

**To: Unicode Technical Committee**

**From: Debbie Anderson, IR**

**Subject: IR report from ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 and WG2 meeting June 23-27, 2025**

**Date: 9 July 2025**

The ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 meeting #30 and WG2 meeting #72 were held in Niigata, Japan, from 23-27 June 2025. Over 50 experts participated virtually and in-person in WG2 and 30 Member Body representatives from 10 countries participated in SC2. The WG2 Recommendations are posted at WG2 N5304 and the agenda as WG2 N5300. The SC2 resolutions have been posted on the ISO website as SC2 N4994, and the SC2 report for meeting #30 as SC2 N4998.

### **Progression of CD2**

Discussion in WG2 focused on resolving ballot comments (see Disposition of Comments WG2 N5339), discussing proposals approved by Unicode at the April 2025 UTC, and presentation of a few other proposals. Michel Suignard will create CD3 after the UTC makes its decisions at its July 2025 meeting.

As requested in US comments, WG2 recommended (and SC2 accepted) the removal of the three Sidetic characters, the addition of four Bamum name aliases and eight character name changes that the UTC had agreed to, as well as the addition of 13 CJK ideographs, listed in M72.02 of the WG2 recommendations (N5304). Other CJK changes listed in M72.02 of the WG2 recommendations (N5304) were likewise recommended by WG2 (accepted by SC2). Two character name changes in the CD were also agreed to (05C8 POINT HEAVY SHEVA and 11B0A DEVANAGARI LETTER ALTERNATE DDDA), so the CD names should now be in alignment with those in the Unicode Pipeline. Michel Suignard did not remove Chisoi, two Oriya characters 0B53..0B54 and BENGALI LETTER SANSKRIT BA from the CD, but left them in, in order to keep attention focused on those characters that are still under discussion.

Other recommendations that were forwarded to SC2 (and approved by SC2) include the following from WG2 N5304):

M72.05 Radical stroke value updates for Tangut

M72.06 Glyph Corrections for Tangut

M72.07 Glyph corrections to J-source characters.

The characters listed in WG2 N5304 M72.12, which were all provisionally assigned at the April 2025 UTC, were likewise listed as candidates the Project Editor could include in the next CD.

The two characters 20C3 UAE DIRHAM SIGN and 18D20 TANGUT IDEOGRAPH-18D20 were listed in the WG2 recommendations as potential candidates for CD3; these two have not yet been discussed and approved by the UTC.

*Note: CJK glyph changes for eight pairs of T-source ideographs (2F81D/20674, 2F82D/2D161, 2F85D/21587, 2F92B/248FD, 2F97E/2659D, 2F9A4/26D06, 2F9CB/4695, 2F9D6/25AD4) are encompassed in the WG2 recommendation M72.01 though are not listed explicitly.*

In its CD2 comments, India requested more time to review the Chisoi script as well as 0B53 ORIYA DOT ABOVE, 0B54 ORIYA SIGN DOUBLE DOT ABOVE; and it requested that 09FF BENGALI LETTER SANSKRIT BA not be encoded. As noted above, these will remain in the CD for further expert comments. These characters have been in review for some time, and these late comments will disrupt the Unicode Consortium's plans for Unicode 17.0 this year. It is hoped that engagement with experts from India earlier in the encoding process will help prevent such last-minute issues with proposed characters and scripts.

Note: Meetings separate from the WG2 plenary took place in Niigata between Peter Constable and Jan Kučera with the representatives from Bureau of Indian Standards. They discussed the encoding process, fonts, keyboard issues, search, normalization and other issues.

## **Proposals**

### ***Seal script***

Joint work between Michel Suignard, TCA, Chinese and Japanese experts has led to a consensus proposal for 11,339 Small Seal characters to be added to the CD in a new block at 38000..3AC4F, based on WG2 N[5341](#).

There was some discussion about moving the Small Seal Script block to a location further down in the TIP or into Plane 4, but no decision was made, though there was some support for the move amongst WG2 attendees. The Convenor would like this topic discussed at the July UTC.

### ***Khitan Small Script additions / Jurchen***

The addition of five Khitan Small Script characters (WG2 N[5309](#)) identified by West and Zaytsev as Jurchen Small Script were agreed to by WG2 (along with one Khitan Small Script glyph change), but China disagreed about the designation of them as “Jurchen Small Script”.

