' as a central information depository of progress.

As the draft road map is currently open for community feedback, the final scope of work through this initiative will be available after the comment period. The proposed work addresses the JIG recommendations as per the following details:

**Recommendation A:** The road map notes that “ICANN will have one of its focuses on the domain name registration ecosystem to ensure that it, as an enabling sector, has adopted universal acceptance. This is a natural starting point, not only as an enabling sector but one where ICANN has existing relationships.” This focus will include all the stakeholders identified in this JIG recommendation.

**Recommendation B:** The road map identifies ICANN’s role to be much broader than developing informational materials, focusing on creating a sense of urgency around the issue of Universal Acceptance, fostering collaborations, providing a platform to exchange ideas, building institutional memory and raising awareness among the stakeholders.

**Recommendation C:** The initiative aims produce materials to raise awareness and perform outreach. More detailed and informative reference materials may also be produced, where there is clear community need, as identified through public comments and through continued community engagement.

**Recommendation D:** Staff is already engaging with the community to determine the needs and to define more concrete steps to address them. There have been discussions with APTLD members and CENTR members in this context, in addition to the community interactions at ICANN meetings in Singapore and London. As discussed, a draft road map has been posted for getting community feedback to guide further work in this area.

In summary, ICANN has taken concrete steps in developing the Universal Acceptance initiative, dedicating staff and resources to this area. An initial definition of scope of work has been developed, based on JIG report and interactions with the larger community, and posted for public comments. Based on comments, the scope of work will be finalized and detailed plans will be developed for further implementation.