



86

POLICY
FORUM



Advancing Universal Acceptance Adoption

9 June 2026

Overview of the Session

- Universal Acceptance (UA) Policy Brief - Dr. Xianghong Hu, UNESCO
- Guidelines for Advancing UA Adoption - Edmon Chung, UA Expert WG
- UA Day 2026 - Seda Akbulut, ICANN; Dr. Xianhong Hu, UNESCO
- UA Academic Curriculum Integration - Dr. Fatema Akbar, American University of Bahrain
- Questions & Answers

Universal Acceptance (UA) Policy Brief

Dr. Xianghong Hu
UNESCO

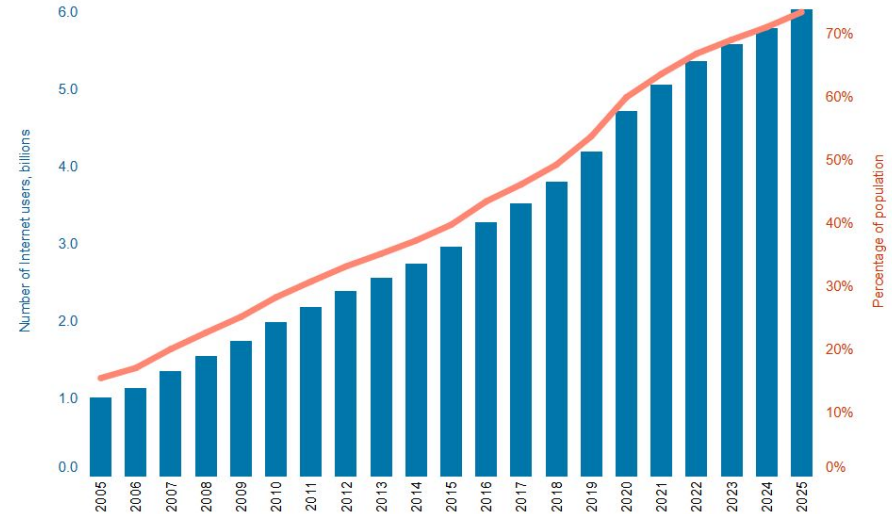
Global Context:

bridging digital divide for inclusive digital future

• Human population: 8.2 billion

- Persons in extreme poverty: **~690 million (462 million 15-24 years)** => they can't afford to be connected!
- Persons with disabilities: **1.2 billion** => can they **access** content?
- Indigenous peoples: **~370 million** => can they **understand** content?
- **+7000 language** in the world, a few hundreds online
- Population aged 0-15 years: ~1.9 billion (15-24 years: 1.2 billion) => how can they be **safe and empowered** online?
- Workers: **56%** say they don't have needed digital skills! (only 25% women in "higher" ICT jobs)
- **Gender divide:** 70% of men are using the Internet, compared with 65% of women.
- **AI workforce:** less than 30% women

Individuals using the Internet



Source: ITU

Online: 6 billion / Offline: 2.2 billion

AI Ecosystem for Linguistic Inclusion: Challenges and Opportunities

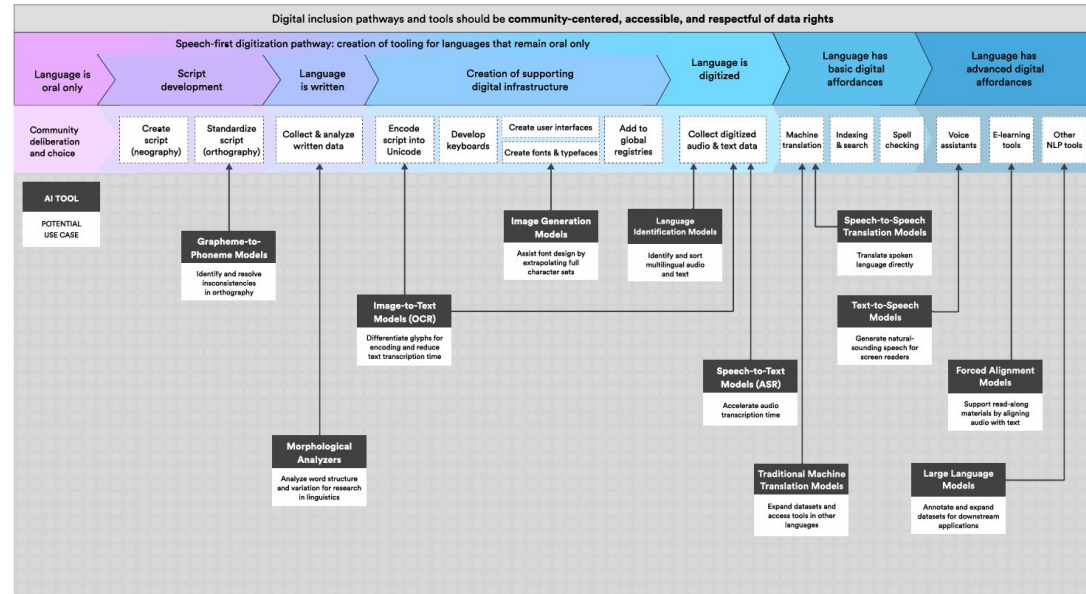
Challenges

- **Data scarcity and data governance:** AI research relies on existing and readily available data (+7000 language in the world, a few hundreds online)
- Lack of **Universal Acceptance**
- Lack of **foundational digital tools**
- Risk of concentration and **cultural homogenization**

Opportunities

- AI as a powerful tool to scale language digitalization, preservation, revitalization, documentation and transcription
- Support tools such as machine translation, speech recognition, text-to-speech and spell-checking

Figure 2. The potential role of AI tools in language digitization processes (Source: [Stanford SILICON](#))



Key Barriers to UA Adoption

Technical Barriers

Legacy systems, outdated validation rules and incompatible software may reject valid IDNs and EAI.

Non-technical Barriers

- **Awareness and Engagement**

UA is still often seen as a technical issue, rather than a condition for digital inclusion and multilingual participation.

- **Capacity Challenges**

Many institutions and service providers lack the knowledge, tools and resources to implement UA

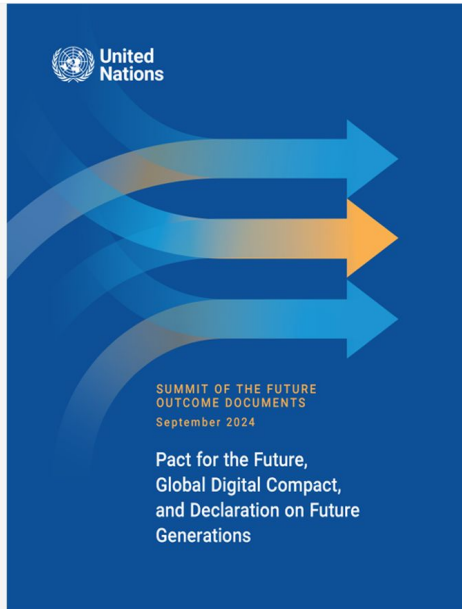
- **Policy and Regulatory Challenges**

UA is not yet systematically embedded in digital strategies, e-government services, procurement and regulatory frameworks.

- **Ecosystem gap**

Adoption remains uneven across registries, registrars, platforms, public services and end-user environments.

