

Proposal to refer to UTN #57 for implementing the Mongolian script

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Proposal

1. In the core spec, refer to [UTN #57](#) from the Mongolian section, and revise outdated content that conflicts with the UTN.
2. In the code charts, refer to [UTN #57](#) from the [Mongolian block](#)'s introductory paragraph.

Background

1. China's revised national standard for encoding–shaping Hudum Mongolian **entered into effect this year**.
 - a. This national standard, **GB/T 25914-2023**, was published on Nov 27, 2023, and is in effect since June 1, 2024. It's not available for downloading, but can be [viewed online](#) (click the blue button “在线预览” then solve the CAPTCHA in the “验证码” field).
 - b. It's China's (recommended, not compulsory) national standard for encoding–shaping of the Hudum Mongolian orthography (the Mongolian language's orthography, not including other orthographies such as Manchu, Sibe, and Todo).
2. The Unicode Standard needs to **align** with this national standard in terms of how encoded Mongolian text is shaped.
 - a. We need to catch up in this year's 16.0, otherwise the Unicode Standard will not correctly reflect the situation of how implementers now need to converge with this national standard, which is now the **de facto international standard**.
 - b. Also it's been known that Mongolia is still committed to its 2025 goal of starting to use the Mongolian script (in addition to Cyrillic) in official documents. See also [news report and clarification](#).
3. For some years, there has been a plan to publish a **technical note** (UTN) to clarify how to successfully implement the Unicode Mongolian script. And now with this national standard published, this UTN (now published as [#57](#)) is also responsible for helping implementations become compatible with this national standard.
 - a. This national standard describes the expected shaping behavior with thousands of parallel “characters in a context → glyph” rules, without data files, and without reference to the OpenType Layout architecture. There's also internal inconsistencies, exactly because of its architecture.

- b. The UTN is responsible for clarifying how to implement this national standard correctly and efficiently, reducing the difficulties implementers face and accidental incompatible behaviors they create because of the difficulties.
- 4. A few years ago, **Kushim Jiang** took over Liang Hai's responsibility on the UTN.
 - a. The content is complete in terms of interpreting this national standard for implementing Hudum Mongolian, and also provides best practices for implementing the other orthographies: Todo, Sibe, Manchu, and various Ali Gali orthographies.
 - b. Kushim and Liang plan to continuously update this UTN.