

Tunisian Republic
Instance Nationale des Télécommunications

°°



« .tn » Naming Charter

INT Decision n°25, May 11th, 2011

Version 1.1

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Article 1: Purpose

- 1.1 This document, hereafter referred as to the “Naming Charter”, has been elaborated by the Instance Nationale des Télécommunications (National Regulatory Authority) according to the dispositions of article 23 of the ministerial decision of December 2nd, 2009, approving the national numbering and addressing plan.
- 1.2 The Naming Charter aims at establishing conditions and rules for the registration of domain names within the “.tn” naming space, together with related dispute resolution procedures.

Article 2: Definitions

2.1 Within this Naming Charter, the following terms will be defined as follows:

- **INT** : Instance Nationale des Télécommunications.
- **National Domain**: Root domain reserved to Tunisia (.tn) according to standard ISO 3166-1.
- **Sector Based Domain**: The domain whose name is made up of the National Domain preceded by a name identifying administrative structures, legal persons depending on their activities, together with natural persons.
- **Internet Domain Name**: Nominative address made up of the national or the sector based domain preceded by a unique identifier.
- **Applicant**: Any legal or natural person requesting the registration of an Internet Domain Name.
- **Holder**: Any legal or natural person having registered an Internet Domain Name.
- **Registry**: The legal person the INT has charged with the technical management of Information system relating to Internet Domain Names in coordination with relevant international entities according to the dispositions of article 24 of the ministerial decision approving the national numbering and addressing plan.
- **Registrar**: Any legal person specialized in registering Internet Domain Names for clients on behalf of the Registry and having signed with this latter a non exclusive agreement according to the dispositions of article 24 of the ministerial decision approving the national numbering and addressing plan.
- **Administrative contact**: The Holder or any other legal or natural person fully mandated by him.
- **Technical contact**: The Holder, his Registrar or any other legal or natural person fully mandated by him.
- **WHOIS**: Search service provided by the Registry allowing finding administrative or technical contacts relating to an Internet Domain Name or an IP address.
- **DNS server**: Server used to host an Internet Domain Name.

Article 3: Internet Domain Names structure

- 3.1 Internet Domain Names, being able to be registered, are broken down into two categories:
 - Internet Domain Names related to the National Domain.

- Internet Domain Names related to a Sector Based Domain.

Article 4: Sector Based Domain structure

4.1 The Sector Based Domain available at all Registrars are the following:

Sector Based Domain	Eligible entity
.com.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial companies
.intl.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations governed by international treaties • Foreign diplomatic representations
.org.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nongovernmental organizations • Non-profit organizations • Associations
.ind.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial companies/groups • Chambers of commerce (board of trade)
.nat.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National companies • National institutions • National offices • National agencies
.tourism.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any institution working in the tourism sector
.info.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written press • Televisions • Radios
.ens.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private education institutions
.fin.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial institutions • Banking institutions • Insurance institutions
.net.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications network operators
.perso.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural persons

4.2 Sector based Domain that are available only at Registrars that officially represent the community of entities eligible to those domains and are given hereafter:

Sector Based Domain	Eligible entity
.gov.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries • Governorates • Municipalities • Tunisian diplomatic representations abroad
.edunet.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State primary and secondary education establishments
.rnrt.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research structures/projects
.rns.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State structure related to the health ministry
.rnu.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure related to the higher education ministry • Higher education establishments
.turen.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure related to the higher education ministry • Higher education establishments • Research structures/projects
.agrinet.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures/projects related to the ministry of agriculture, hydraulic resources and fishing • Agricultural higher education establishments and research structures
.defense.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure/projects related to the health of defense

Article 5: Allowable Domain Names

5.1 The Applicant is free in choosing the term(s) that he/she intends to use as a unique identifier(s) for the requested Internet Domain Name provided that this (these) term(s) complies with the following conditions:

- It complies with the naming syntax detailed in article 6 of this Naming Charter,
- It complies with the general conditions relating to Internet Domain Names presented in section 7 of the present Naming Charter,
- It is not a technical term of Internet.

