

nicso-070327-un - Globalization or Multilingualisation: the Internet challenge

<http://www.europaworld.org/week300/pactto23307.htm>

A United Nations backed international treaty to preserve the rich diversity of the world's means of cultural expression, including its many languages, from the dangers of globalization has entered into force.

Globalization, as invented by Mark Davis (Unicode President) is one of the **multilingualization** steps. Its role is to enable the removal of the language barriers between a lingualized environment (such as the Internet) and its foreign users. It is a three folded action:

- **internationalization** of the common medium (e.g. the Internet) in permitting it to support ISO 10646/Unicode
- **localization** of the ends ("locale" files as documented by ISO 15897 and supported by projects such as Unicode CLDR
- **content and tool tagging** to enable the sorting and filtering of the contents in a consistence manner, among RFC 4646 application's users.

Today, the only globalization that is truly being supported is the English globalization. This leads to confusion, so the word is mostly being erroneously understood as: the dominance of human cultures by machines standardized by English speaking and thinking engineers and vendors. This vision is a layer violation: it makes **virtualization** looking dominated by English globalization. They are two entirely different issues, both resulting from computer human assistance (soon at the semantic, and then conceptual level), but in two different areas, which are the thinking and communicating areas.

Computer assisted human relations have four linguistic layers.

- **universalization** - everything is supported by numbers, such as in the ITU protocols
- **lingualization** - a unique language is used in the protocols, support, standardization (as in "e-Internet", English inside)
- **globalization** - a unique language is used in the same way but is interfaced with the nativepeople as described above. This is the Internationalized Internet.
- **multilingualization** - this is the localization of globalization, in which every language can technically be supported as English is currently supported today. It is a technical challenge declined by the IETF (RFC 4690).

Technically, the distributed Multilingualisation extends the decentralized globalization possibilities to every language, as per this international treaty. This answers most of the demands of the IGF, users, and cultures of the world.

The work engaged by ISO 3166 MA and other SSDOs to concertedly support this treaty, which was signed by Governments, is on its way <http://www.wwtld.org/meetings/cctld/ISO3166-IDN-G.Lang-E.Porteneuve.pdf> as documented at ICANN-Lisbon meeting, by ISO TC46. The next step will be, in accordance with ISO 3166, and in an interoperable manner with ISO 639 and RFC 4646, to extend this coding to every possible multilingualized application and locale file.

This will be completed by the now well engaged work in order to identify and document every possible relational space (including the DNS), in reference to their relevant spheres of characteristics, in a distributed manner.

This work is fortunately supported by the evolution of ISO 639 (once fully documented by ISO 639-4) from coding "language names" to "language entity concepts", as initiated by the father of the ISO 639-6 standard, and presented in Lisbon, on behalf of the British BSI/TC37 by his former assistant, now a private rapporteur for the CNSO/ccNSO/GAC.

Now, IETF/ICANN have to decide - as they will have for WHOIS and privacy, or IDNA - either ignoring the international treaties, national regulations, and user demands, to retain an (necessarily declining) English centric shaping of the world, or accepting the very basic principle of the WSIS Tunis agreement, which was co-signed by the USA, that no country may interfere with the virtual space of another country, and national user community.

Prepared by **OG-NICSO-070327**

The convention has now been ratified by 35 countries and by the European Community: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Guatemala, India, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Namibia, Peru, Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Togo.