



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



## LETTER OF INTENT

Between

The United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
**UNESCO**

AND

Internet Corporation  
for Assigned Names and Numbers  
**ICANN**

16 September 2010

## **Preamble**

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Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed between United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) on 10 December 2009 at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, this Letter of Intent sets forward a common intent to reaffirm a commitment regarding the internationalization of the Internet.

Both Parties recognize the importance of the Internet for the building of inclusive knowledge societies, and the strengthening and promotion of cultural diversity and multilingualism in cyberspace.

## **Purpose of this Letter of Intent**

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Based on the Cooperation Agreement above-mentioned, particularly Article 3 – Areas of joint cooperation, and Article 4 – Joint project, this Letter of Intent will serve for both Parties as a basis for the preparation of a complementary project document.

## **Main objective of the joint project**

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By the present Letter of Intent, the main objective of the joint project is for UNESCO to provide assistance to its Member States by creating an IDN ccTLD Cyrillic country names / abbreviations reference table for countries whose official languages are based on Cyrillic script. ICANN will provide IDN expertise to support UNESCO's work. This table will be for reference only for such countries, and the content of the table shall not be binding on ICANN, nor can ICANN validate the accuracy of the table's content.

UNESCO and ICANN agree that this Letter of Intent does not limit ICANN from working with other stakeholders on similar projects, nor are UNESCO and/or ICANN foreclosed from pursuing the creation of reference tables or the provision of other linguistic expertise to countries whose official languages are based on scripts other than Cyrillic.

## **Proposed activities**

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Within this framework, UNESCO intends to undertake the following pilot activities:

- collaborate with ICANN on the preparation of the complementary project document to this Letter of Intent;
- inform its Member States about possible assistance for the development of the IDN ccTLD reference table in countries which official languages are based on Cyrillic scripts;
- upon request from Member States, whose official languages are based on Cyrillic scripts, provide linguistic expertise to support the country's selection of proposed IDN ccTLD strings;
- consult with Member States, linguistic and technical experts on the non-binding draft of the proposed IDN ccTLD Cyrillic country names / abbreviations reference table;
- publish and share information about the non-binding reference table;
- review and evaluate the results achieved and analyze the lessons learnt at the end of the project.

UNESCO acknowledges that any provision of linguistic assistance is separate from the requirements of the ICANN IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process, or any requirements imposed through ICANN-adopted policy or process. Accordingly, UNESCO shall not provide any assurance of successful completion of an ICANN application process to its Member States. The Parties confirm that nothing in the joint project is intended to create or impose additional requirements upon countries applying to ICANN in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track or other ICANN application process.

Within the framework of this Letter of Intent, ICANN intends to undertake the following activities:

- collaborate with UNESCO on the preparation of a complementary project document.
- support UNESCO's endeavors through remaining available for explanation of requirements regarding IDN ccTLDs, as such knowledge is available through ICANN.
- reaffirm its commitment to, upon invitation from UNESCO, inform UNESCO's Member States about the IDN process and building relative capacities for developing and least-developed countries.

UNESCO acknowledges that this Letter of Intent is non-binding, and that ICANN may have to conduct community consultations regarding the feasibility of proceeding with a formal Joint Project as contemplated within this Letter of Intent.

### Notification

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In the process of implementation of the planned cooperation, the contacts for communication in the first instance for the Parties will be:

For UNESCO  
 Mr Indrajit Banerjee  
 Director  
 Information Society Division  
 Communication and Information Sector  
 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris  
 France  
 Tel.: +33 1 45 68 42 78  
 Email: i.banerjee@unesco.org

For ICANN  
 Mr Baher Esmat  
 Manager, Regional Relations – Middle East  
 with a copy to office of the General Counsel  
 4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330  
 Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6601  
 USA  
 Tel.: +1 310 823 9358  
 Email: baher.esmat@icann.org

### Duration of the joint project

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If undertaken, the results should be obtained and the activities closed and reported about within one year from the moment of signature of the Project Agreement, with the ability to prolong the term by an additional twelve months by agreement of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties,  
 each acting through its duly authorized representative,  
 have executed this Letter of Intent in two (2) originals in the English language.

For UNESCO  
**Mr Jānis Kārklīš**  
 Assistant Director General for Communication  
 & Information, UNESCO

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 Date and place of Signature:

*Sept. 16, 2010*

For ICANN  
**Mr Rod Beckstrom**  
 CEO and President  
 ICANN

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 Date and place of Signature:

*Sept. 16, 2010*