Article 6: Naming Syntax

6.1 The unique identifier relating to an Internet Domain name must compulsorily comply with the following criteria:

- Be made up of:
 - Letters of the alphabet from "a" to "z" (no distinction as to case) and the "-" (dash) symbol which could not be used at the beginning or at the end of an Internet Domain Name,
 - Digits from "0" to "9",
- Not being made up of only two letters,
- Having a length between two (02) and sixty three (63) characters,
- Having the 3rd and the 4th characters as dash "-", eg. "xx--",
- Not beginning or ending by the "-" (dash) symbol.

Article 7: General conditions relating to Internet Domain Names

7.1 The unique identifier relating to an Internet Domain Name should not :

- Undermine public order or be banned from use,
- Undermine morality or be offensive or rude,
- Be racist or incite to violence or be linked to crimes or offenses,
- Undermine religions,
- Infringe the rights of a third person,
- Be identical or may be confused visually or syntactically or aurally with a brand name.

Article 8: Eligibility criteria

8.1 An Internet Domain Name can be attributed to any Applicant that complies with the following criteria:

- Legal persons created according to tunisian in force laws,
- Trademark holders or legal representatives of international trademarks in Tunisia,
- Tunisian legal and full-grown persons or persons residing officially in Tunisia,

8.2 Applicants willing to have sector based domains must undertake to check their membership to entities/communities eligible for registration according to article 4 of this Naming Charter.

Article 9: Registration of Internet Domain Names

9.1 Registration requests are processed according to the first in first served principle.

9.2 Internet Domain Names registration requests have to be sent to a Registrar chosen by the Applicant by:

- A registered letter, or,
- Being delivered by hand to the Registrar against acknowledgement of receipt, or,
- A trustworthy electronic document with an acknowledgement of receipt, or,
- A trustworthy online registration system, made available by the Registrar, against a confirmation,

9.3 Registration requests must include:

- The registration form made available by Registrars filled and signed,
- A copy of the identity document,
- Technical and administrative contact details and those of the Applicant,

9.4 The updated list of Registrars is available at www.registre.tn.

9.5 The Registrar must proceed to register an Internet Domain Name in the day of receipt the request. Requests that do not comply with the provisions of the present Naming Charter must be rejected.

9.6 We mean by "technical activation" any technical processing required for the publication of registered Internet Domain Names on Internet and on WHOIS servers according to the provisions of the present Naming Charter.

9.7 The technical activation of an Internet Domain Name by the Registry occurs within one (01) working day beginning from the date of receipt of a valid registration request.

Article 10: Applicants obligations

10.1 When requesting a registration of an Internet Domain Name, the Applicant must designate an "administrative contact" that must be established in Tunisia and must have a valid address there.

10.2 When requesting a registration of an Internet Domain Name, the Applicant must designate a "technical contact" that may be contacted and informed of any transactions affecting the Internet Domain Name, through its Registrar.

10.3 If these obligations are not respected, then the registration request is rejected.

10.4 The Applicant must make sure that the requested Internet Domain Name complies with the provisions of the present Naming Charter.

Article 11: Holders obligations

- 11.1 As long as the domain name is used, the Holder, its administrative and technical contacts must provide details of a valid telephone number and e-mail address. The e-mail address of the administrative contact must finish by “.tn”.
- 11.2 While the domain name is active, the Holder must ensure that information relating to its technical and administrative contacts is kept up-to-date at all times through its Registrar.
- 11.3 The Holder commits himself to respect the following principles:
- Not to sell or rent or delegate the Internet Domain Name totally or partially (sub domain),
 - Inform the Registrar of any modification in the information relating to the Internet Domain Name.

Article 12: Registry rights

- 12.1 As part of audit operations performed by the Registry, it reserves the right to request the Registrar, to submit documents related to registration operations or Holders.

Article 13: Rights on Internet Domain Names

- 13.1 The Holder can use its Internet Domain Name while the registration is still active.
- 13.2 The Holder can use its Internet Domain Name according to the provisions of the present Naming Charter.
- 13.3 The registration of an Internet Domain Name and its utilization are the responsibility of the Holder and its technical/administrative contact.

Article 14: Validity of an Internet Domain Name

- 14.1 A registered Internet Domain Name has a validity of twelve (12) months starting from the date of its activation, tacitly renewed, unless a written termination request addressed by the Registrar to the Registry subject to the provisions of the present Naming Charter.

