Title:	Response and Clarification to N1864
Source:	Ad-hoc discussion by WG2 Members
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Status:	Working Document
Action:	FYI
References:	WG2 N1756 / WG2 N1864
Distribution:	WG2 Members

This document, based on ad-hoc group discussion by WG2 members at London on 22, 23 Sept. 1998, responds to the concerns and corrections to WG2 N1575 raised by China in their document WG2 N1864.

Response and Clarification to WG2 N1864: "Comments on WG2 N1756 (Tibetan Extension)".

1. "The Tibetan experts of China insist on interchanging the glyphs of three characters positioned at AD, B1, and B2 and the other three glyphs of characters positioned at AD, B1 and B2 as what they were before."

The glyphs displayed in document WG2 N1756 for the characters at 0FAD [TIBETAN SUBJOINED LETTER WA], 0FB1 [TIBETAN SUBJOINED LETTER YA] and 0FB2 [TIBETAN SUBJOINED LETTER RA] are the normal glyph forms these subjoined consonant characters take in the (usual) Tibetan *dbu.chan* script.

The new characters OFBA [TIBETAN SUBJOINED LETTER FIXED-FORM WA], OFBB [TIBETAN SUBJOINED LETTER FIXED-FORM RA] are to be used only in those (exceptional) cases where a full form of the subjoined letter is required to be maintained. Short form (transformed or wa.zur, ya.btags and ra.btags) glyphs are obviously not suitable to represent these fixed-form subjoined characters. Furthermore if full-form glyphs were also used to represent OFBA, OFBB and OFBB this would lead to confusion and be contrary to the usual graphic shapes which these characters are associated with.

Example:

$$= 0F40 + 0FB2$$
 (usual case)

$$\mathfrak{T} = 0F40 + 0FBC$$
 (exceptional case)

The consensus reached by the interested WG2 committee members with input from other Tibetan experts after extensive discussion of the Tibetan Block both at the main meeting of WG2 and in ad-hoc discussions, was that a normal-form / fixed-form model should be adopted for these Tibetan sub-joined characters. It was demonstrated that encoding specific "short form" subjoined wa, ya and ra, as was once proposed, is contrary to the lexical and grammatical behaviour of these characters. This can also be seen by looking at the different styles of the Tibetan script since the glyph forms these subjoined characters normally take depends on the style of the Tibetan script being used (the glyph transformation rules being different in e.g. the widely used dbu.chan and dbu.med forms of the Tibetan script). The encoding in WG2 N1576 deals with these problems in the most straight forward and unambiguous manner possible.

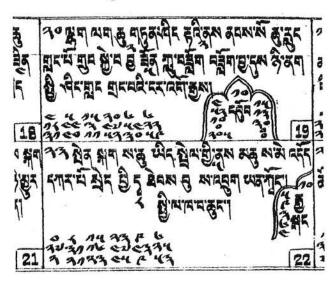
2.a "The two characters positioned at 3C and 3D are combined characters their functions are not exactly the same as bracket an example of using is given below"



While it is agreed with China that characters 0F3C and 0F3D are not the same as brackets and that they do not occur in isolation apart from other characters, in N1756 the dotted circle was removed from their graphic representation since the authors of that document believe that they do not meet the standard's strict definition of a combining character:

4.12 combining character: A member of an identified sub-set of the coded character set of ISO/IEC 10646 intended for combination with the preceding non-combining graphic character, or with a sequence of combining characters preceded by a non-combining character.

Other examples of the use of characters 0F3C and 0F3D demonstrating that they can contain multiple non-combining characters:



- bod ljongs man rtsi khang: bod me glang lo'i lo tho, si khron mi rigs pe skrun khang.

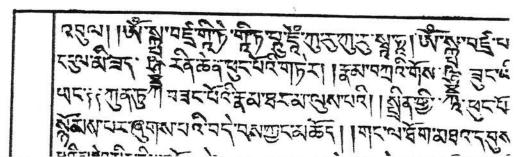
2.b "Three characters positioned at 88, 89 and 8B are combining characters too. The Tibetan experts of China insist that the glyphs of these five characters should have a dotted circle respectively as before."

Characters [0F88, 0F89 and 0F8B] are usually found at a headline position with subjoined consonant characters attached to them:



pg. 85 - snar thang lo ts'a'i mdzad pa'i sngags kyi klog thabs n.p. n.d.

If it is acceptable to WG2, it was suggested that in order to meet this concern of China, these three rare characters might be encoded as super-joined combining characters in which case the glyphs for the characters which they combine with would have to be rendered in a lower position than normal. If this is the accepted, then - to be consistent with the stacking model adopted by ISO 10646 for the Tibetan script - additional subjoined combining forms of these characters should also be encoded as they can also occur in mid-stack:



p 153 kun gzigs chos sngang mdzad pa'i dpal dus kyi khor lo'i dkyil 'khor sgrub mchod kyi cho ga'i ngag 'don bklags chod blta bur bkod pa slob dpon mgrin rgyan, n.p. n.d.

3. "The character positioned at 0C is come from the proposals of UK and Ireland, it is accepted in WG2 N1571 and accepted by WG2. The Tibetan experts of China want to know if it is necessary to change its glyph."

The character 0F0C is a non-breaking form of 0F0B - included in the encoding as some people wanted a character which could be used to prevent line wrap in the middle of compound (multi-syllable) words. In actual use the glyph for this character would be rendered exactly the same as a normal tsek (0F0B). In order to differentiate 0F0C from 0F0B earlier WG2 discussion document charts showed the graphic representation of this character with a dotted line below. However, it was felt by the authors of WG2 N1756 that that graphic representation of this character might lead to confusion of 0F0C with character 0F0F and some other characters. To prevent such confusion, and to make the purpose of encoding this character more obvious, N1756 proposed changing the graphic representation of this character. This change would not affect the shape or rendering of any glyph associated with this character in applications.

4. "The glyphs positioned at 3E and 3F are wrongly interchanged. (This comment was accepted by Mr. Michael Everson and Mr. Ken Whistler by e-mail.)"

This error in WG2 N1756 pointed out by China has now been corrected.

5. "The glyph of character 86 is not correct, it can be replaced with a better one. (This comment was accepted by Mr. Michael Everson and Mr. Ken Whistler by e-mail.)"

The mistake in the graphic depiction of character 0F86 as pointed out by China has been corrected.

It is hoped that these clarifications and corrections satisfactorily meet the concerns and useful comments expressed by China in WG2 N1864 and that the current Tibetan proposal which is before WG2 can quickly move forward. The Chinese delegation asked for sufficient time to consult with their Tibetan experts and circulate any further comments received from them to WG2 members before WG2 N1576 is processed as an FPDAM

It is therefore the recommendation of the ad-hoc committee to accept the repertoire names and glyph representations in N1576, with the corrections noted in 4. and 5. above, for further processing by the editor as a PDAM.