Global Policy Momentum: Global Digital Compact and WSIS+20 review Multilingualism for inclusive digital futures



Promote and preserve cultural diversity cultural heritage, and languages

Advocate for Open Source software, open data, open AI models

Create multilingual digital content

Limited content including in locally relevant languages,

Limited access to local content and digital services, low digital literacy and skills

Extend the multilingual nature of the Internet, IDNs and UA



WSIS+20

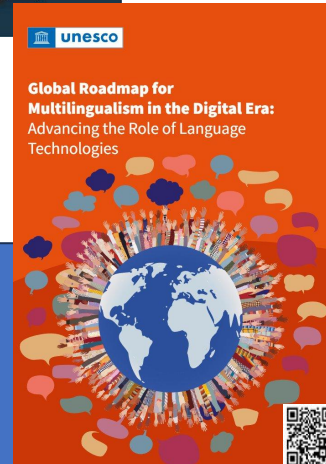
Overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society by the United Nations General Assembly

UNESCO's Commitment to Multilingualism, Linguistic Diversity and Access to Information

- UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the **Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace** (2003)
- **International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032)**
- **World Atlas of Languages** (ongoing)
- **Global Roadmap for Multilingualism in the Digital Era**
- **UNESCO-ICANN Collaboration**



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages



Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression

-- UDHR Article 19

Promote free flow of ideas by word and image

--UNESCO Constitution Article 1

Advancing Universal Acceptance of All Domain Names and Email Addresses for a Multilingual Internet – Policy Brief

Importance of Universal Acceptance

- Economic Growth
- **Preservation of Languages and Culture**
- **Educational Benefits**

Challenges of Universal Acceptance

- Awareness and Engagement
- Technical Barriers
- Capacity Challenges
- Policy and Regulatory Challenges



Holistic Approach to Advance UA

Governments

- Develop national strategies and action plans
- Align national standards with global protocols
- Update policy and regulatory frameworks
- Enable e-government UA readiness
- Build institutional capacity
- Lead by example
- Engage national DNS and IT industries

Civil Society, Academia and Language Communities

- Raise public awareness
- Advocate for UA implementation
- Document and share success stories
- Collaborate with Indigenous communities
- Enhance digital literacy

Technology Applications and Service Providers

- Embed UA in design and development lifecycles
- Upgrade existing systems
- Invest in staff training
- Collaborate with governments and standards bodies
- Demonstrate market leadership

International and Intergovernmental Organizations

- Adopt and implement UA-readiness as a norm
- Promote alignment with international technical standards
- Integrate IDN and UA awareness and training
- Foster collaboration across stakeholder groups
- Embed UA into digital inclusion strategies

Advancing Universal Acceptance of All Domain Names and Email Addresses for a Multilingual Internet – Policy Brief

Suggested Measurements of UA

- Potential question 1: Are the stakeholders promoting Universal Acceptance of all domain names and email addresses?
- Potential question 2: Does the government have a policy framework to enable the Universal Acceptance of all domain names and email addresses for providing access to a multilingual Internet? If so, is it being effectively implemented?
- Potential question 3: Is there a substantial and growing use of domain names in diverse local languages signifying increasing multilingual use of the Internet?
- Potential question 4: Is there sufficient capacity development to technically implement Universal Acceptance of all domain names and email addresses in diverse local languages for a multilingual Internet?

Monitoring on the Implementation of 2003 Recommendation

- **Periodic consultations with Member States**
- **Multistakeholder consultation with key stakeholders**

The 6th Consultation is under preparation

A tentative launch in June 2026

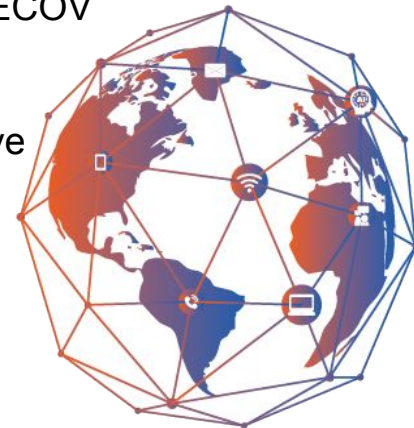
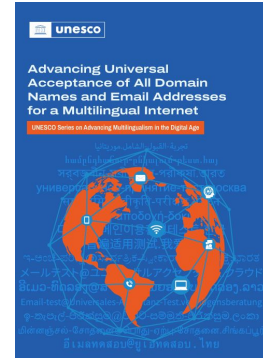
Recommendation Concerning Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (2003)

2.5	<p>Does your country have a policy or regulatory framework to support Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), Email Address Internationalization (EAI) and ensure Universal Acceptance² of all domain names and email addresses, including those in local languages and scripts, as part of efforts to enable access to multilingual Internet? If so, how is this framework being implemented in practice? Are there any capacity building efforts for this purpose?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• No• If yes, please provide examples (e.g. Relevant Policy and regulatory frameworks supporting IDNs, EAI and their Universal Acceptance, implementing technical standards for IDNs and EAI for UA adoption in public and private sectors, integrating UA in technical and internet governance curricula of universities, measures enabling the use of local and Indigenous languages in domain names and email addresses) (Max 800 characters):
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Communication and Outreach

- **Multilingual dissemination:** Available in all UN official languages, plus Portuguese, Swahili and Quechua.
- **UA Day 2026 outreach:** Outreach through 30 UA Day events under UNESCO-ICANN collaboration.
- **Dedicated launch sessions:** Launch session at major international fora, including EuroDIG 2026, WSIS Forum 2026, Francophone AI Forum, IGF 2026 and IGECOV Saudi Arabia.
- **Policy engagement:** Information meeting with UNESCO Member States and five regional advocacy events with Field Offices, registries and registrars.
- **Strategic communication products:** UNESCO social media, news stories, impact stories and videos.



EuroDIG 2026: Strategic Launch and Policy Visibility

- UNESCO-ICANN jointly launched the Policy Brief during EuroDIG Extra.
- Introduced the Policy Brief in at the .eu 20th anniversary.
- Connected UA with policymakers, technical communities, academia and civil society.
- Linked UA implementation to WSIS, the Global Digital Compact, digital inclusion and linguistic diversity.
- Presented UA as a condition for meaningful participation in a multilingual digital ecosystem.



Sustaining Momentum through Upcoming Global Engagements

WSIS Forum 2026 6-10 July, Geneva

- Launch session on the UNESCO–ICANN UA Policy Brief
- Connects UA with the Global Digital Compact and WSIS+20 agenda
- Positions UA as essential to enabling the Internet in all languages and scripts
- Engages governments, technical actors, civil society and international

IGF 2026 14-18 December, Nairobi

- Provides a strategic space to position Universal Acceptance within broader discussions on digital inclusion, multilingualism, human-centric digital governance and the future of the Internet
- Offers opportunities to engage governments, the technical community, private sector, civil society, academia
- Supports continued advocacy for a multilingual Internet where all valid domain names and email addresses work equally across languages and scripts

Expanded Regional Engagement and Outreach

**Arab States: IGECOV 2026 28
September-1 October, Riyadh**

- Connects UA with digital government, inclusive public services and trustworthy digital systems
- Positions UA-readiness as a practical requirement for accessible and multilingual services
- Reaches academia, governments, international organizations, civil society and industry

**Asia-Pacific: 25th IFAP Anniversary,
Zhejiang**

- Strategic opportunity to amplify the UNESCO–ICANN Policy Brief across regions.
- Position UA as a practical enabler of access to information, multilingualism, digital inclusion and meaningful participation online.
- Engage IFAP National Committees, UNESCO Field Offices and regional partners in awareness-raising and policy dialogue on Universal Acceptance.

High Level Visibility and Social Media Promotion

Social media products and news stories amplified the launch of the UNESCO-ICANN Policy Brief on Universal Acceptance

Mariya Gabriel 3w

I am pleased to announce the upcoming launch of the **UNESCO –ICANN Policy Brief on Promoting Universal Acceptance for a Multilingual Internet**, taking place on 18 May at [#EuroDIG2026](#).

This joint brief, developed through long-standing collaboration between **UNESCO** and **ICANN**, highlights our shared commitment to advancing linguistic diversity online and making the Internet truly inclusive for all users, regardless of language or script.

By advancing Universal Acceptance, we move closer to a digital ecosystem where every domain name and email address works seamlessly across languages and writing systems.

Join us as we explore what a truly multilingual Internet can look like and how we get there.

