

**Twenty-seventh session
30 July and 10 August 2012, New York**

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Reports of the liaison officers

Liaison with ICANN *

* Prepared by: Peeter Päll, Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems.

Liaison with ICANN¹

ICANN, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers submitted a proposal to the 25th Session of UNGEGN in Nairobi, 2009 to have cooperation in certain fields. One of such areas of interest was the initiative of ICANN in allowing non-Roman scripts in TLD names. At the session it was decided that the Working Group on Romanization Systems act as an expert body in cases where third-party assistance was needed in applying for new non-Roman-script country-code Internationalized Domain Names. It was envisaged that the applying countries themselves would provide for the necessary linguistic and/or toponymic expertise in preparing their applications but if needed, they could turn to international experts, and the Working Group could then assist.

During the summer 2009 there was collaboration with Mr. Bernard Turcotte from ICANN to provide guidelines for such applications, and these were then approved by ICANN at their Seoul meeting. Following that, Ms. Naela Sarras became the contact person from ICANN.

Afterwards, there have been only some cases when advice from the WG was sought. The questions concerned the status of some national authorities in names/languages, such as Kazakhstan or Mongolia, and the overall lists of national name authorities.

¹ Prepared by Peeter Päll, Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems.