Geographic protections

ccNSO session

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Agenda

1. Recap on how we got here
2. Current status
3. Temperature check
4. Next steps
What are we talking about?

- New gTLDs policy/ availability going forwards
- TOP LEVEL ONLY
- The extent to which there are reserved strings due to Geo nature
  - All 2 letters
  - The 274 3-letter combinations from ISO 3166
  - Country names (and translations)
  - Capital city names
  - Other city names
How did we get here?

• CCWG country and territory names formed March 2014, following The Study Group on C&T names
• No consensus, in fact views increasingly polarised as time went on
• Report produced February 2017
• Unable to reach any consensus recommendations apart from (i) continue to reserve all 2-letter strings, and (ii) to wind up the CCWG and try again, but
• No clarity on how, where, or why this will be more successful than the CCWG
• Agreement in the Interim Report from the CCWG that all 2-letter combinations should be left for future countries as ccTLDs – not ICANN’s business to decide what is a country and what is not

• We know that remaining geo restrictions questions need to be resolved prior to further rounds of new gTLDs

• GNSO has it within scope, but recommendation for cross-community forum going forwards

• Some 2012 applicants caught out (.AND and more blocked – on the ISO 3166 list)

• Some GAC members very unhappy about e.g. .AMAZON and felt restrictions in 2012 round were not sufficient

• We need to decide (as a ccNSO community) whether/ how to engage if we want to influence the outcomes
Too hot: GNSO comments

• Too many geographic restrictions in 2012
• A few voices support release of 2 letter strings not already delegated (e.g. VW)
• 3 letters should ALL be made available (even if on the 3166 alpha-3 list)
• No legal protection exists for country names, so anyone should be able to apply
• Trade marks have stronger legal rights than geographic terms
• Not much comment on city names (so far)
Too cold: GAC comments

• Many members want more restrictions!
• The 2012 rules were not sufficient
• Particular emphasis on improving early warnings, PICs
• Culturally sensitive terms – places, rivers, mountains, territories
• Potentially infinite list of terms which are provided by countries to ICANN and not released as a new gTLD without further process/ checks/ consideration
• Still – many GAC members think status quo from AGB is perfect
Just right? - CENTR view

• The 2012 protections were reasonable and proportionate
• It took five years of policy discussions to reach these
• A compromise between those who wanted more and those who wanted less – taking politics into consideration
• No changes should be made to those without cross-community agreement (seems unlikely)
• This area has potential to be damaging to the ICANN community, cause disputes and delay subsequent rounds
Just right? - current protections

- BLOCKED: ALL 2 letter combinations – to cater for future to be created countries
- BLOCKED: The 3 letter alpha-3 which match an existing country only (274 out of ~17,000)
- BLOCKED: Country names (plus translations in any language)
- GOVT SUPPORT: Capital cities and city names where used to represent community
- GOVT SUPPORT: Sub-national places names
- COMPROMISE: Govt support for alpha-3, country names as well
Request for input 1

Concern at geo protections potentially being diluted?
Request for input 2

*Can we agree with the CENTR position? Status quo.*
Fall back option: Govt support for alpha-3, country names?
Request for input 4

Going forwards possibly a separate work track in SubsProcs?
Engage or accept the consequences!
Thank you!