📅 18 May - 14:30 - 15:30 CEST - Online Via Zoom
 📝 Register here: <https://shorturl.at/VKcB>



67 · 1 Comment

High-level Social Media Post

News >

UNESCO and ICANN launch joint Policy Brief on Universal Acceptance

UNESCO and ICANN launched the joint Policy Brief, "Advancing Universal Acceptance of All Domain Names and Email Addresses for a Multilingual Internet".



UNESCO

29 May 2026 – Last update: June 2026


UNESCO Official News

EuroDIG 2026 EuroDIG 2025 European Initiatives About

EuroDIG Extra Vol. 10 EuroDIG Extra Vol. 9 EuroDIG Extra Vol. 8 EuroDIG Extra Vol. 7 EuroDIG Extra

Promoting Universal Acceptance for a Multilingual Internet: Launch of the UNESCO-ICANN Policy Brief

Listen to EuroDIG Extra Vol. 10
 Please use the passcode: znah3TKZ



18 May 2026 14:30 PM – 15:30 PM CEST
 Hybrid | Online – EuroDIG Extra

Speakers:

- Andreas Gans**, Director, Division for Digital Inclusion, UNESCO
- Francesca Andreatta**, Senior Vice President of Global Operations and Strategic Initiatives, ICANN
- Barbara Pissone**, Senior Strategic Policy Lead, ICANN
- Wahneema Lubiano**, Program Manager, UNESCO
- David Guillo-Pere**, Director, UNESCO
- Melissa Robinson**, ICANN

Please join us

Scan and Register the Event

Partners Platform

No Language shall be left behind

Follow us and stay tuned!



Multilingualism
and Linguistic Diversity



International Decade
of Indigenous
Languages
2022-2032



UA Guidelines by the UA Expert WG

Edmon Chung
UA Expert WG

A stylized globe in shades of blue, showing the outlines of continents. It is overlaid with a network of glowing blue lines and circular nodes, representing global connectivity and data flow.

Guidelines for Advancing UA Adoption

Universal Acceptance (UA) Expert WG

Overview of the Presentation

- Background
- Scope of Work
- Summary of Proposed Guidelines
- Next Steps

What is Universal Acceptance?

Universal Acceptance (UA) ensures that all valid domain names and related email addresses, regardless of length, language, or script, can be used in all Internet-enabled applications, devices, and systems.

- UA allows Internet users to choose an online identity in the language or script of their choice and ensures that their chosen domain names and email addresses work seamlessly on the Internet.
- Achieving UA-readiness is essential to enabling a more linguistically diverse Internet.
- For more information on UA, please visit <https://www.icann.org/ua>.

Background

The UA Expert Working Group formed to focus on UA adoption

Focusing on UA Adoption

- March 2025: ICANN Board resolved for ICANN org to evaluate and evolve strategies to support UA adoption work by ICANN org and the community, aligning with ICANN's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2026-2030.
- In response, the ICANN President and CEO announced the establishment of a **Universal Acceptance Expert Working Group** (UA EWG), which was tasked with providing guidelines for ICANN's future work on UA adoption.

Formation of UA Expert Working Group

- Following a Call for Nominations, ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees nominated the following members:
 - Abdalmonem T. Galila Governmental Advisory Committee
 - Edmon Chung At-large Advisory Committee
 - Nabil Benamar Security and Stability Advisory Committee
 - Nitin Walia Generic Names Supporting Organization
 - Sami M. Ali Country Code Names Supporting Organization
- ICANN Board nominated its liaison to UA EWG:
 - James Galvin ICANN Board

Formation of UA Expert Working Group

- ICANN President and CEO appointed the following additional representatives:
 - Cathy Wissink Unicode Consortium
 - Guilherme Canela UNESCO
 - Jiankang Yao China Internet Network Information Center
 - Richard Ishida Worldwide Web Consortium
 - Sean Bedford Meta
 - Thomas Mullaney Stanford University

- ICANN President and CEO appointed the following co-Chairs:
 - Edmon Chung
 - Sarmad Hussain (ICANN org)

Scope of Work

The UA Expert Working Group tasked to develop guidelines to address multiple topics

Guidelines

- UA Expert WG started weekly meetings in August 2025 discussing the 10 topics in its charter, developing and reviewing guidelines for these topics.
 - Details of its deliberations are posted at the community wiki page.
- UA Expert WG developed a total of 45 guidelines covering these topics.
- ICANN org published these guidelines for public comment on 23 Feb. 2026.
- ICANN org invited the community at ICANN85 on behalf of the UA Expert WG to review the detailed guidelines and provide their feedback.

Stakeholders Discussed

#	Topic	Gs
	General	2
1	Encourage big tech organizations	5
2	Encourage open-source communities	5
3	Contribute to specific standards	3
4	Reach out to software development professionals	4
5	Reach out to system administrators	2

#	Topic	Gs
6	Encourage the DNS industry, including gTLD and ccTLD registry, registrars and resellers	5
7	Encourage hosting providers and internet service providers	4
8	Reach out to the public sector, in collaboration from intergovernmental organizations	5
9	Reach out to academia	6
10	Measure aspects of UA adoption	4

Summary of Proposed Guidelines

Guiding ICANN org work to enable UA adoption

Guidelines

Generally applicable across multiple charter questions.

- Define what is meant to be UA-ready for a variety of stakeholders in the context of multilingual internet and how it is dependent on internationalization of the technology stack.
- Maintain dedicated web pages for stakeholders with relevant materials.

1. Strategies to encourage big tech organizations to adopt UA in their applications and systems.

- Showcase the economic, business, social, linguistic and cultural value of this work in tailored messaging, while also arguing for technical aspects, including interoperability, security and trust aspects achieved by supporting UA.
- Prioritize engagement based on technology stack, focusing on underlying systems and applications used by higher layers.

Guidelines

2. Strategies to encourage open-source communities to adopt UA in their applications and systems

- Prioritize fixing issues both from the way the technology stack is set up vertically, the category and the usage of the software applications.
- Develop messaging to engage with the maintainers of the software coming from different perspectives.
- Plan to also develop their capacity in relevant areas.

3. Specific standards to contribute toward

- Work with standards organizations to update relevant core and ancillary standards. A coordinated approach is necessary to avoid “chicken-and-egg” barriers between underlying platform providers and higher-level application and service providers.
- Participate in internationalization standards groups to help integrate the UA concepts when consulted by other standards groups.

Guidelines

4. Platforms and mechanisms to reach out to software development professionals

- Develop the right messaging and identify the strategies to reach out to them by collaborating with relevant organizations, presented at conferences and events, using learning platforms for professionals, and conducting targeted campaigns.
- Given the limited number of experts who understand these concepts, especially internationalization, train the trainers, develop materials using the existing resources, and find mechanisms to build capacity.
- Showcase adoption to motivate others.

5. Platforms and mechanisms to reach out to system administrators

- Develop capacity development materials using existing resources, and strategy to create awareness using relevant platforms and conferences.
- Develop effective messaging to engage and then build capacity, reaching out at the right forums.

6. Engagement with the DNS industry, including gTLD and ccTLD registries, registrars, and resellers

- The DNS industry also has a crucial role. Encourage to adopt UA using the right messaging and reaching out to the stakeholders.
- Consider developing an issue report to address UA support by registries and registrars, as well as explore policy to incentivize adoption.
- Work with IGOs to make UA adoption part of the global digital agenda, encouraging Member States to include UA adoption by the DNS industry and the broader digital industry in their national action plans.

Guidelines

- 7. Mechanisms to encourage hosting providers and internet service providers to provide IDN and EAI hosting services to the registrants**
 - Determine the extent and reasons for gaps in UA adoption by the hosting providers.
 - Develop out-of-the box technical solutions and build awareness and capacity to deploy them.
 - Build capacity of hosting providers and encourage them to adopt UA through relevant messaging.

- 8. Mechanisms to reach out to the public sector to promote UA adoption. Collaboration from intergovernmental organizations to achieve the goals**
 - Engage with multiple relevant ministries and departments in the public sector with a policy-oriented messaging strategy which highlights the value of UA adoption.
 - Engage with GAC representatives.
 - Collaborate with intergovernmental organizations to reach out to public sector organizations.

Guidelines

9. Mechanisms to reach out to academia

- Academic engagement is a long-term strategy. Publish articles in academic conferences and journals for awareness. Integrate UA into multiple disciplines, including IT, internet governance and linguistics.
- Develop curricular materials and engage with regional and global curricular bodies to promote curricular integration.
- Create hub and network model for universities in different regions to collaborate on integration.
- Utilize other channels available, e.g., by involving intergovernmental organizations.

10. Aspects of UA adoption to be measured

- Implement a framework to measure effort and outcome in the areas of:
 - Awareness / Policy support / Implementation / Capacity development
- Promote collaboration to gather, process and publish data, and encourage mechanisms which promote self-reporting.

Public Comment Process and Next Steps

Planning and implementing the guidelines

Public Comment Updates

- Public comments were received between 23 February and 13 April 2026.
- UA Guideline received several comments about charter questions and prioritization of the items from 37 individuals and organizations.
- The public comment summary report was published on 12 May 2026 on <https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/draft-guidelines-for-advancing-ua-adoption-23-02-2026>.
- UA EWG has been meeting weekly since 28 April 2026 to review all the comments, address them where appropriate, and prioritize the work.

Public Comment Summary

Comments were categorized under three groups:

- On broader topics around formation of UA Expert WG and implementation of guidelines after publication.
- On specific guidelines or on specific stakeholders related to the charter questions.
- On how to prioritize the guidelines for implementation:

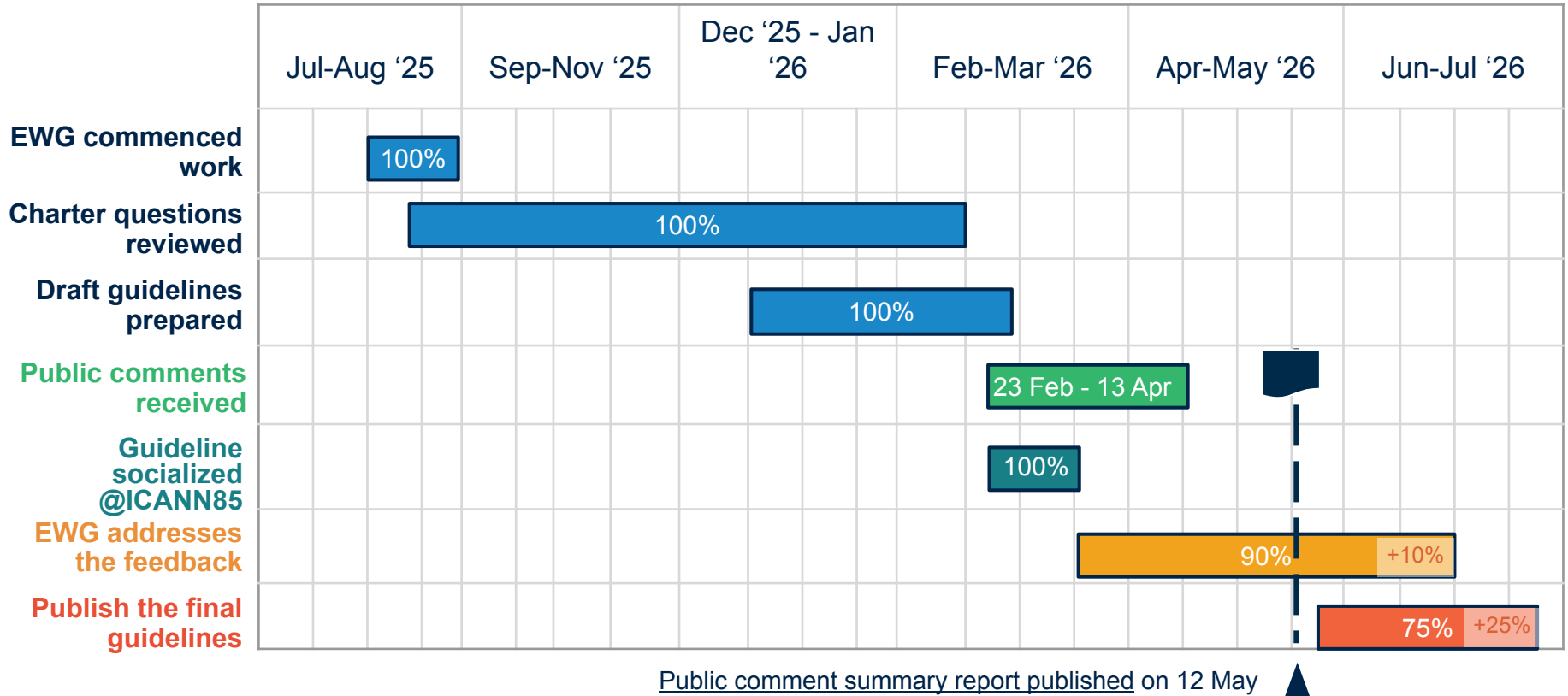
Some feedback from the comments:

- UA is a matter of digital inclusion, cultural equity, and human rights rather than just a technical issue.
- Integrate AI-assisted software development, tools, and testing methodologies into the UA guidelines.
- Measure end-to-end outcomes for users as an indicator for UA adoption.

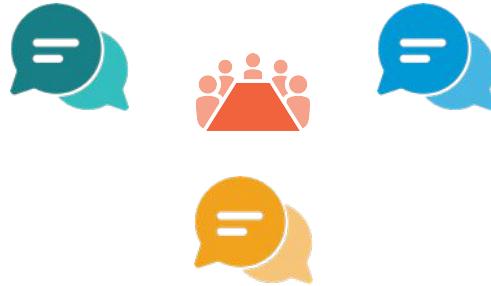
Next Steps

- UA Expert Working Group aims to close the discussion after ICANN86, finalizing the guidelines and publish them in July 2026.
- ICANN org to review, prioritize and plan the implementation of the guidelines.
- ICANN org will continue to provide updates to the community at ICANN meetings as it implements the guidelines.

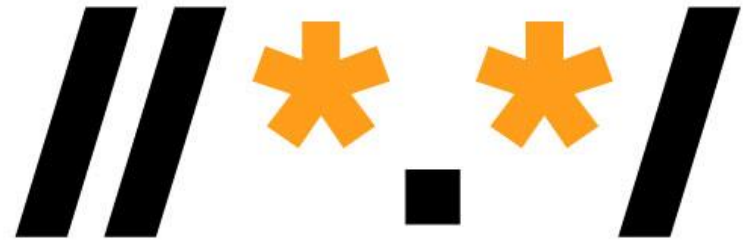
Timeline



Thank you for the comments!



Thanks to the community for appreciating the work completed by the UA Expert WG and for their feedback and additional suggestions.



Universal Acceptance

UA Day 2026

#Internet4All

UA Day Overview



UA Day aims to rally local, regional, and global stakeholders to spread awareness and encourage UA adoption through various types of events around the world.



Organized by ICANN in collaboration with UNESCO and the community. It consists of several events held between March and May every year.



The events promote not only IDNs, but also ASCII-based New gTLDs and email addresses—as well as their acceptance in internet-enabled applications and devices.



The inaugural UA Day was held on 28 March 2023. The keystone UA Day events were held in India (2023), Serbia (2024), and Viet Nam (2025).

UA Day 2026: Fourth Annual UA Day



UA Day 2026: Received 70 proposals from 45 countries and territories, and community-based team shortlisted 30 events from 30 countries and territories.



Shortlisting review team consisted of eight members from ALAC, ccNSO and UNESCO.



Resulted in 33 events from 30 countries and territories.



Since October 2024, ICANN and UNESCO have been [collaborating on UA Day](#).
This collaboration continued for UA Day 2026.

