Re: **ESR Report for UTC #189 (2026Q4)**

From: **Jennifer Daniel on the behalf of the ESR**

Date: **2026-10-27**

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1. Public Feedback

   ReportID: ID20260629151521

   Name: Clay Johnson

Summary of Feedback: This individual argues that the Unicode Technical Committee's process is overly restrictive, corporate-dominated, and over-prioritizes concerns about "emoji inflation" over critical utility. They urge the committee to adopt a utility-focused approach that serves everyone rather than "artificial scarcity".

ESR Response: Every emoji is evaluated against communicative utility, including expected frequency of use, metaphorical breadth, and versatility across contexts. Because every encoded emoji is permanent the ESR must manage the rapid expansion of the emoji set. Twenty-three[1] emoji account for half of all global emoji shares. It is critical that each new addition does not result in what effectively becomes "technical debt" due to its lack of utility.

2. ESC Emoji Recommendations for Unicode 19.0 ⚖️

   We are recommending a short list of 5 new emoji (shown below):

[189-C] Consensus: Accept four (4) new emoji characters with the following character names, based on Section 2 of document L2/26-237, for Unicode 19.0:

```
U+1FA7F ORNATE BOTTLE
U+1FACB ORCHID
U+1FACA VULTURE
U+1F6DA INUKSHUK
```

[189-C] Consensus: Accept the following 1 new RGI directional ZWJ sequence, with the following description, based on Section 2 of document L2/26-237, for Unicode 19.0:

```
1f440 200D 27a1 fe0f; RGI_Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; EYES LOOKING RIGHT
```

Action Item: Update the pipeline to add the four new emoji characters in Section 2 of document L2/26-237, for Unicode 19.0

[1] 😭🤣😂❤️🙏😘🥰👍😍😁🥺♥️😅😡🥹🤭🖕😔🔥😊🫶💋👏, Source: Google, NYT

Action Item: Jennifer Daniel, ESR. Provide to Michel Suignard black/white images for the new emoji characters

Action Item: Ned Holbrook, ESR: Request change CLDR short name of “EYES” emoji (👀) to “EYES LOOKING LEFT”.

KEY

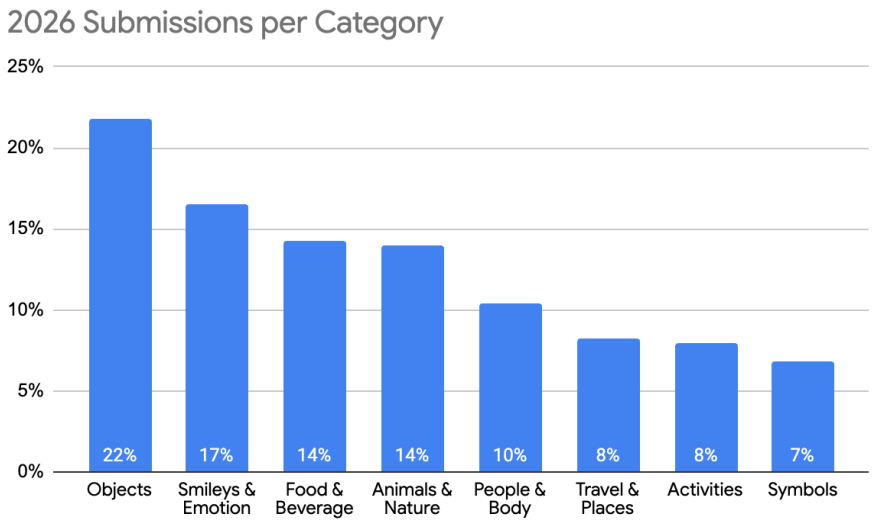
Blue Cell	Emoji_Modifier_Base=Yes

Smileys & Emotion					
body-parts					
№	**IMAGE**	**CLDR SHORT NAME**	**CLDR KEYWORDS**	**Proposal**	**Additional Sequence Count**
1		EYES LOOKING RIGHT	glance, pointing, watching	L2/26-269	0
Food & Drink					
food-prepared					
№	**IMAGE**	**CLDR SHORT NAME**	**CLDR KEYWORDS**	**Proposal**	**Additional Sequence Count**
2		ORNATE BOTTLE	concoction, cooking, elixir, oil, potion, syrup	L2/26-270	0
Animals & Nature					
plant-flower					
3		ORCHID	bloom, exotic, flower, tropical	L2/26-271	0
animal-bird					
№	**IMAGE**	**CLDR SHORT NAME**	**CLDR KEYWORDS**	**Proposal**	**Additional Sequence Count**
4		VULTURE	scavenger, bird, death, raptor, condor	L2/26-272	0

Travel & Places					
place-other					
5		INUKSHUK	Arctic, cairn, figurine, guide, human, Inuit, navigation, sculpture, stack, stone	L2/26-272	0

3. Intake for Unicode 19.0 🧭

The submission period for 2026 emoji proposals is now complete. The ESR received and reviewed 50% more proposals than in 2025. Objects were the most often proposed category of emoji and we observed a slight increase (+1%) over 2025.



4. Intake for Emoji 20.0

As a reminder and acknowledged in L2/26-008R Section 4, the ESR is adjusting the reviewing period for new emoji proposals to better align with UTC milestones.

In the past, ESR dedicated April to July to review emoji proposals. This process has resulted in our recommendations advancing in the Q4 meeting and with revisions landing in the Q1 report (as needed). With UTC assigning codepoints in Q4, our timeline will be adjusted to better align with this UTC milestone.

Moving forward, the emoji proposal intake will occur from February to May. This ensures emoji recommendations can be made in the Q3 UTC meeting and finalized in the Q4 UTC meeting. The Emoji 20.0 review period will open on February 2, 2027 and close May 31, 2027.