



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Assistant Director-General
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Dear Mr Beckstrom, *Dear Rod,*

As an observer on the Governmental Advisory Committee of ICANN, UNESCO follows closely the development of the multilingual Internet and is encouraged by ICANN's work to introduce IDN ccTLD. Equally, we are aware of the sensitivity attached to the selection of the IDN strings. As emphasized in the agreement between two organizations, UNESCO's linguistic experience could be used in developing IDN ccTLD reference table for future strings in different languages and scripts.

We believe that with our mandate to promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism, UNESCO is well placed to invite, encourage and assist its Member States by participating in developing the IDN ccTLD reference table.

For the period of 2010 and 2011, the focus of our cooperation could be placed on the development of IDN ccTLD reference table for the languages using the Cyrillic script. Currently, more than ten UNESCO Member States use Cyrillic in official and everyday communication. Some countries – for instance, Uzbekistan and Serbia – use both Latin and Cyrillic scripts. Concerning computer encoding, not all accented Cyrillic letters are included in Unicode, and some languages such as Church Slavonic are still not fully supported. As Cyrillic script is used in various languages, UNESCO could encourage national registries and script communities to work together in cases where Cyrillic script has either an overlap in characters, or where there are several characters that are similar visually.

Should you find UNESCO's proposal appropriate for your work and useful for the countries in enhancing their capacities to actively participate in building an inclusive and multilingual Internet, I invite you to work together on a project agreement on the development of the IDN ccTLD reference table for Cyrillic script. Should you have other proposals concerning scripts for which the IDN ccTLD reference table is needed, please feel free to provide us with full information and technical requirements. Once developed, the project agreement could be announced at UNESCO's Open Forum to be organized on 16 September 2010 at the forthcoming Internet Governance Forum (14 to 17 September 2010 - Vilnius, Lithuania).

Yours sincerely, |

Jānis Kārklīņš