Draft Statement on Purpose and scope of activities of study group on use of names for Country and Territory.

Version 1

Introduction

The treatment of country and territory names as Top Level Domains is a topic that has been discussed by the ccNSO, GAC, GNSO and the Board since the policy development process for the new gTLD was initiated. Currently, and at the direction of the ICANN Board country and territory names will not be available in the first round of the introduction of new gTLDs pending consideration of the issue by the ccNSO.

The ccNSO has launched a policy development process for internationalized ccTLDs (IDN ccPDP). The scope of the IDN ccPDP is limited to the selection of TLD strings, which are meaningful representations of country or territory names in official/ designated languages of the countries and territories listed on the ISO 3166-1 standard and which contain at least one (1) non-ASCII character.

On 8 December 2010, the chair of the IDN ccPDP WG 1, informed the ccNSO Council that the use of Country and Territory names as TLD strings in general is considered outside the scope of the IDN ccPDP WG1 and will therefore not be addressed.

At its meeting on 8 December 2010 the ccNSO Council resolved to establish a study group to provide the ccNSO Council, ccTLD community and other interested stakeholders, including the GAC and GNSO Council, an overview of the scope and issues associated with the use of Country and Territory names as TLD strings and the scope and impact of alternative action paths on IDN ccTLD and new gTLD processes.

For purposes of this study group, the term "Countries and Territories" is defined to include those countries, dependencies or other area of particular geopolitical interests that are listed on the 'International Standard ISO 3166-1, Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions – Part 1: Country Codes', or, in some exceptional cases, is listed on the reserved ISO 3166-1 code elements.

Purpose of Study Group

The study group is established by the ccNSO Council to provide the ccNSO Council, ccTLD community, and other interested stakeholders, including the GAC and GNSO Council:

1. An overview of current and proposed policies, guidelines and procedures for allocation and delegation of strings currently used or proposed to be used as TLDs that are either associated with Countries and Territories (i.e., by

inclusion on the ISO 3166-1 list) and/or are otherwise considered representations of the names of Countries and Territories.

2. A comprehensive overview of the types and categories of strings currently used or proposed to be used as TLDs that are either associated with Countries and Territories (i.e., by inclusion on the ISO 3166-1 list) and/or are otherwise considered representations of Country and Territory names.

3. A comprehensive overview of issues arising (or likely to arise) in connection with applying the current and proposed policies, guidelines and procedures for allocation to types and categories of strings currently used or proposed to be used as TLDs that are either associated with Countries and Territories (i.e., by inclusion on the ISO 3166-1 list) and/or are otherwise considered representations of Country and Territory names.

If considered appropriate by the study group, the study group will advise on a course of further actions, if any, to resolve issues identified under 3.

Scope of activities

The study group will:

a. Develop a workplan to conduct its study, including a high level schedule;

b. Summarise existing and proposed policies, guidelines and implementation rules regarding the use of representations of Country and Territory names as TLDs;

c. Provide a comprehensive overview of the issues associated with the use of representations of Country and Territory names as TLDs as identified by the ccNSO, GAC and GNSO;

d. Liaise with the ccNSO, GAC and GNSO as needed to seek further clarification and input regarding b. and c.;

e. Liaise with the IDN ccPDP working group 1 as necessary and appropriate to seek further clarification and input, and provide input and feedback to that working group.

f. Liaise with ICANN's new gTLD project team as necessary and appropriate to seek further clarification and input and provide input and feed-back, for example to better understand the proposed future scope of excluded Country and Territory names and objection mechanisms;

g. Liaise with (IDN) ccTLDs and individual GAC-members as necessary and appropriate to solicit their views and perspectives on the use of representations of their Country or Territory names;

h. Prepare sessions to be conducted at ICANN meetings to inform and report to the ccTLD community, and other interested Supporting Organisations and Advisory Committees on the findings and intermediate results of the study group;

i. Provide a Final Report of its findings to the ccNSO Council.

The study group may also undertake other activities the members deem appropriate for the purpose of the study group.

Chairs, Membership and Liaisons

The ccNSO Council has appointed < insert name> and Becky Burr as co-chairs. Once the ccNSO council has adopted the purpose and activity statement, the Council will send out a call for volunteers to the ccTLD community, who will be appointed by the Council.

The ALAC, GAC, and GNSO, will be requested by the ccNSO Council to participate either directly by appointing members according to their own rules and procedures, or by appointing (a) liaison(s), who will participate on equal footing as the members.

Support is provided by ICANN staff.

Closure

The study group closes at the end of the ccNSO Council meeting at which the final report has been submitted to the ccNSO Council.

Background

The ccNSO has launched a policy development process for internationalized ccTLDs (IDN ccPDP), and as part of the IDN ccPDP has established a working group (WG 1) to report on and identify a feasible policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs associated with the territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 (IDN ccTLDs). The scope of the IDN ccPDP is limited to the selection of TLD strings which are meaningful representations of country or territory names in official/ designated languages of the countries and territories listed on the ISO 3166-1 standard and which contain at least one (1) non-ASCII character.

In his letter of 21 November 2009 to the chair of the ICANN Board, the chair of the ccNSO expressed that, given the significant issues that have been identified by both the ccNSO and the GAC in relation to country/territory gTLDs, the extent to which these issues have not been addressed in a meaningful way to date, and the existence of an ongoing policy development process in which they can be considered, the ccNSO believes that it would be inappropriate and unwise at this time to introduce

gTLDs that constitute meaningful representations of countries and/or territories on the ISO 3166-1 list.

In his letter, dated 21 June 2010, the chair of the ICANN Board stated that in response GAC's interpretation of paragraph 2.2 of the GAC principles on new gTLDs has resulted in a reconsideration of the treatment of country and territory names in the new gTLD process. This has resulted in a change of approach as reflected in draft version 4 of the Applicant Guidebook: namely, that country and territory names will not be available for delegation in the first round of the new gTLD application process. The letter also acknowledged that the ccNSO is undertaking policy discussions. In particular, defining the distinction between country code and generic names may warrant a broader cross-SO/AC policy discussion and once policy is developed, it will be appropriate for the Board to reconsider its positions on the use of country and territory names.

On 8 December 2010, the chair of the IDN ccPDP WG 1 informed the ccNSO Council that the use of Country and Territory names as TLD strings in general is considered outside the scope of the IDN ccPDP and will therefore not be addressed.