

To: James Bladel, chair of the GNSO

Cc: Thomas Schneider, Göran Marby, Chris Disspain, Mike Silber, Steve Crocker, Avri Doria, Jeff Neuman.

Topic: Participation of the ccNSO in WT 5 Subsequent Procedures (or other title)

Dear James,

In July 2017, the ccNSO adopted the recommendations of the final paper published by the Cross-Community Working Group on Use of Country/Territory Names as TLDs (CCWG UCTN). With adoption of the recommendations, the CCWG UCTN concluded that the development of a consistent and uniform framework to guide the definition of rules on the use of country and territory names as top level domains, across the SOs and ACs, has proven too difficult to achieve by the CCWG. However, the CCWG also recommended that further work is needed.

The ccNSO was invited to designate a person to participate to serve as a co-leader of a new Work Track 5 (WT5) within the GNSO's New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group. This track will focus exclusively on geographic names at the top-level. The ccNSO Council designated Annebeth Lange, .no, to serve as a co-leader of the WT5 and informed the leadership team of the Subsequent Procedures WG accordingly.

As this topic will now most likely be addressed under the auspices of a GNSO PDP WG, and, as strongly recommended by the leadership of the subsequent procedures PDP working group, this working track will operate in a similar way as a cross-community working group, the ccNSO Council strongly believes that this effort will succeed and will be acceptable only if:

- the core principles of cross-community working groups are included in the terms of reference for this Working Track 5. In particular, directly participating SO/ACs need to support or at a minimum to not object to the final recommendations of such a working track before these recommendations are implemented in accordance with their own rules and procedures.
- In case if one or more participating SO/ACs object to the final recommendations of the Working Track 5, the current rules with respect to the use of names of country and territory names under the Applicant Guidebook remain in place for the subsequent rounds of new gTLDs until such a time the community has found a broadly supported consensus resolution¹.

¹ It is the understanding of the ccNSO that the rules in the 11 January 2012 version of the gTLD Applicant Guidebook in place during the new gTLD applications period provided that “[a] string shall be considered to be a country or territory name if:

- it is an alpha-3 code listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard
- it is a long-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard, or a translation of the long-form name in any language

Finally - as a separate point - participation of the ccNSO in this effort does not pre-empt nor forfeits any decision of the ccNSO to launch a ccNSO policy development process on issues pertaining to the use of country and territory names as ccTLDs, including IDN ccTLDs, if circumstances so dictate. This area is clearly within the purview of the ccNSO.

We look forward to working with the GNSO and other SO/ACs in the next effort to address the use of country and territory names as top-level domains.

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- it is a short-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard, or a translation of the short-form name in any language
 - it is the short- or long-form name association with a code that has been designated as “exceptionally reserved” by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency
 - it is a separable component of a country name designated on the “Separable Country Names List,” or is a translation of a name appearing on the list, in any language. See the Annex at the end of this module.
 - it is a permutation or transposition of any of the names included in items (i) through (v). Permutations include removal of spaces, insertion of punctuation, and addition or removal of grammatical articles like “the”. A transposition is considered a change in the sequence of the long or short-form name, for example, “RepublicCzech” or “IslandsCayman”.
 - it is a name by which a country is commonly known, as demonstrated by evidence that the country is recognized by that name by an intergovernmental or treaty organization.”

Source: gTLD Applicant Guidebook Version 9 (11 January 2012), Module 2, Section 2.2.1.4.1, Treatment of Country or Territory Names, at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/historical-documentation/matrix-agb-v9>.