



IPC COMMENTS FOR ICANN

On

Draft Proposal for the Study of Issues Related to the Delegation of IDN Variant TLDs

The Intellectual Property Constituency (“IPC”) is a constituency of the GNSO and represents the full range of trademark and other intellectual property interests relating to the DNS. IPC members are international, regional and national intellectual property organizations from around the world, corporate entities with intellectual property interests (often as owners of intellectual property), and individuals with an interest in intellectual property matters. The IPC appreciates this opportunity to provide its comments on the Draft Proposal for the Study of Issues Related to the Delegation of IDN Variant TLDs posted for comment on February 21, 2011 at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/idn-variant-tlds-delegation-21feb11-en.pdf> (the “Proposal”).

The IPC believes the possible delegation of IDN variants on the top level raises a myriad of technical and policy issues that must be dealt with before any such delegation occurs. Accordingly, the IPC is in full support of the Proposal in so far as it seeks to achieve a common understanding of the challenges that IDN variants will present to the proper functioning of the domain name system. However, the IPC strongly believes that ICANN should not delegate any IDN variants at the top level until such time as the follow up work set out in points 3 – 8 of Section 3 of the Proposal have been completed and fully vetted in the ICANN stakeholder community. Equally important, the IPC believes that the study recommended in the Proposal should not move forward until such time as ICANN has considered the public comments to the Proposal. To this end, the IPC believes that the timeline set out in section 4.5 of the Proposal should be revised so that the milestone dates are reset accordingly.

The IPC also has some concerns regarding the composition of the project team. The proposal itself specifically acknowledges that “[a]llowing the delegation of IDN variant TLDs may result in user confusion.” Additionally, the report mentions that the goal of the IDN Variant Issues Project is to “identify the “problem statement” by having diverse sets of teams identify use cases and describe the foreseeable problems for their linguistic communities that IDN variant TLD policy should seek to address.” Given this stated purpose for the study, the IPC recommends that the description of expertise for Linguistics found in Table 1 on page 9 of the Proposal be revised to read “linguistic experts in the language(s) to which the script corresponds and experience with issues of user confusion arising from translation/transliteration, and Unicode experts from the local community. “