<https://universalacceptance.day/>

UA Day 2026 Facts

33 UA Day events, in 30 countries in 66 days

- 5,851 people participated.
- Conducted in 15 languages:
The indigenous Amazigh language, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, English, French, Kiswahili, Krio, Nepali, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Urdu.

UA Day event organizers affiliations:

- Nine from ALAC
- Eight from ccTLDs or collaborated with the ccTLDs (three of them are also UA Local Initiatives)
- Four from ICANN-Accredited Registrars and IDN Registry Operators

UA Day 2026 Proposals and Organized Events

Region	Proposals	Shortlisted	Organized
Africa	29	13	13
Asia Pacific	22	7	9
Europe	4	3	4
Latin America and Caribbean	10	5	5
North America	5	2	2
Total	70	30	33

See the details of the events on <https://www.icann.org/ua-day-2026-events-en>.

UA Day 2026 Organized Events

Region	Awareness	Curriculum	Adoption/ Demonstration	Regional Strategy	Total
Africa	2	1	9	1	13
Asia Pacific	2	1	5	1	9
Europe	2		1	1	4
Latin America and Caribbean		2	2	1	5
North America	1			1	2
Total	7	4	17	5	33

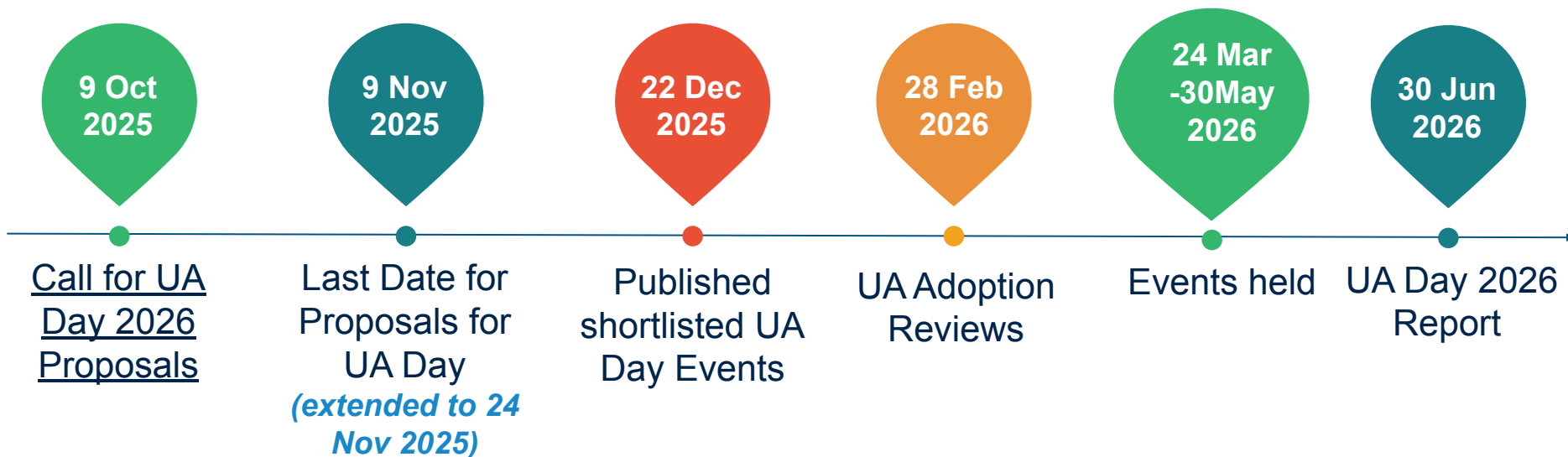
See the details of the events on <https://www.icann.org/ua-day-2026-events-en>.

UA Day 2026

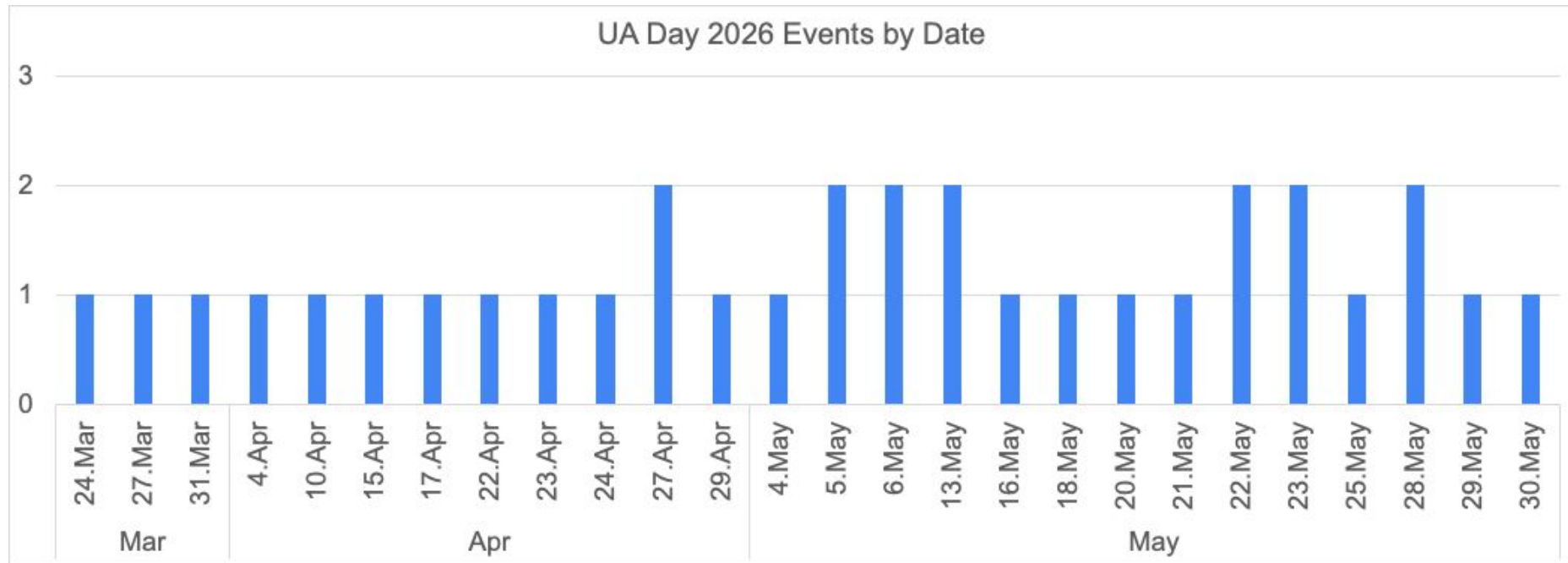
- Focused on UA adoption and demonstration events.
- UA Day Adoption and Demonstration event organizers received training and technical support to meet the [specific requirements for UA Adoption](#).
- UA Day materials available on [universalacceptance.day](#).



UA Day
#Internet4All



UA Day 2026 Event Dates



UA Day 2026 Events by Location

Organized in 30 countries and territories.

Regional Events	National Events
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Armenia (EUR)2. Africa countries (AF)3. United States of America (NA)4. Uruguay (LAC)5. Viet Nam (APAC)	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

UA Day 2026 at ITU RDF-EUR

ITU Regional Development Forum 2026 for Europe (RDF-EUR) Prague, 24 March 2026

Theme: “Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future”

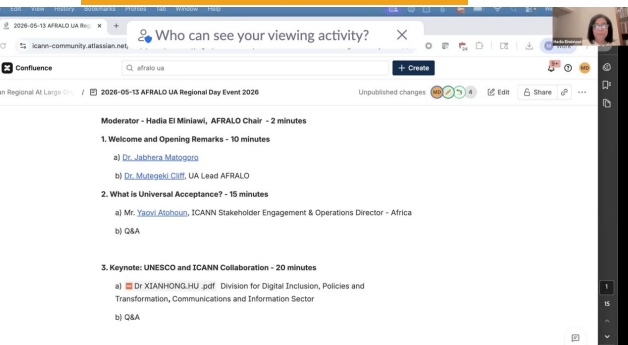
Social Event: Observation of the UA Day, organized by ICANN, EURid and partners, including UNESCO and ITU.