Article 15: Changing Registrar

- 15.1 Holders may change Registrar in accordance with the provisions of this Naming Charter.
- 15.2 Holders are free to choose a new Registrar, which will then deal with the necessary formalities.
- 15.3 The former Registrar commits itself to process any changing request within three (03) working days since the receipt of the request.
- 15.4 The new Registrar must inform the Registry of the change and must ensure that this change in no way affects the availability of the Internet Domain Name.

Article 16: Orphan Domain Names

- 16.1 Are considered “orphan domain names” Internet Domains Names validly registered by a Holder through a Registrar and being no longer managed by this latter.

16.2 If a Registrar is not anymore under contract with the Registry, for any reason whatsoever, Internet Domain Names administered by the said Registrar are considered to be "orphan domain names", and the Holder must choose a new Registrar.

16.3 The Registrar who is led to being anymore under contract with the Registry is responsible for notifying its Holders. If it fails to comply, the Registry will notify Holders and, if necessary, their administrative/technical contacts of the need to change Registrar.

Article 17: Blocking an Internet Domain Name

17.1 The Registry may block an Internet Domain Name whenever a violation of the terms or the spirit of the present Naming Charter has been detected/or notified by a Registrar, in particular:

- When the administrative/technical contact details or those of the Holder are not valid,
- When registration fees are not paid and without the permission of the Holder,
- Following a court decision to block the Internet Domain Name,
- Following a notification from the National Agency for Computer Security (Agence Nationale de Sécurité Informatique) on breaches of safety rules established for legal or natural persons hosting their own web pages in their systems as stipulated in article 30 of the ministerial decision of December, 2nd, 2009,
- When the Internet Domain Name is not activated after one (1) year of its registration according to article 28 of the ministerial decision of December, 2nd 2009.

17.2 The Registrar notifies the Holder that his Internet Domain Name has been blocked within no more than three (03) working days.

17.3 Internet Domain Names could not be blocked for more than two (02) months unless a court decision is made and could not be unblocked unless blocking reasons are raised.

17.4 Once the blocking period expired, the Internet Domain Name is automatically suspended, unless a court decision is made.

Article 18: Internet Domain Names suspension

18.1 An Internet Domain Name is suspended in the following cases:

- At the request of the Holder subject to compliance with its commitments to its Registrar,
- After the expiration of the maximum blocking period and if the blocking reasons are not raised,
- Whenever a violation of the registration rules, as provided by the present Naming Charter, has been detected by the Registry following inspections specially when the Internet Domain Name undermines morality,
- If the Holder did not respect its obligations,
- If a court decision is made.

Article 19: Dispute resolution procedures

19.1 Any dispute relating to the registration of an Internet Domain Name can be resolved by the arbitration panel headed by the INT. The arbitration procedures manual is available on its website www.intt.tn and the website www.registre.tn.

19.2 Disputes covered by the provisions of this article are:

- Disputes concerning the registration of an Internet Domain Name between Holder and third,
- Disputes concerning the registration of an Internet Domain Name and caused by the application of the Naming Charter between Holder/Applicant and the Register and/or the Registrar.

Article 20: Modification of the Naming Charter

20.1 The present Naming Charter is a living document that could be changed in order to meet expectations of the stakeholders in accordance with international best practices.

20.2 Modifications could be made to the Naming Charter either on proposal of the Registry/Registrar or for public interest reasons.

20.3 In force version is available on the INT's web site and the website www.registre.tn.

Article 21: Liability

21.1 Registrars are responsible for informing Applicants of the dispositions of the present Naming Charter by any means namely by publishing them on their web sites.

21.2 Applicants must read the dispositions the present Naming Charter and they are deemed to have read and accepted them by the sole reason of asking the registration of an Internet Domain Name.

Article 22: Transitional provisions

22.1 Are reserved until June 30th, 2011 the following terms:

- Terms related to the functioning of the state and its structures,
- Terms relating to professions regulated by professional associations,
- Terms relating to countries, Tunisian governorates, cities and towns and terms reserved for international organizations.

22.2 These terms can be registered starting from July 15th, 2011.