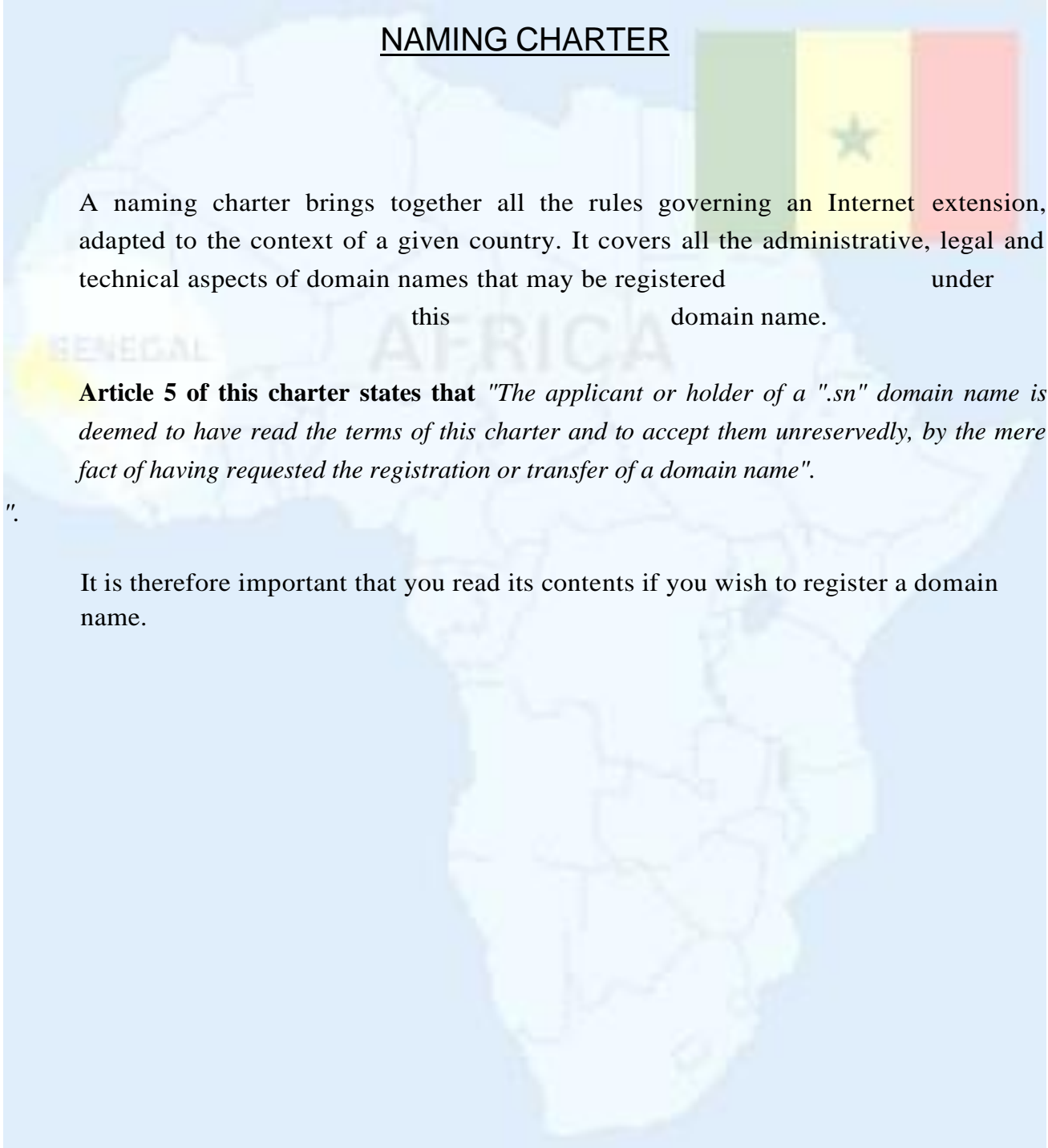


ccTLD .snNAMING CHARTER

A naming charter brings together all the rules governing an Internet extension, adapted to the context of a given country. It covers all the administrative, legal and technical aspects of domain names that may be registered under this domain name.