Attended by around 70 representatives from ITU sector members, including representatives from the Council of Europe, European Commission and national European ministries and regulators.



Detailed programme: [here](#)

UA Day 2026 Regional Events



AFRICA AFRALO

Showcased how to advance UA through examples of technical adoption and education. 16 speakers contributed from different UA aspects. 81 participants from 27 countries attended the virtual event.

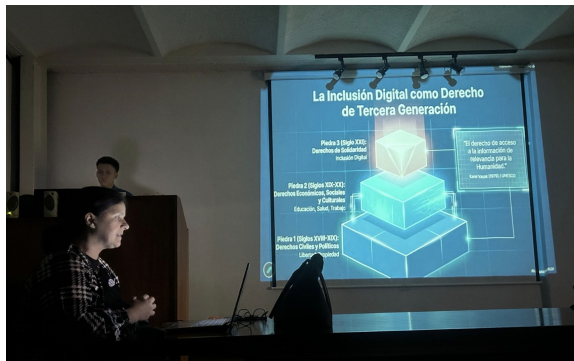
ASIA PACIFIC VNNIC

Brought together five ccTLDs and country delegations including Viet Nam, Laos, India, Thailand, China focusing on bridging policy and technical execution. 204 people participated.

EUROPE Internet Society NGO

Several concrete action items were identified to for UA adoption involving all stakeholders. Event held in Armenian, English, and Russian for 100 participants across the region.

UA Day 2026 Regional Events



LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN LACNOG

11 speakers contributed from different UA aspects to showcase UA technical adoption, education efforts in the region and to promote the transition to technical implementation and build capacity.



NORTH AMERICA CODI

The virtual event reinforced the importance of UA, AI, inclusive language infrastructure, and community-driven data initiatives in shaping a more multilingual and participatory digital future.

UA Adoption and Demonstration Events-2026

- 17 successful UA adoption and demonstration events were held that meet the following requirements:
 - Registered an IDN or used an existing IDN to set up a webspace online with Wordpress / Drupal that is able to input and process all valid domain names and email addresses.
 - Set up an email server which supports Email Address Internationalization (EAI) using the [EAI self hosting script](#) published by ICANN.
 - Created Unicode based internationalized mailboxes/email addresses using the IDN registered.
- **Scripts used:** Arabic, Devanagari, Latin, Telugu, Thai, Tifinagh
- **Languages used:** Arabic, Ewe/Ga, French, Krio, Nepali, Romanian, Spanish, Tamazight, Telugu, Thai, Urdu, Wolofal, Yoruba.

Specific requirements and milestones for UA Adoption in UA Day:

<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/specific-requirements-ua-adoption-demonstration-events-08oct25-en.pdf>

Successful Deployments of UA Adoption

#	Country	Website IDN	Language of the Domain Name	Script of the Domain Name	Sample email addresses
1	Kenya	شبكة.ac.ke	Arabic	Arabic script	demo@شبكة.ac.ke
2	Senegal	خوال.com	Arabic and Wolofal	Arabic script	全球普适性倡导者@خوال.com
3	Lebanon	يوم-القبول-الشامل.com	Arabic	Arabic script	
4	Pakistan	تیز پوسٹ بازار	Urdu	Arabic script	اسد@تیز پوسٹ پاکستان
5	Thailand	เว็บ.คน.ธุรกิจ.ไทย	Thai	Thai script	mailbox1@เว็บ.คน.ธุรกิจ.ไทย
6	Nepal	क्यान.संगठन	Nepali	Devanagari script	इनफो@क्यान.संगठन
7	India	సమాచారం@సాక్షింఢియాస్టైదరాబాద్.భారత్	Telugu	Telugu script	సమాచారం@సాక్షింఢియాస్టైదరాబాద్.భారత్
8	Morocco	ⵜⴰⴳⴷⵓⴷⴰ.com	Amazigh (Tamazight)	Tifinagh script	info@ⵜⴰⴳⴷⵓⴷⴰ.com

Successful Deployments of UA Adoption

#	Country	Website IDN	Language of the Domain Name	Script of the Domain Name	Sample email addresses
9	Uganda	journée-ua.org	French	Latin script	journée@journée-ua.org
10	Nigeria	élève.com	French	Latin script	expéditeur@élève.com
11	Burkina Faso	étalon.com	French	Latin script	
12	Ghana	wɔsɛɛko.com	Ewe / Ga	Latin Script	ghanauaday@wɔsɛɛko.com
13	Sierra Leone	https://sierraleone-ua.org/ualsite	Krio	Latin script	info@sierraleone-ua.org
14	Republic of Moldova	asociația-internet.com	Romanian	Latin script	contact@asociația-internet.com
15	Bolivarian Republic of	amamoslañ.com	Spanish	Latin script	info@amamoslañ.com
16	Peru	digitalñan.pe	Spanish	Latin script	ñawi@digitalñan.pe
17	Nigeria	itẹwọgbàkàríayé.com	Yoruba	Latin script	mailbox1@itẹwọgbàkàríayé.com

Snapshots From Some UA Day 2026 Events



Pakistan, Nepal, Ghana, El Salvador, and China UA Day Events.



Publications and Materials (1/2)

- **Videos:**
 - **Welcome Videos:**
 - Tripti Sinha, Chair of the ICANN Board ([EN](#))
 - Kurtis Lindqvist, President and CEO of the ICANN ([EN](#))
 - Guilherme Canela, Director of Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation of UNESCO ([EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [PT](#))
 - **Other UA Videos:** Introduction to Universal Acceptance ([AR](#), [FR](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [PT](#), [TH](#), [ZU](#))
- **Demo Training Materials, Recordings, Step-by-Step Guides**
- **Messaging:**
 - [ICANN ON – Supporting a More Multilingual Internet](#)
 - [ICANN ON – Internationalized Domain Names in Action Globally](#)
 - [UA Day Messages Collation](#)

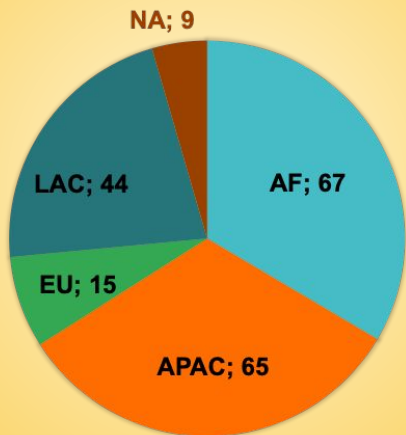
Publications and Materials (2/2)

- **Presentation Materials:**
 - Awareness Presentation-1hr (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
 - Awareness Presentation-2hr (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
 - Technical Overview-2hr (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
 - Academic Curriculum Discussion and Roadmap Development-2hr (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
 - Technical Adoption Experience-3hr (With Wordpress) (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
 - Technical Adoption Experience-3hr (With Drupal) (AR, ES, FR, PT, RU, ZH)
- **Flyers:**
 - UA Curriculum Integration Program Flyer (AR, CN, ES, FR, RU)
 - UA Roadmap for Registry and Registrar Systems Flyer
- **UA Day 2026 Report will be posted on <https://www.icann.org/ua-day-en>.**

