

10 December 2016

The Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group (NCSG) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the recommendations of the Lao Script Generation Panel (GP) which has developed a Proposal for the Lao Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules. We have carefully considered the proposal and support its integration into the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone. We congratulate the GP on its excellent work in developing this proposal, and appreciate the diversity and expertise within the GP, which includes representatives of the Laos government, registry operation specialists, and academics interested in the use of the Lao script in top-level domain names. We support enlargement of the root zone to include more character sets, because the principles of geographic, linguistic, and cultural diversity are both important and relevant to ICANN's activities. We are pleased to see that the GP has given consideration to the potential for consumer confusion between visually similar marks in the Lao script and other scripts such as Thai, and we trust that a comprehensive mitigation plan will be in place at the time of implementation. Thank you again for inviting our input on your work. We are grateful to the GP for this opportunity to share our views. As you move forward with your work, we ask that you keep the NCSG updated on your progress.