**Article 5 of this charter states that** *"The applicant or holder of a ".sn" domain name is deemed to have read the terms of this charter and to accept them unreservedly, by the mere fact of having requested the registration or transfer of a domain name".*

":

It is therefore important that you read its contents if you wish to register a domain name.

## Registration rules for domain names ending in .sn

### **Preamble**

The development of a Senegalese information society is a strategic challenge for the country's economic and social growth. With this in mind, Senegal has decided to make ICTs an essential lever. With this in mind, the development and management of the ".sn" domain are major challenges. To this end, it is essential to draw up a naming charter tailored to Senegal's ambitions. That is why this charter has been drawn up.

It is divided into four chapters. The first chapter deals with the scope of application, while the second specifies the definitions and principles governing allocation and use. The third chapter deals with the conditions for allocation and use, while the final chapter sets out the transitional and final provisions.

### **CHAPTER ONE: SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

#### ***Article 1: Purpose***

The purpose of this Naming Charter is to set out the rules for the administrative and technical management of ".sn" domain names. In particular, it ensures that applicants respect intellectual property rights.

### **CHAPTER II: DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES**

#### ***Article 2: Definitions***

For the purposes of this charter, :

1. **Naming Charter** for ".sn" domain names: all the rules relating to the registration, administration and maintenance of domain names ".sn".
2. **Manager**: an organisation called NIC Senegal, responsible for the administrative and technical management of ".sn" domain names, the maintenance of databases and public search services and the operation of servers.
3. **Applicant**: any natural or legal person who submits an application. domain name registration.
4. **Service provider**: organisation contracted by NIC Senegal to act as an intermediary between the administrator and the applicants, and which is responsible for registering and processing the applications.

modification of information relating to the domain names of its customers (applicants or holders of domain names).

5. **Domain name dispute:** any dispute by an individual or legal entity as to its right to a domain name already registered by a third party.
6. **Domain name:** alphanumeric term consisting of a series of characters called the radical and a suffix also called the extension (.sn for this charter). Each domain name corresponds to an IP address, and vice versa.
7. **DNS:** "Domain Name System" is an organised, hierarchical database used to match domain names with IP addresses.
8. **DNS server:** Server used to host domain names.
9. **WHOIS:** public database service enabling searches for information on a domain name or IP address. In general, WHOIS can be used to publish the physical contacts associated with the domain name or IP address (administrative or technical contact).
10. **Deleting a domain name:** procedure that consists of removing a domain name from the DNS servers and the WHOIS database. This domain name becomes free and can be registered again.
11. **Naming zone:** set consisting of a top-level domain (main extension) and one or more second-level domains (descriptive extensions).
12. **Sub-domain:** a sub-domain is the part of the name that precedes the domain name (e.g. sub-domain.domain.extension).

### ***Article 3: Principle of transparency***

Domain names are allocated in a transparent, non-discriminatory and objective manner. Fees are payable in accordance with the pricing policy adopted by the NIC Senegal National Steering Committee.

### ***Article 4: Principle of equality***

Domain names are allocated in accordance with the principle of equal treatment. It is subject to compliance with the laws and regulations in force in Senegal.

**Article 5: Principle of enforceability**

The applicant or holder of a ".sn" domain name is deemed to have read the terms of this charter and to accept them unreservedly, by the mere fact of having requested the registration or transfer of a domain name.

**Article 6: Principle of liability**

The manager cannot be held responsible for malfunctions.  
or due to force majeure.

The service provider is solely responsible for the correct technical processing of requests made by the beneficiaries of domain names.

The applicant is solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information sent to the service providers.

**CHAPTER III: CONDITIONS OF USE AND ATTRIBUTION****Article 7: Extensions of ".sn" domain names**

The naming zones delegated to the manager include the main extension ".sn" and descriptive extensions or sub-extensions.

Descriptive extensions are used to describe any activity or title. They are divided into :

1. *univ.sn* for academies and higher education establishments audiences ;
2. *edu.sn* for educational and vocational training establishments
3. *org.sn* for organisations and associations ;
4. *art.sn* for cultural professions ;
5. *gouv.sn* for government agencies ;
6. *com.sn* for commercial organisations;
7. *perso.sn* for individuals.

If necessary, the administrator can create other descriptive extensions. All extension must be declared on the manager's servers.

