

To: Unicode Technical Committee

From: Debbie Anderson, IR

Subject: IR report from ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 and WG2 meeting June 22-26, 2026

Date: 7 July 2026

The ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 meeting #31 and WG2 meeting #73 were held in Paris, France, from 22-26 June 2026. Over 43 experts participated virtually and in-person in WG2 and 33 Member Body representatives from 10 countries participated in SC2.

The WG2 Recommendations are posted at WG2 N5354 and the agenda as WG2 N5350. The SC2 resolutions have been posted on the ISO website as SC2 N5056.

WG2

Progression of CD4

The Project Editor will incorporate changes based on the CD4 Disposition of Comments (N5369) listed in sections 73.01 and 73.02 in the WG 2 Recommendations (N5354).

Of particular note are the following repertoire changes:

1. Removal of the Chisoi script from the CD; BIS requested Chisoi be removed to do further review (see BIS comments in N5369 Disposition of Comments). Chisoi will go into Amendment 1.
2. Changing the name of all the Small Seal characters from “SEAL” to “SMALL SEAL,” based on a comment from China (see China’s comments in N5369 Disposition of Comments).
3. Minor glyph adjustments to U+0CDC KANNADA ARCHAIC SHRIL and U+0C5CTELUGU ARCHAIC SHRIL, based on a comment from BIS (see BIS comments in N5369 Disposition of Comments).

CD4 will proceed to a DIS, with the target start date of October 1 2026. The DIS includes repertoire of Unicode version 17.0 and 18.0 (noting changes listed above).

In addition, WG2 recommended and SC2 agreed to the Project Editor’s suggestion (N5363R) of moving the code charts from the core text of ISO/IEC 10646 to linked content in the DIS. The linked content is described in clause 37 with wording clearly identifying the charts as “an integral and normative part of this document,” to address concerns from some WG2 members. The footer on the code charts will read, “ISO/IEC 10646 7th Edition:2026 (EN) , Copyright © 1991-2026 Unicode, Inc. All rights reserved.”

New Work Project: Amendment 1

WG2 recommended a project subdivision to start a new amendment to ISO/IEC 10646 7th edition; this was accepted by SC2. The amendment will contain Chisoi, the remaining Leibniz characters, the Byelorussian Ruble, and other content detailed in N5361. The Project Editor noted that Amendment 1 will likely proceed more quickly than the dates

given in the Recommendations WG2 N5354 (CD: 2026-09-01, DAM 2028-08-01, FDAM 2029-03-01, Amd 2029-06-15).

Other script proposals

An expert from China introduced a document on Dai Xaaunumerals (N5368). An ad hoc on Dai Xaaunumerals was held during WG2, and feedback was provided to the expert on how to improve the Dai Xaaunumerals document and the earlier proposal from 2025 (N5310). We expect a revised proposal for review at the October Script Encoding Working Group meeting.

The Maya script proposals were introduced, and members were encouraged to review them.

SC2

Serbian Request

To address a request from Serbia (SC2 5008) to change ten legacy character encoding standards so “Serbian” appears as the language for the Republic of Serbia, SC2 adopted two resolutions. These resolutions recommended software implementations be based on the latest version (or amendment) of ISO/IEC 10646, noting CLDR is useful for localization, and further confirmed that the legacy character encoding standards are not subject to further update. Note: This request was first submitted to SC2 in 2020 (SC2 4716, with ad hoc report SC2 N4734).

SC2 Maintenance Agency (MA)

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Maintenance Agency were discussed and modified based on comments within the Ad Hoc 1 group, which met during the meeting. The revised version is posted at SC2 N5054. The Ad Hoc 1 group will continue its work on the ToR through to the next SC2 meeting in 2027. The ToR were modified to allow Category C liaisons of WG 2 to participate at AG 1.

SC2 agreed to convert IRG from a subgroup of WG2 to an advisory group of SC 2 as “Advisory Group 1 [AG1]: Ideographic Research Group.” Because the ToR are still being worked out and ITTF will require time to process the request to establish AG1, IRG will continue its current work. Ken Lunde was named Convenor for a one-year term.

Convenorship of WG2 and Editor of ISO/IEC 10646

Michel Suignard was re-appointed to another three-year term (2027-2029) as Convenor of WG2 and as Project Editor of ISO/IEC 10646.

There was a last-minute request from China (SC 2/AHG 1 N 41) entitled “Proposal for Ensuring Editorial Continuity of ISO10646” suggesting China nominate a candidate for the position of Convenor and Project Editor, in an effort to assure continuity of the work, making an assumption that Michel Suignard would soon be retiring. However, Michel

confirmed he has no plans to retire from these positions anytime soon, so the proposal from China was not accepted.

Other positions

The SC2 liaison representative to TCA will remain Ken Lunde, though China suggested Chen Zhuang take the position. TCA will confer with experts in Taiwan regarding the possible change of the liaison representative.

Michael Everson's position as contributing editor was discussed. Because he has not been regularly participating in ISO 10646 activities, the topic will be raised again at the next SC2 meeting.

Future meetings

- WG2 Meeting #74, 2027-06-21/25, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- WG2 Meeting #75, 2028-06, Kunming, China (tentative) IRG #67, 2026-10-12/16, Tokyo, Japan (hybrid; host SAT)
- IRG #67, 2026-10-12/16, Tokyo, Japan (hybrid: host SAT)
- IRG #68, 2027-03-15/19, Virtual (Webex)
- IRG #69, 2027-10-11/15, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (hybrid; host Fulbright University)
- IRG #70, 2028-03-13/17, Virtual (Webex)