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| PLENARY MEETING | Addendum 13 toDocument 48-E |
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| United States of America |
| Proposed suppression of WTSA-12 Resolution 48 - Internationalized (multilingual) domain names |
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| **Abstract:** | Consistent with the TSB Director’s proposed guidelines regarding WTSA Resolutions contained in TSAG TD 532 and the TSB’s report in Version 6 of the WTSA-2012 Action Plan, the United States proposes the suppression of WTSA Resolution 48. |

Introduction

WTSA Resolution 48 was adopted in 2004, and reconfirmed at WTSA 2008 and WTSA 2012. The Resolution instructed ITU-T Study Group 16 to continue to study internationalized (multilingual) domain names (IDNs), and to continue to liaise and cooperate with appropriate entities, whether intergovernmental or non-governmental, in this area. It also invites Member States to contribute to these activities. A review of the WTSA-12 Action Plan, a monitoring and implementation tool utilized by the TSB that tracks the actions items, their associated responsibilities necessary collaborations, reports, and final status, indicates that ITU-T Study Group 16 received only one contribution, which resulted in an exchange of Liaison Statements with relevant External Organizations.

Feedback provided and lack of further activity (including in the current study period) suggests that perhaps the work is complete. Furthermore, for the 2012-2016 study period, the Action Plan indicates that the goals for Resolution 48 were not met. Yet, this likely is due to the lack of Member State contributions regarding internationalized (multilingual) domain names. Moreover, the Action Plan further indicates that, as instructed by the 2014 Plenipotentiary, the TSB Director reports annually in the Council document on “ITU Internet activities: Resolutions 101, 102 and 133”, which includes updates regarding ccTLDs, if any. The TSB’s Director annual reports to the ITU Council have not included specific references to work conducted in conjunction with Resolution 48.

Proposal

The United States proposes the suppression of Resolution 48 for the following reasons:

– WTSA Resolution 48 was drafted before the introduction of IDNs in the domain name system (DNS). The introduction of IDN country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and the more recent rollout of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) in non-ASCII scripts, many of which are IDNs, highlights the ability of the Internet governance process to address multilingualism holistically and has effectively overtaken the earlier work by the ITU. The concerns outlined in Resolution 48 are already addressed. The IDN Fast Track Process (in existence since 2009) enables countries and territories to submit requests to ICANN for IDN ccTLDs representing their respective country or territory names in scripts other than US-ASCII characters. There are currently 29 IDN gTLDs and 36 IDN ccTLDs in the root with 116 IDN applications for new gTLDs of which 29 have been delegated and 87 remain in the evaluation phase ;

– The TSB Director’s Analysis of the evolution of WTSA Resolutions since 1993 and a proposal for guidelines for drafting WTSA Resolutions (TSAG TD 532), which questions the need for WTSA Resolutions that duplicate an existing Plenipotentiary Conference resolution (PP Resolutions 101, 102 and 133 address the same issues as WTSA Resolutions 48;

– The WTSA-2012 Action Plan, Version 6 report (12 September 2016), which indicates the absence of contributions from Member States to Study Group 2 and the periodic goals were not met.

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RESOLUTION 48 (REV. DUBAI, 2012)

Internationalized (multilingual) domain names

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Dubai, 2012),

**Reasons:** See Introduction and Proposal sections to Addendum 13 to Document 48.