The submission of the supporting documents corresponding to the domain name requested shall be sent, by any means, to the manager or service providers at the time of the registration request. The registrar must publish the supporting documents for each descriptive TLD and check them before allocating the domain name.

**Article 8: Sub-domain**

The applicant for the domain name owns all the rights to use the subdomains. associated domains, at no extra cost.

Under no circumstances may the service provider market the registration of sub-domains created under the domains it has registered.

**Article 9: Service provider**

Any ".sn" service provider must be approved by the manager in return for an annual fee, in accordance with the conditions defined by the Senegalese NIC National Steering Committee .

The service provider must provide the administrator with proof that it is carrying out an activity directly related to the Internet (provision of Internet services, website hosting, website development, domain name registration, etc.).

To this end, the service provider must meet all the following conditions:

1. be a Senegalese company or be recognised by ICANN.
2. have at least two DNS servers.
3. have a service platform hosted in Senegal for companies incorporated under Senegalese law and permanently connected to the Internet 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.
4. a minimum of 50 domain names per year.

The service provider must provide the manager with an administrative contact and a technical contact for each applicant for a domain name. The contacts must each provide the manager and the providers with a telephone number, a physical and electronic address and their identification. The information concerning these contacts must be kept up to date with the manager. Failure to comply with this obligation will result in the domain name being blocked for one month and then deleted.

The list of service providers is kept up to date by the operator and published on its website.

The holder of a domain name may change provider subject to the following conditions

meet its contractual obligations to the previous service provider.

The manager has the right to review the general terms and conditions. use of services offered by service providers

**Article 10: The applicant**

The applicant may be a natural or legal person.

Individuals must be of legal age and have an address in Senegal.

The legal entity is represented by a natural person, known as the administrative contact, duly authorised for this purpose.

The applicant's administrative contact must be based in Senegal.

Applicants for .sn domain names domiciled abroad must appoint an agent established in Senegal or, failing that, provide a letter of accreditation to the service provider, to register and manage their .sn domain name.

If a provider ceases to operate, the holders of the domain names concerned will have to choose another provider.

**Article 11: Validity of a domain name**

A domain name is registered for a period of one year, renewable by tacit agreement, subject to compliance with the provisions of this charter and the clauses of the contract concluded between the service provider and the holder.

In the event of termination, an express request must be sent to the administrator.

**Article 12: Rights to the domain name**

The holder of a domain name must comply with all the provisions of this charter. The domain name holder only has the right to use the domain name for the duration of the registration.

The work carried out by NIC Senegal or by the service providers does not give them any intellectual property rights over the registered domain names.

**Article 13: Eligible domain names****13.1 : Basic principles**

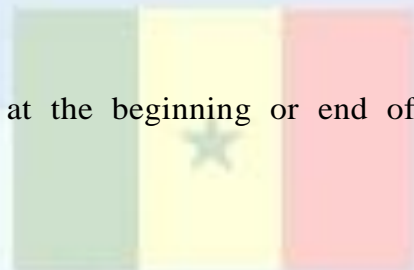
Domain names must not infringe the rules of competition, trade, public decency, public order or the rights of third parties, in particular the name, image or reputation of a natural or legal person.

Domain names must be no less than two (2) and no more than two hundred and fifty five (255) characters long (63 characters between each ".").

Finally, the purpose or effect of a domain name is not to cause confusion in the mind of the public regarding a natural or legal person.

**13 - 2 : Acceptable characteristics<sup>1</sup>**

- a. A domain name can only be registered if it is made up of a combination of the following characters :
- the letters a to z (no accents accepted). Domain names may be registered in upper or lower case. No distinction will be made between upper and lower case letters;
  - the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 ;
  - the hyphen (which cannot be used at the beginning or end of a domain name).
- b. A domain name must not begin with xn--.<sup>2</sup>

**13 - 3 : Prohibited terms**

Domain names must not be prejudicial to national security, public order, the interests of the State or public authorities, or be contrary to morality, just as they must not be prejudicial to religion, language, culture, political opinions or use terms with a racist connotation.

Applicants are free to choose their domain name. However, if, after the event, the competent authorities consider that the name undermines security, public order, the interests of the State and public authorities, or is contrary to morality and decency, the manager will delete it after informing the service provider. Reasons must be given for this decision.

