

# Worktrack 5 - GeoNames

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ccNSO Members Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

ICANN 61, Puerto Rico

# What is Work Track 5

- > New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP
  - GNSO Policy prevails - established 5 sub-groups/work tracks
- > Work Track 5 will focus on developing proposed recommendations regarding the treatment of geographic names at the top-level
  - <https://community.icann.org/display/NGSPP/Work+Track+5%3A+Geographic+Names+at+the+Top-Level>
- > 144 members/81 observers
  - 28 altogether from ccNSO
  - <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=71604562>



# Community Work on Geo Names as TLDs

1

## Work Track 5

- Formed as new Work Track within GNSO Subsequent Procedures PDP
- Final consensus recommendations must to be sent to full PDP Working Group

2

## Why not use a CCWG?

- CCWGs not intended for policy work within a Supporting Organization remit
- Issue extensively discussed by community at ICANN59 (June 2017), leading to formation of Work Track 5

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## Who is steering the work?

- Co-chairs from ALAC, GAC, ccNSO, GNSO
- Terms of Reference (process, decision making etc.) agreed in January 2018

4

## Status of other community work

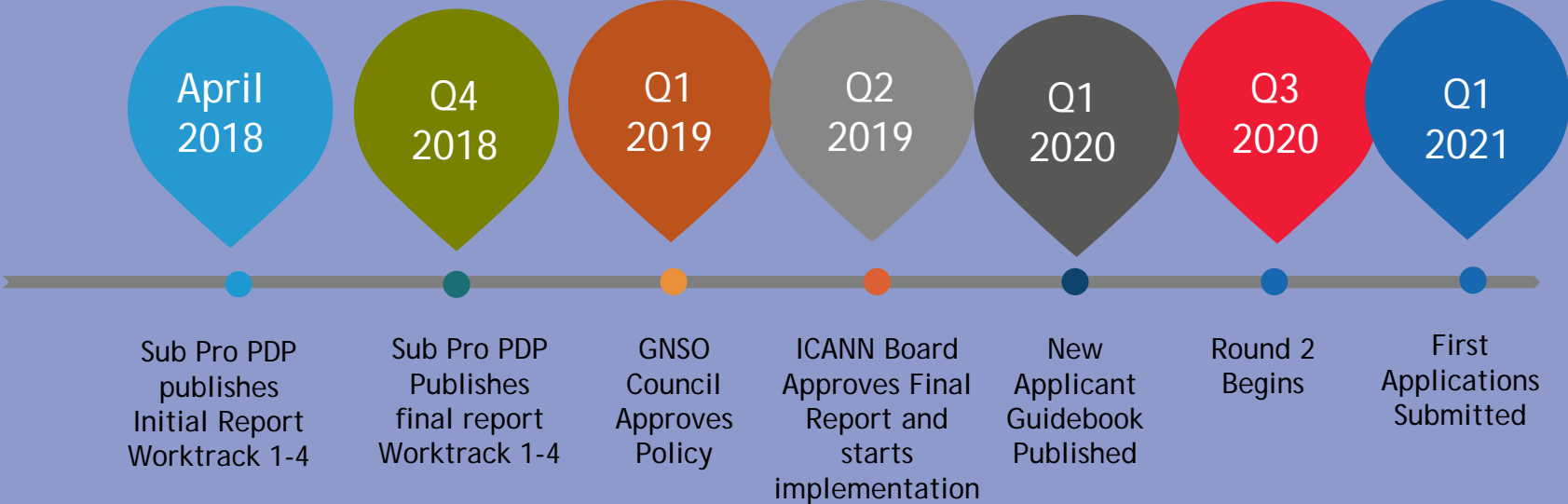
- GAC Working Group chair is a co-chair of Work Track 5
- Cross community working group on country and territory names recommended a collaborative approach

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## Issues to Monitor

- Difficult to get consensus on definition of “geographic name”
- Continuing concern over using the GNSO PDP vs a cross community working group
- Timeline pressures

# What is going on with Round 2? (Best Guess)



And where does Worktrack 5 fit in?



**NORID** RUNS THE REGISTRY FOR NORWEGIAN DOMAIN NAMES  
[www.norid.no](http://www.norid.no)



# What do we discuss

- > Terms of Reference (ToR)
  - Adopted after long discussions
  - <https://community.icann.org/display/NGSPP/Terms+of+Reference>
- > Define geographic terms
  - Treatment in 2007 GNSO PDP
    - <https://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/inactive/2007/new-gtld-intro>
  - Treatment in 2012 AGB Module 2
    - <https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>
  - Future treatment
    - Retain/remove/change?
- > Geographical names not specifically mentioned in AGB
  - Suggested treatment in new rounds



# Geographic Names - Work Track 5

## > Issue:

- ⊙ In the 2012 round, certain geographic strings were “reserved” and not available for delegation.
- ⊙ For other types of geographic names in the 2012 round, applicants needed support or non-objection of relevant government authorities to apply for the string.
- ⊙ For some applications, there were different perspectives about whether an application should be permitted to go forward.
- ⊙ Work Track 5 is focused on making recommendations about the treatment of geographic names at the top level in subsequent procedures.
- ⊙ Shared leadership model with co-leaders from ALAC, ccNSO, GAC, and GNSO.
- ⊙ Current Status:
  - ⊙ Completed Terms of Reference document.
  - ⊙ Held a webinar on the history of geographic names at the top level.