UA Days 2023-2026: At a Glance

200 UA Day Events held
in 86 countries
in 42 languages

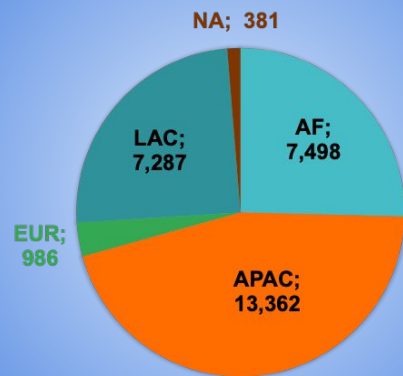
NUMBER OF EVENTS IN 2023-2026



Participation Across the Regions

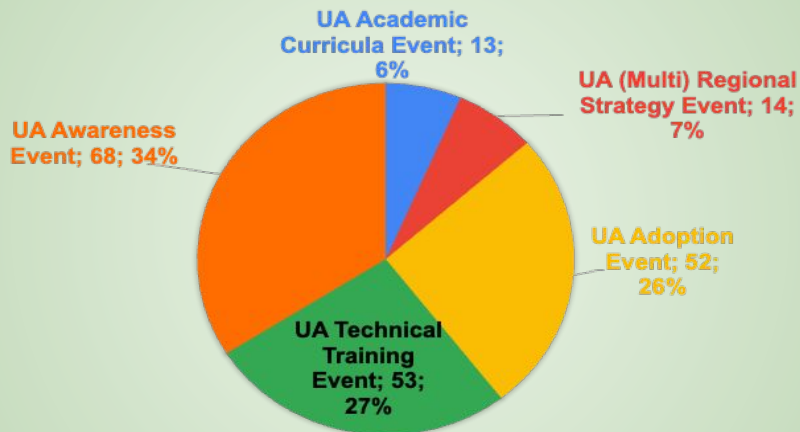
Featured 29,514 participants across the globe.

- 9,424 participants in 2023
- 6,544 participants in 2024
- 7,695 participants in 2025
- 5,851 participants in 2026



UA Day Event Dates

Organized annually over a three-month period from March through May.



UA Day 2026

Dr. Xianhong Hu
UNESCO

UA Day 2026: Community Outreach and Engagement

- 30 Events shortlisted among 70 submissions from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 18 UNESCO Field Offices + UNESCO HQ engaged in joining, national and regional events.
- Reaches technical communities, policymakers, academia, civil society and language communities.



UA Day 2026: Regional Engagement



Armenia



Vietnam



Moldova



Venezuela -
México -
Colombia

Africa: A Hub of Linguistic Wealth

- Africa is home to one third of the world's languages
- With an estimated **1,250 to 3,000 indigenous languages** spoken across the continent
- UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger lists around **2,500 endangered languages** worldwide, many of which are found in Africa.
- **Up to 10% of African languages**, especially those spoken by small communities, could disappear within a century.
- **4.33 million domains** registered under African country code top-level domains with an additional **1.4 million generic top-level domain registrations** from African entities. (As of November 2023)

Urgency and Timeliness in Advancing Multilingual Digital Inclusion



Africa



UK-Nigeria

UA Day 2026: Local Action in Focus



El Salvador



China



India



US



Uganda



Nepal

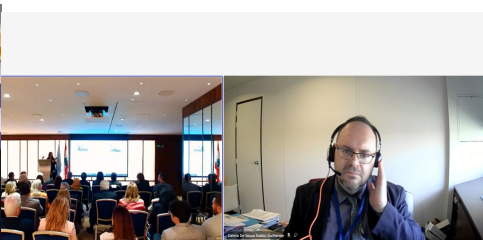


Pakistan

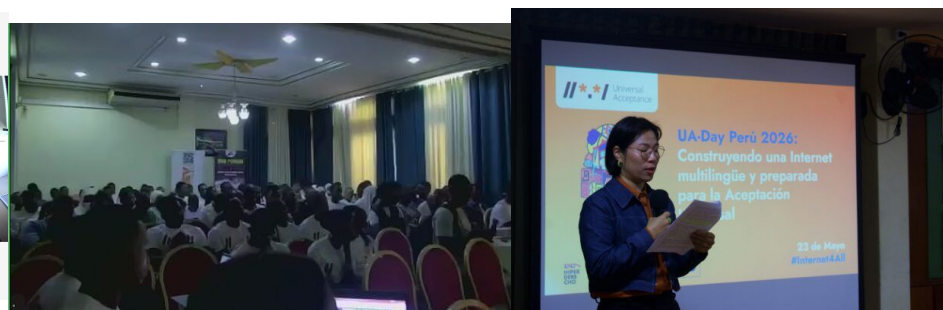
UA Day 2026: Local Action in Focus



Kenya



Lebanon



Burkina Faso

Peru



Morocco



Sierra Leone



Ghana

Visibility and Social Media Promotion

Mariya Gabriel
2mo


UNESCO and ICANN are joining forces to celebrate #UniversalAcceptance worldwide advancing a more inclusive, multilingual Internet where everyone, everywhere can fully participate online.

Universal Acceptance ensures that all domain names and email addresses - regardless of script, language, or extension - are recognized and work seamlessly across platforms 🌐

Join the global momentum and explore events happening through 30 May 2026, highlighting how communities are driving digital inclusion.

🔗 <https://lnkd.in/enyP9v4G>

#UniversalAcceptance #DigitalInclusion #MultilingualInternet #UAWeek #InternetForAll



UNESCO and ICANN to celebrate Universal Acceptance Day
unesco.org

👍❤️🗨️ 50 · 2 Comments

UNESCO
2,569,677 followers
2mo

In today's digital world, language remains a barrier for millions.


While more than 6 billion people are online, only a few hundred languages are fully accessible on the Internet, a fraction of the over 7,000 spoken worldwide. Universal Acceptance (UA) is a critical step towards closing this gap. It ensures that all domain names and email addresses function correctly across systems, regardless of language, script or character length. This is essential to enable equitable access to information, services and opportunities online.

Through their partnership, UNESCO and ICANN are advancing a more inclusive and multilingual Internet. This includes supporting the use of internationalised Domain Names (IDNs), strengthening system readiness, and raising global awareness through initiatives such as Universal Acceptance Day.

From 25 March to 30 May 2026, #UADay2026 brings together governments, technical communities, academia and civil society across regions to accelerate progress on multilingual digital inclusion.

A truly inclusive digital future must be multilingual by design.

🔗 Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/enXubpQ7a>



The Internet doesn't speak every language... yet.
Universal Acceptance is changing that.

👍❤️🗨️ 163 · 14 Comments

UNESCO India
12,416 followers
2mo · 12mo

Imagine a digital world where everyone's name and language work seamlessly. That's Universal Acceptance (UA), ensuring that all domain names and email addresses, regardless of language or script, function everywhere on the internet. ...more

👍❤️🗨️ 42

👍 Comment 🗨️ Share



Imagine a world where everyone's name and language works seamlessly online.

Michael J.M.
1mo

4/24: UNESCO - "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression in a language of their choice, both on the internet and in the public domain, as enshrined within the international human rights instruments..."

Multilingualism is therefore central to social development, promoting inclusion, preserving cultural heritage and empowering marginalized and indigenous communities...

- 🔗 The 2033 Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace [<https://lnkd.in/enTNUbVvG>], calls on international organizations, governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to work together to advance multilingual content and systems...
- 🔗 [The UN] proclaimed 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (DIL 2022-2032) [<https://lnkd.in/enYRYCUBQ>] to raise global awareness of the urgent need to preserve, revitalize, and promote indigenous languages worldwide...
- 🔗 Universal Acceptance (UA) [https://lnkd.in/enU_9zah] is a fundamental principle for building an inclusive, multilingual digital environment. It ensures that all domain names and email addresses - regardless of script, language, or character set - are fully recognized and function seamlessly across digital platforms and services...



