



## « .tn » Naming Charter

INT Decision n°48, April, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Version 1.0

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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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 the 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 according to the dispositions of article 22 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"> <li>• Commercial companies</li> </ul>
.intl.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations governed by international treaties</li> <li>• Foreign diplomatic representations</li> </ul>
.org.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nongovernmental organizations</li> <li>• Non-profit organizations</li> <li>• Associations</li> </ul>
.ind.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial companies/groups</li> <li>• Chambers of commerce (board of trade)</li> </ul>
.nat.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National companies</li> <li>• National institutions</li> <li>• National offices</li> <li>• National agencies</li> </ul>
.tourism.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any institution working in the tourism sector</li> </ul>
.info.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written press</li> <li>• Televisions</li> <li>• Radios</li> </ul>
.ens.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private education institutions</li> </ul>
.fin.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial institutions</li> <li>• Banking institutions</li> <li>• Insurance institutions</li> </ul>
.net.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommunications network operators</li> </ul>
.perso.tn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural persons</li> </ul>

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

## 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 does not belong to the list of forbidden and reserved terms described in article 6 of this Naming Charter,
- It complies with the naming syntax detailed in article 7 of this Naming Charter,
- It complies with the general conditions relating to Internet Domain Names presented in section 8 of the present Naming Charter.

## Article 6: Forbidden and reserved terms

6.1 Forbidden terms are:

- Racist terms and terms affecting religions,
- Offensive terms and terms contravening standards of public decency,
- Terms to crimes or offenses,
- Any other term presenting an offence to order and law.

6.2 Reserved terms are:

- Terms relating to the operation of Internet,
- Terms related to the functioning of the state and its structures,
- Terms relating to professions regulated by professional associations,
- Terms relating to countries, cities and terms reserved for Tunisian territorial organizations and terms reserved for international organizations,
- Terms relating to national projects and national or international events,
- Terms relating to brands and trademarks protected by the law n°2001-36 of 17 april 2001 relating to the protection of brands and trademarks.

## Article 7: Naming Syntax

7.1 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,
- Not being made up solely of digits,
- Having a length between two (02) and sixty three (63) characters,
- Not starting with "xn--",

- Not beginning or ending by the "-" (dash) symbol.

### Article 8: General conditions relating to Internet Domain Names

- 8.1 The unique identifier relating to an Internet Domain Name should not undermine morality and public decency.
- 8.2 The unique identifier relating to an Internet Domain Name should not infringe the rights of third parties, such as (but not limited to) copyright, trademarks, competition rules, human rights (right to the name, the first name, pseudonym, etc).
- 8.3 The unique identifier relating to an Internet Domain name should not coincide nor be likely to coincide visually, syntactically or auditory with another with another Internet Domain Name.
- 8.4 The unique identifier relating to an Internet Domain name should not coincide nor be likely to coincide nor be made up of names of brands and trademarks protected by the law n°2001-36 of 17 april 2001 relating to the protection of brands and trademarks.

### Article 9: Eligibility criteria

- 9.1 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 trademark in Tunisia,
  - Tunisian legal and full-grown persons or persons residing officially in Tunisia,
  - Ministries, public establishments and companies, local authorities and state structures.

### Article 10: Eligibility checking

- 10.1 Before proceeding to any registration operation, Registrars must check Applicant's identities and request the supporting documents of these identities.
- 10.2 Registrars must, among others, verify that Applicants comply with eligibility criteria described in article 9.
- 10.3 For registration requests of sector based domain names, Registrars must make sure that Applicants are eligible to those sector based domain names by requesting the following supporting documents:

Sector Based Domain	Proof
.com.tn	A receipt of a K Bis extract or a certificate of registration or of deposit of a trademark
.intl.tn	A memorandum of association and an authorization
.org.tn	A memorandum of association
.ind.tn, .nat.tn, .tourism.tn, .ens.tn, .fin.tn, .net.tn	A receipt of a K Bis extract
.info.tn	A receipt of a K Bis extract and an authorization from the ministry of interior
.perso.tn	On receipt of proof of identity

10.4 Any registration request of a sector based domain name will be accepted provided that the Applicant justifies its eligibility according to the dispositions of this Naming Charter.

