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| **ITUPublications** | **International Telecommunication Union** |
| Resolutions | Standardization Sector |
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|  | WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY New Delhi, 15-24 October 2024 |
|  | Resolution 48 – Internationalized (multilingual) domain names |



FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of tele­com­mu­ni­ca­tions, and information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU‑T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

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RESOLUTION 48 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

Internationalized (multilingual) domain names

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

recognizing

*a)* relevant parts of Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*b)* Resolution 133 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*c)* Resolution 82 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

*d)* relevant outcomes of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*e)* WSIS Action Line C8 (Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content);

*f)* the evolving role of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, in accordance with Resolution 122 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*g)* the important role of multilingualism in enabling the full participation of all countries in the work of ITU, in building a global information society that is open to all, and in achieving the goals and objectives of WSIS;

*h)* the role of industry, relevant technical and international organizations, and the top-level domain (TLD) operator communities in continuing to advance the use of internationalized (multilingual) domain names (IDNs) in the Domain Name System (DNS);

*i)* that, while significant progress in the technical development and availability of IDNs in the DNS has been made, universal acceptance remains the primary challenge;

*j)* the lack of multilingualism on the Internet, which contributes to a significant digital divide;

*k)* that the adoption of IDNs will promote multilingualism on the Internet and support meaningful connectivity for much of the world;

*l)* the work of the domain name industry and relevant regional and international organizations and initiatives, such as the Coalition for Digital Africa, to increase the availability of IDNs,

considering

*a)* that there needs to be further in-depth discussion of the political, economic and technical issues related to IDNs arising out of the interaction between national sovereignty and the need for international coordination and harmonization;

*b)* that intergovernmental organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues;

*c)* that international organizations have also had, and should continue to have, an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies;

*d)* that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) has a record of successfully handling similar issues in a timely manner, especially as to the use of non-Latin character sets;

*e)* that relevant regional and international organizations are working to increase the deployment of IDNs;

*f)* that despite the growing adoption of IDNs, enhancing user awareness of the availability of IDNs and challenges of universal acceptance is required to ensure their continued growth;

*g)* the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) can be a leader in building capacity to expand multilingualism on the Internet, including through the promotion of universal acceptance;

*h)* the ongoing activities of other relevant organizations,

resolves to instruct Study Group 21 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector and other relevant study groups

to continue to study IDNs, and to continue to liaise and cooperate with appropriate entities, whether intergovernmental or non-governmental, in this area,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to promote the universal acceptance of IDN and to collaborate and cooperate in enabling their usage on the Internet;

2 to raise awareness among Member States and ITU‑T Sector Members of the challenges facing universal acceptance and IDNs by actively participating in relevant activities, such as Universal Acceptance Day and engaging with local universal acceptance ambassadors;

3 to support ITU‑D in engaging stakeholders, raising awareness and incentivizing progress within the ITU‑D membership, including Member States and Sector Members, in order to support and promote multilingualism on the Internet;

4 to continue to collaborate with relevant organizations to facilitate the adoption of IDNs and promote universal acceptance; and to support organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in facilitating WSIS Action Line C8;

5 to take appropriate action to facilitate the above and to report to the ITU Council annually regarding the progress achieved in this area,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to continue to cooperate with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau on these issues in the spirit of "One ITU",

invites Member States, Sector Members and regional groups concerned

1 to contribute to these activities, including by working with relevant regional and international organizations and participating in Universal Acceptance Day;

2 to share the efforts, best practices and global developments of industry and regional and international organizations.