Multilingualism and Linguistic diversity
unesco.org

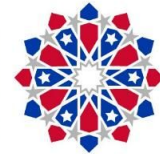
👍❤️🗨️ 34 · 1 Comment

UA Curriculum Integration

**Dr. Fatema Akbar,
American University of Bahrain**



الجامعة
الأمريكية
بالبحرين



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BAHRAIN

UA Curriculum Integration at AUBH

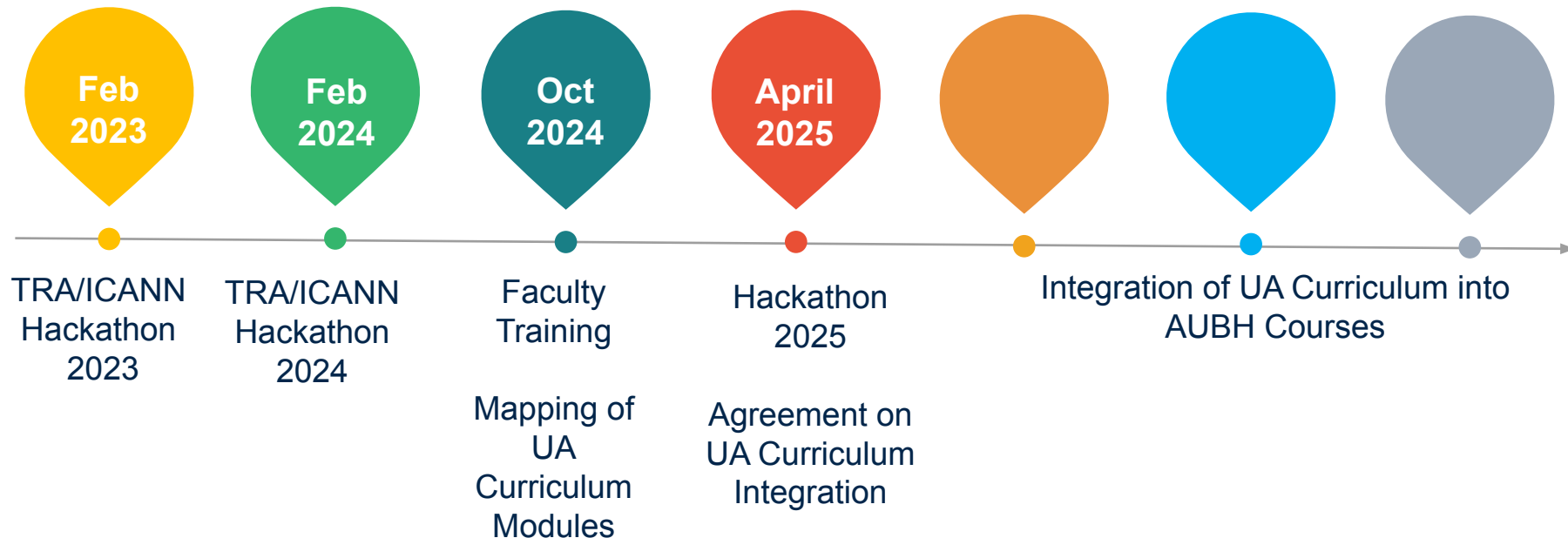
Advancing Universal Acceptance Adoption

09 June 2026

Agenda

- Timeline of AUBH-ICANN Collaboration
- Need for UA Curriculum Integration
- Steps Implemented at AUBH for UA Curriculum Integration
- Challenges
- Conclusion

Timeline of the Journey



Which of the Following are Not Valid Top-Level Domains?

<input type="checkbox"/>	.com, .net, .org, .edu	✗	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.bank, .london, .vote	✗ 	13
<input type="checkbox"/>	.uk, .jp, .bh, .qa	✗ 	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None of the above	✓ 	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	No answer	✗ 	3

Domain Names Can Only Use ASCII Characters

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	True	✗	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	12
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	False	✓	<div style="width: 80%; height: 10px; background-color: green;"></div>	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	No answer	✗	<div style="width: 5%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	2

A Typical IT/Computing Graduate

Programming

Databases

Networks

Security

Software/web/app development

Focus on ASCII.

Minimal focus on handling languages.

Lack on textbooks and reference material including comprehensive coverage of UA principles.

Focusing primarily on ASCII in computing programs can have several implications:

- Graduates being less prepared to handle internationalization and localization
- Reduced Exposure to Modern Standards
- Narrowed Problem-Solving Skills

Concrete Next Steps for Universities

Integrate the ICANN UA Curriculum into IT/Computing programs.

Small scale upgrade to existing courses:

- Adding a new topic or subtopic.
- Adding UA concepts as requirements for projects/assignments.

Examples:

Elementary programming: read/write to files in Unicode.

Databases: store Arabic text without corruption.

Networks/Communication: explain IDNs.

UA Curriculum Modules

- Module 1: Unicode Programming Fundamentals
- Module 2: Unicode Advanced Programming
- Module 3: Unicode in Data Structures and Algorithms
- Module 4: Unicode in Database Management Systems
- Module 5: Introducing Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)
- Module 6: Programming in Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)
- Module 7: Email Address Internationalization (EAI)
- Module 8: Advanced Topics in Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)
- Module 9: Programming in Email Address Internationalization (EAI)
- Module 10: Processing IDNs and EAI in Mobile Apps
- Module 11: IDN Security
- Module 12: Unicode, IDNs and EAI Support in Operating Systems

Steps for Curriculum Integration

Step 1: Map AUBH Courses to UA Curriculum Modules

Step 2: Phased Integration Plan

UA Module	AUBH course(s) to cover module	Module topics integrated in AUBH course	Module topics not integrated in AUBH course	Updated course to be offered in (semester/year)	AUBH Faculty (instructor/coordinator/moderator)	Support needed (teaching material/projects/tools/etc.)
Module-1: Unicode Programming Fundamentals	CMPE 270: Digital systems (already partially covered) COSC 102: Object-oriented programming	All	None	Fall 2025		
Module-2: Unicode Advanced Programming		Normalization/ Collation	The Character- Glyph Model	Spring 2026		

Step 3: Support Faculty in Covering UA Topics

Reminders, accountability, recognition

For example,

- Sending an email reminding the faculty of integrating the material into their course. Attach the material.
- Establishing accountability by adding this as an action item assigned to the faculty in a formal document.
- Recognizing the faculty who successfully integrated the material (e.g., in the annual college report).

Step 4: Closing the Loop

Reporting, feedback, action plan

UA Module	AUBH course	Topics covered	Included in assessments?	Teaching material used	Instructor comments
Module-1: Unicode Programming Fundamentals	CMPE 270: Digital Systems	Character encoding ASCII vs Unicode Code units Surrogate pairs Unicode code charts	No material covered as informative discussion rather than a graded component.	PowerPoint Slides	The course is already very dense and it is challenging to cover this additional material. Will try to simplify further for next course offering.
Module-2: Unicode Advanced Programming	COS125: Data Structures and Programming Techniques	Searching through Unicode data (normalization + collation) Locale-based comparisons	Yes	In-class explanation with examples, followed by assignment.	Explained briefly in class. Did not cover the lecture slides. The course is already dense and it is challenging to incorporate the topic in detail in the classroom.
Module-3: Unicode in Data Structures and Algorithms					

UA Curriculum Integration Progress at AUBH

- Six modules successfully integrated and delivered in computing courses.
- Some modules need more thought of how to integrate.
- More modules planned for future semesters.
- One capstone project related to UA in progress.

Challenges

From Faculty feedback:

- “The course is already very dense and it is challenging to cover this additional material.”
- “Challenging to link it to current course learning outcomes.”
- “Long administrative process to change course syllabus or offer a new course.”
- “Faculty might need more training.”

Conclusion

As universities, our job is to prepare students for the future.

Developers who create online systems and applications with UA in mind help to ensure their work is ready for the future and works well for current Internet users, as well as the next billions who will come online.

Researchers who investigate UA have interesting and complex problems to solve and research areas to explore.

Administrators or regulators have an opportunity to enable users globally to experience the social and economic power of the Internet.

Integrating UA curriculum is a concrete step towards achieving this goal.

ICANN Webpage and Social Media Links

-  icann.org
-  [@icann](https://twitter.com/icann)
-  facebook.com/icannorg
-  youtube.com/icannnews
-  flickr.com/icann
-  linkedin.com/company/icann
-  instagram.com/icannorg