

Multilingualization of the Internet Including Internationalized (multilingual) Domain Names

I. Internationalized Domain Names

The Root-Zone was limited to ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) characters. However, the introduction of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) has given to the Internet users the opportunity to access domain names in their own language. Through two new processes, recently allowed by ICANN:

- IDN Fast Track Process: The ICANN Board, at its annual meeting in Seoul, South Korea in October 2009, has enabled countries and territories that use languages based on scripts other than Latin, to submit requests to ICANN for IDN ccTLDs representing their respective country or territory names in local scripts other than ASCII characters. (Ex: **امارات, المغرب**).
- New generic Top-Level Domains (new gTLDs): ICANN has approved, at its 41th meeting in Singapore in June 2011, the new gTLD program, giving the possibility of applying for new TLD domain names that represents geographic locations, communities, trades, etc. This program has also allowed the addition into the root zone of IDN gTLDs, based on scripts other than Latin, such as Chinese, Arabic, Cyrillic, etc. ICANN has received 116 applications for IDN new gTLDs (Ex: **كوم, 欧莱雅, شبكة** 'already delegated by ICANN').

II. IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process/ Delegation of the IDN ccTLD "المغرب"

Through the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process, the National Telecommunication Regulatory Agency (ANRT), with the support of Moroccan government, had initiated in 2010 the application procedure for delegating the Arabic ccTLD "المغرب". Thus, the Board of ICANN has approved in April 2011, the delegation of the Arabic ccTLD "المغرب" To the ANRT (the Administrator of the ASCII ccTLD: ".ma").

The Agency will prepare the naming policy and Registration phases for "المغرب" domain names, notably in accordance with international standards and practices and with the involvement of the local main stakeholders, and through an online public consultation.

Knowing that the most Internet users are generally more comfortable to use Internet services through their native language, it is necessary to make names and content on the Internet available in non-Latin based scripts to a large number of users. Thus, the introduction of the Arabic domain names under "المغرب" could help to promote the development of Arabic online content in Morocco.