**13 - 4 : Reserved terms :**

These are domain names whose registration is subject to specific conditions relating to the identity and rights of the applicant.

Reserved" domains include, for example, technical Internet terms (arpanet, inaddr, ipv6, icann, etc.), names of regulated professions (lawyer, surgeon, doctor, etc.), terms related to the functioning and institutions of the State (embassy, ministry, gendarmerie, etc.), names of cities (Dakar, Touba, Thiès, etc.), generic terms, etc.

<sup>1</sup> The standard defining machine names ([RFC 1123](#)) does not allow non-ASCII characters.

<sup>2</sup> Principle of the IDNA protocol (Internationalized Domain Names in Applications, [RFC 3490](#)): internationalized domain names are converted into an ASCII domain name ([Punycode](#) format). For example, www.académie.sn will be converted into www.xn--acadmie-npbl1a.sn.

They also concern names that have been registered with the national, regional and international authorities responsible for protecting trademark rights, in accordance with the international agreements signed by the State of Senegal.

The list of reserved terms is available on the administrator's website. This list is subject to change and applicants are invited to consult it online.

#### ***Article 14: Processing registration requests***

Applications to register .sn domain names must be submitted to the registrar via a service provider. They must comply with the following conditions :

1. From a service provider ;
2. The domain name requested must be free, according to the WHOIS database, available on the administrator's website;
3. The domain name requested must only be registered under one of the TLDs listed in Article 7.

The service provider shall ensure that the customer's request complies with the terms of this charter. He will be held responsible for any failure to comply with the registration conditions.

The service provider must enter the details of the domain name applicant on the "reservation form" available on the manager's website. The service provider must ensure that the information provided by the applicant is accurate.

Registration requests will be processed on a "first come, first served" basis. The time taken by the manager to process a complete registration request must not exceed two (2) working days.

Once the registration request has been approved, the manager informs the provider.

If the registration request is not complete, the manager shall inform the service provider within a period not exceeding two (2) working days from the date of its submission, specifying the elements that are missing from the registration request. If the said information has not been completed within a further 2 days, the domain name will not be reserved. It will remain available for registration by another person two (2) working days after the manager notifies the provider that the request has not been met.



The service provider must notify the applicant that the application for registration has been rejected.

***Article 15: Transfer of domain names***

Domain names may be transferred subject to compliance with this charter and under the conditions defined by the Senegal NIC National Steering Committee.

***Article 16: Confidentiality of personal data***

The processing of personal data as part of the management administrative and technical aspects of ".sn" domain names is subject to the provisions of Law No. 2008-12 of 25 January 2008 on the protection of personal data staff.

***Article 17: Control***

The ".sn" manager reserves the right to carry out any necessary checks on registered domain names at any time. Both the service provider and the domain name holder are obliged to provide any documents and information deemed useful for such checks.

**CHAPTER IV: HANDLING DISPUTES**

***Article 18: Arbitration and judicial powers***

Failing an amicable settlement, under the aegis of the NIC Senegal National Steering Committee, any dispute arising from the application of this charter shall be submitted to the competent judicial authorities.

***Article 19: Right to information***

In the event of a dispute, the manager undertakes to provide any information in its possession concerning the applicant of the disputed domain name(s) at the request of the competent authorities. The domain name in dispute shall remain active during the dispute resolution procedure. No changes may be made to it by the manager.

***Article 20: Law applicable to the charter***

Where the dispute concerns a ".sn" domain name relating to trademarks or service marks protected in Senegal, the claimant is required to comply with the provisions of Act No. 2008-09 of 25 January 2008 on copyright and related rights and the dispute resolution regulations applicable to such domain names.

refers to the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). These dispute resolution rules apply to all domain names.



**CHAPTER V: TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS*****Article 21: Revision of the Charter***

This Charter must be examined and revised if necessary at least once a year by the NIC Senegal National Steering Committee.

***Article 22: Entry into force of the Charter***

This charter comes into force as soon as it is adopted and published by NIC Senegal. The enforceable version of the charter is the one available on the NIC Senegal website on the day a domain name registration request is received.

***Article 23: Period of validity of existing domain names***

Existing domain names remain valid. From the date of entry into force of this charter, holders must comply with its provisions within a period of one year.