

7 May 2018

**Subject: Final Draft of IDN Implementation Guidelines Version 4.0**

Sarmad Hussain

Director, IDN Programs, ICANN

Dear Sarmad,

Please find attached the Final Draft of IDN Implementation Guidelines Version 4.0, updated by the IDN Guidelines Working Group (IDNGWG), which was formed for this purpose following the [call for community experts](#) by ICANN org in 2015.

The IDNGWG has developed these guidelines with an open process, where all its emails and calls are publicly available through its [wiki page](#). The WG has also interacted with the community to gather public feedback and has incorporated it in finalizing these guidelines, with the following details:

1. [Initial issues list](#) presented at [ICANN 55](#)
2. [Interim draft](#) presented at [ICANN 57](#)
3. [Complete draft](#) for [Public Comment](#) released in March 2017
4. Complete draft for Public Comment presented at [ICANN 58](#)
5. [Final draft](#) for [Second Public Comment](#) released in December 2017
6. Final draft for Second Public Comment presented at [ICANN 60](#)

Through public comments, the IDNGWG has also received comments which the WG considers significant, but have not been incorporated in the core guidelines document for various reasons. These are being passed on to the ICANN org for taking appropriate follow-up action as these guidelines are considered for further implementation. The points are as follows:

1. During the first public comment, NIC Chile [asked](#) if the guidelines should recommend any restrictions “for records that are not-authoritative”. IDNGWG, after [consultation with SSAC](#), agreed that dealing with such records is not in the scope of these guidelines. However, the IDNGWG would like to pass this comment on to ICANN org to determine if any follow up work is needed.
2. During the second public comment, EURID suggested to contribute to any consortium or work on IDNs by the community. The IDNGWG considers that, though there is no need for a standing community group, it is useful for the community to organize itself on need basis. Therefore, IDNGWG would like to request ICANN org to stand ready to support any such initiatives by the community.
3. Based on input from the community, specifically gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG), the IDNGWG appreciates that some of the guidelines may require significant implementation effort. Therefore, the IDNGWG has accepted the feedback from RySG and recommends ICANN org to provide an eighteen-month transitional period before enforcement of Guidelines 6a, 11, 12, 13, 18 and 19. However, in the meantime, the IDNGWG strongly encourages as early an adoption of these guidelines as possible by the registries offering IDNs, due to the importance of these guidelines. Remaining guidelines should take effect as per the regular schedule.

Based on the knowledge gained by the community over past few years, the IDNGWG believes that the updated guidelines will help contribute towards the secure use of IDNs by reducing consumer confusion.

Regards,

Edmon Chung and Mats Dufberg, co-chairs

On behalf of the IDNGWG