Universal Acceptance

UASG 2021 Election – Statement of Interest and Bio Dessalegn Mequanint Yehuala

Affiliation and Current Position: Addis Ababa University Department of Computer Science, Lecturer and Independent Researcher in Computer Science.

Past and Present Engagements in IDN/UA as well as other ICANN communities:

- Served as Vice Chair of the Universal Acceptance Technology Working Group for one term;
- Chair of the Ethiopic Script Generation Panel;
- I was a member of the Technical Utilization of Root Zone LGR Study Group;
- A member of the Root Server Systems Advisory Committee (RSSAC) caucus;
- A member of the NextGen@ICANN program mentoring committee representing RSSAC;
- A member of the then GNSO- New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Work Track 5 (policy recommendations on geo TLD) Sub team;
- I was a member of the Africa ICANN 2025 strategies drafting team;
- Involved in global initiatives (member of Mozilla's Building Trustworthy AI working group) that target algorithmic transparency of AI and machine learning systems.

Motivation:
Having led a generation panel to produce the LGR rule for Ethiopic script to make eight local languages which use Ethiopic script in their writing system part of the IDNS, being involved and contributing in IDN and UA initiatives of various scales, and as software engineer as well as educator in Computer Science, I am highly keen to deepen my involvement and contribute in IDN or UA and IDN driven initiatives.

I am IDN, Data and DNS enthusiast. Currently, I work for the Computer Science Department of the Addis Ababa University as Lecturer and Researcher. I have extensive experience in Information Technology as practitioner, educator and researcher. Over the years, I have been recipients of several fellowship of the three separate but complementary standard and regulatory premiers in the Internet governance sphere (IETF, IEEE and ICANN).

I have worked as Developer, Systems Analyst, End-Users Computing Supervisor, Datacenter Operation Supervisor (well versed in administering high end computing boxes running UNIX and WINDOWS operating systems and housing Oracle and MS-SQL DBMSs).

I was involved in the annual Global Surveys of the Open Data Barometer of the World Wide Web foundation as Countries Lead Researcher and Reviewer for three years.

I was the chair of the Ethiopic Script Generation Panel tasked on the development of a Label Generation Rules for Ethiopic Script for the Root Zone enabling eight local languages that use Ethiopic script in their writing systems added into the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) space.

I have led the Generation Panel with vigor and high level of commitment towards making the Ethiopic script part of the IDN space. I have a thorough understanding of what Internationalization of the Internet and improving the multi-lingual capacity of the Web would take. I have also thorough understandings of the key challenges of adopting new TLDs and IDN top-level domains in applications and services and its impact on user experience along with the viable mitigating circumstances.

I have firsthand experience with RFCs authored to address pertinent issues on IDN- including code point as well as label variants.

For more info. about me: https://www.linkedin.com/in/dessalegn-mequanint-a279277/