# Geographic Names - Work Track 5

- > The WT is currently discussing the following for geographic names that received specific treatment in the 2012 round:
  - A. Is it a valid geographic term for the purposes of new gTLDs?
  - B. What were the positive impact/merits based on the treatment applied to the term in the AGB?
  - C. What were the negative impact/opportunities lost based on the treatment applied to the term in the AGB?



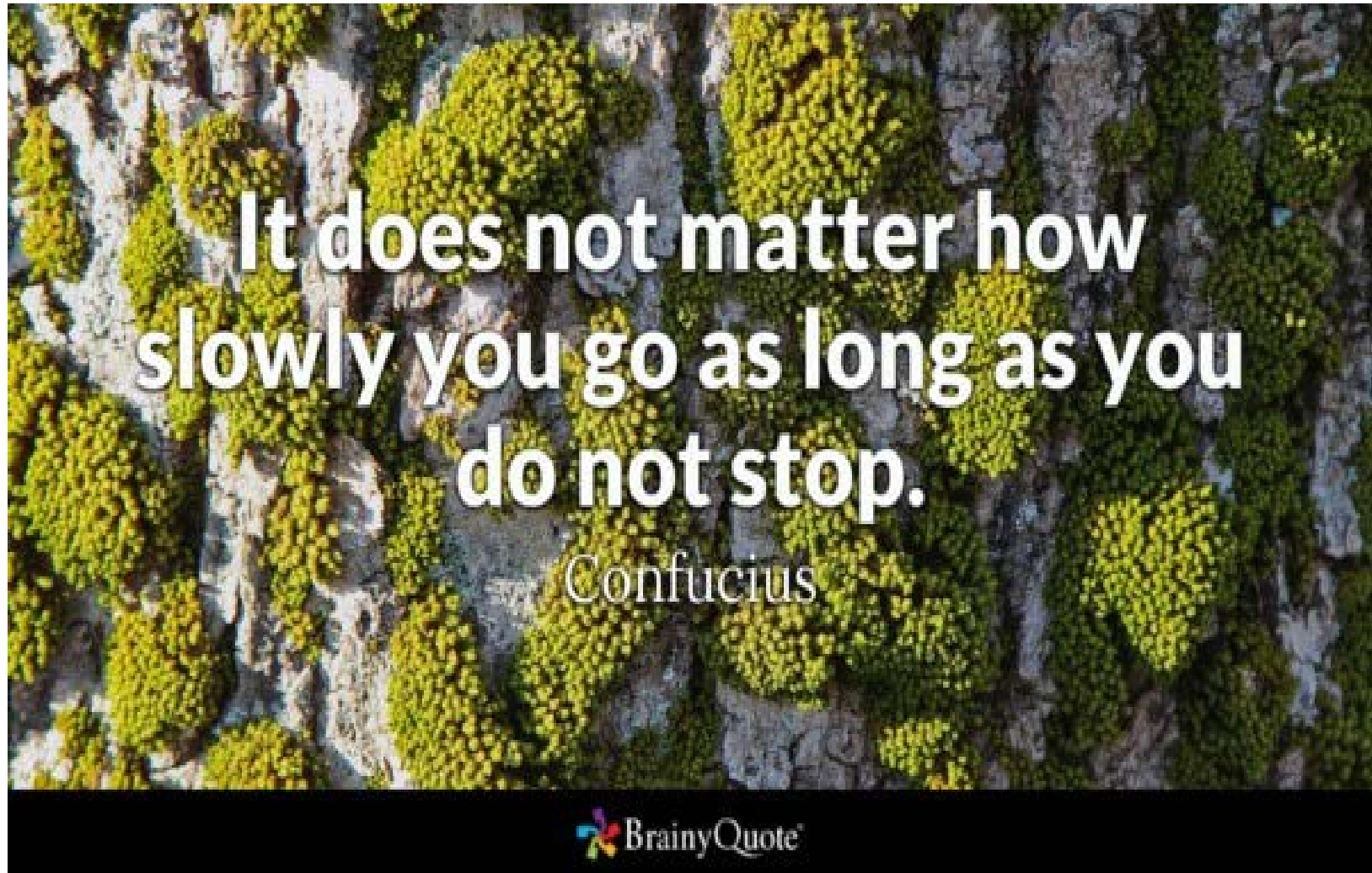
# Positions so far - generalized

- > GAC - Too "cold" - they generally want more protection on names not included in first round
- > GNSO - Too "hot" - they generally want less protection - more liberalization - remove protection from first round
- > ccNSO - AGB 2012 an acceptable compromise - "just right" - we can live with this
- > ALAC - not very clear where they stand so far





# Is this labor of Sisyphus?



# There is a time frame ....

## > The "goal"

- Initial WT 5 report by the end of the summer 2018
- Final report by end of Q1-2019

## > Differences are huge

- Will we achieve consensus?
- Process described in ToR
- 2-letter codes in the end the most important for ccTLDs
- Seems to be consensus so far that all 2-letter combinations will be reserved for ccTLDs



# What can ccTLDs do

It Feels  
**GREAT**  
To Participate!



- > Engage
- > If a member, participate in teleconferences and suggest good solutions for ccTLDs
- > If not a member, be one - WT5 ccTLD participants need support



# Want to learn more?



- > Webinar 8<sup>th</sup> February 19 UTC
  - You can find the transcripts at the GNSO websites
- > Will give better understanding of the issues of geographic names at the top level at ICANN from a historical perspective
- > Intended for everyone new to the subject of geographic names at the top level
- > Or - contact me and I will bring you up to date



# Questions?

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