



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

30 April 2013

Heather Dryden
GAC Chairperson

Dear Ms. Heather Dryden:

As you may be aware, at its meeting on 11 April 2013, the ICANN Board [requested](#) interested Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees to provide any input and guidance they may have to be factored into implementation of the Recommendations from the [Report on User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs](#) by 1 July 2013. This report was developed as part of the IDN Variant TLD program, an ICANN program focused on working with subject matter experts in the community to develop solutions to enable a secure and stable delegation of IDN variant TLDs. Prior to the ICANN meeting in Beijing, work on two key components was concluded: the [Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels](#) (known as the root LGR procedure) and the Report on User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs (as referenced above). The program is now entering its next phase of activity, where projects will proceed in parallel to implement the root LGR procedure and consider the recommendations in the user experience study.

The Report on User Experience Implications of Active Variant TLDs examines potential challenges from a user experience perspective when variants of IDN TLDs are activated and offers recommendations to users to minimize risks and optimize the implementation.

As you review the recommendations included in the report (please see Appendix 1, section 6), you will notice that they are targeted at different stakeholders: ICANN itself, registries that offer IDNs for scripts that have variants, registrars that support the registration of variants, and the technical community. The recommendations use the terms *must*, *should* and *may* to distinguish among their priorities as described in section 1.3 of the report. Ideally, the staff requests your input on:

- a) Which recommendations if any, are pre-requisites to the delegation of any IDN variant TLDs (i.e., delegation of IDN Variant TLDs should not proceed until these recommendations are implemented),
- b) Which recommendations, if any, can be deferred until a later time, and



- a) Which recommendations, if any, require additional policy work by the ICANN community and should be referred to the relevant stakeholder group for further policy work

To help ensure that IDN Variant TLDs are implemented in a way that is both secure and user-friendly, it is important that the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees provide their input on these recommendations to help guide the next phase of the program. We look forward to receiving your input and advice on this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyrus Namazi", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cyrus Namazi
Vice President, DNS Industry Engagement

CC: Lesley Cowley, Chair of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
Jonathan Robinson, Chair of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)
Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)
Patrik Fältström, Chair of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)