### Article 11: Registration of Internet Domain Names

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

11.2 Domain name 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,

11.3 For National Internet Domain Names, registration requests must include:

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

11.4 For sector based Internet Domain Names, registration requests must include:

- The registration form made available by Registrars filled and signed,
- An approved copy of the national identity,
- The relevant supporting documents justifying the eligibility of the Applicant to the requested domain name according to the provisions of article 10 of this Naming Charter,
- Technical and administrative contact details and those of the Applicant.

11.5 The updated list of Registrars is available at [www.registre.tn](http://www.registre.tn).

11.6 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.

11.7 We mean by “technical activation” operations any technical processing required for the publication of registered Internet Domain Name on Internet and on WHOIS servers according to the provisions of the present Naming Charter.

11.8 The technical activation of an Internet Domain Name by the Registry occurs within three (03) working days beginning from the date of receipt of a valid registration request.

### Article 12: Holders obligations

12.1 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 finishing by “.tn”.

12.2 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.

13.1 The Holder commits himself to respect the following principles:

- Not to sell or rent or delegate the Internet Domain Name totally or partially,
- Not to use the Internet Domain Name in activities contrary to laws,
- Not to infringe the rights and interests of third parties,
- Inform the Registrar of any modification in the information relating to the Internet Domain Name.

### **Article 13: Applicants obligations**

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 If these obligations are not respected, then the registration request is rejected.
- 13.4 The Applicant must make sure that the requested Internet Domain Name complies with the provisions of articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the present Naming Charter.

### **Article 14: Rights on the Internet domain names**

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

### **Article 15: Validity of an Internet Domain Name**

- 15.1 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 Registry to the Registrar subject to the provisions of the present Naming Charter.

### **Article 16: Changing Registrar**

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

### **Article 17: Internet Domain Names Transfers**

- 17.1 Internet Domain names can be transferred, subject to compliance with the provisions of this Naming Charter.



- 17.2 Internet Domain names cannot be transferred, without a written agreement expressed by the former Holder.
- 17.3 The Registrar must process a transfer request within three (03) working days of receipt thereof.

#### **Article 18: Orphan Domain Names**

- 18.1 Are considered "orphan domain names" validly registered Internet Domains Names being no longer managed by a Registrar.
- 18.2 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.
- 18.3 The Registrar who is led to being anymore under contract with the Registry is responsible for notifying its customers / Holders. If it fails to comply, the Registry will notify the Holder and, if necessary, their administrative/technical contacts of the need to change Registrar.

#### **Article 19: Blocking an Internet Domain Name**

- 19.1 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, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009,
- 19.2 The Registrar notifies the holder that its domain name has been blocked within no more than three (03) working days,
- 19.3 Internet Domain Names could not be blocked for more than three (03) working days unless a court decision is made and could not be unblocked unless blocking reasons are raised.
- 22.1 Once the blocking period expired, the Internet Domain Name is automatically suspended, unless a court decision is made.

#### **Article 20: Internet Domain Names suspension**

- 20.1 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 to the registration rules, as provided by the present Naming Charter, has been detected by the Registry following inspections,
- If the Holder did not respect its obligations,
- If a court decision is made.

20.2 Subject to the dispositions of the present Naming Charter, suspended Internet Domain Names become available to be registered again after six (06) months.

### **Article 21: Dispute resolution procedures**

21.1 Any dispute relating to the registration of a Internet Domain Name can be resolved by the arbitration proceedings designated by the INT listed on its website [www.intt.tn](http://www.intt.tn) and the website [www.registre.tn](http://www.registre.tn).

21.2 These procedures are aimed exclusively at resolving disputes relating to the registration of Internet Domain Names between registrants and third parties, and are in no way aimed at resolving disputes relating to Registry's or Registrars' responsibilities.

### **Article 22: Modification of the Naming Charter**

22.1 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.

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

22.3 In force version is available on the INT's web site and the website [www.registre.tn](http://www.registre.tn).

### **Article 23: Liability**

23.1 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.

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