In the view of the expert from China, the five characters do exist, but should not be called “Jurchen Small Script,” since in the expert's view, there is no distinction between Small Script and Large Script in Jurchen. Later offline feedback from Andrew West suggested China would like to have the five characters moved to the Jurchen block. If the name “Jurchen Small Script” were retained, then the current “Jurchen” script block and its characters should be renamed “Jurchen Large Script.” Because of the disagreement amongst experts, the change to “Jurchen Large Script” was not included in the WG2 recommendations.

One change that was agreed to was to change the name of the Jurchen characters from “JURCHEN IDEOGRAPH-XXXXX” to “JURCHEN CHARACTER-XXXXX”, a name deemed preferable.

### ***Khitan Large Script***

A preliminary proposal (WG2 N5319) from China was discussed. Additional work is needed, with additional comments in WG2 N5323. Collaboration between experts in China, Russia, and the UK is encouraged, perhaps involving use of a platform similar to CJK’s Online Review Tool.

### ***Tai Xaau***

An expert in Tai Xaau gave a presentation on the script (WG2 N5340). There was some discussion on the proposal WG2 N5310. Peter Constable will follow up with the expert to work with her and help resolve some outstanding questions.

### ***Leibniz docs***

Eight Leibniz documents (WG2 N 5329 – WG2 N 5336) were briefly discussed and feedback was relayed to the authors present at the meeting. A plan on how to deal with the many documents was arranged. Two additional proposals are expected in the coming year.

### ***RUBLE SIGN WITH DOUBLE VERTICAL STEM***

The ruble for the Transnistrian/Pridnestrovian ruble was discussed, with no consensus. One alternative mentioned was to put the character into one of the Cyrillic-Extended blocks, not the Currency Symbols block.

### ***Other topics***

#### ***Normative reference to Unicode UAXes***

WG2 agreed to allow the definitions of the source descriptions given in clauses 24 to 27 of the CD text of ISO/IEC 10646 be replaced with normative references to the relevant Unicode Standard Annexes #38 and #60. The source references cover CJK ideographs, Tangut, Nüshu, and Jurchen. SC2 accepted this recommendation.

### ***Code charts***

The Project Editor of 10646 indicated a desire for the code charts to be removed from the core text of the standard and distributed somehow separately. In consultation with the SC 2 Chair, it was agreed that the Project Editor will investigate with ITTF the possibility of moving code charts from the core text of the CD into an electronic data attachment. If an acceptable plan can be worked out, the Project Editor could implement this in the CD

### ***SC2***

#### ***Maintenance Agency (MA)***

The Ad Hoc Group1 met on the topic of a Maintenance Agency, with discussion of various documents on the topic, including a draft Terms of Reference and a lengthy document from Canada.

The outcome was that there was consensus to move forward with the MA, and Robin Leroy and Joshua Tsai will prepare separate document with alternate wording regarding the make-up of the committee.

In the Report, Recommendations and Action Item document (SC2 N4995), the Ad Hoc Group 1 on MA was extended until the next SC2 plenary in 2026. The Chair of the Ad Hoc asked the member bodies to write up their “position papers” on the MA by the end of September 2025.

### ***Acknowledgement of Alain Labonté and ISO/IEC 14651 Ed. 7***

The SC2 resolutions (SC2 N4993) included a grateful acknowledgement to Alain Labonté for his long-standing commitment and contributions to ISO/IEC 14651. SC2 also included a resolution thanking Ken Whistler and Michel Suignard for their work in getting ISO/IEC 14651 stabilized.

ISO/IEC 14651 (Ed. 7) will be published in August 2025, and SC2 requested it be made freely available.

### ***Chair of SC2***

Mr. Masaru TAKECHI was endorsed by SC2 for another 3-year term, with the nomination forwarded to the JTC1 plenary to be held in November 2025.

### ***JP Activity report (SC2 N4982)***

In its activity report to SC2, the Japan National Body indicated they have had internal discussions exploring the possibility of designating one UCS plane as a Specific Purpose Plane. It also noted a forthcoming request for a symbol used in dental charts. According to the Japanese NB representative, the SPP request is still in under discussion. The IRG Convenor highly recommended Japan propose the characters via IRG.

### ***Future meetings***

Next year’s SC2 and WG2 meeting is planned to take place in Paris in June 2026. The SC2 and WG2 2027 meetings were tentatively listed as hosted by the US, though some members relayed that they may not want to travel to the US. Canada is the back-up for the 2027 meetings.

The following IRG meetings were noted:

IRG #65, 2025-10-13/17, Guangzhou, China (hybrid)

IRG #66, 2026-03-16/20, Virtual (Webex)

IRG #67, 2026-10-12/16, Tokyo, Japan (hybrid; host by SAT)

IRG #68, 2027-03-15/19, Virtual (Webex)