

**From:** Katrina Sasaki <[katrina@nic.lv](mailto:katrina@nic.lv)>  
**Date:** Thursday, 20 December 2018 at 12:54  
**To:** 'Roelof Meijer' <[Roelof.Meijer@sidn.nl](mailto:Roelof.Meijer@sidn.nl)>  
**Cc:** Bart Boswinkel <[bart.boswinkel@icann.org](mailto:bart.boswinkel@icann.org)>  
**Subject:** [Ext] RE: ccNSO Emoji Study Group

Dear Roelof,

As I promised, the ccNSO Council discussed the points you raised in your email regarding the use of emoji as second level domains, at its first meeting following the Barcelona meeting (6 December 2018). Before I go to the essence of Council's discussion, I would like to express again my appreciation that you reached out to the Council and shared your concerns.

It is our understanding that you are concerned that the Study Group has started with a biased approach, i.e. a premise that the use of emoji in domain names constitutes risks and, therefore, you would like the assurance that the Study Group also looks at the potential of and opportunities for the use of emoji and in the end provides a balanced view.

Let me start by saying that the Council shares your views that the Study Group should follow a balanced approach. As you may recall from earlier presentations, the Study Group was established in response to an ICANN Board request, which was part of their 2 November 2017 resolution on SAC 095. The reason to set the group as a Study Group was to reflect that its first and most important activity would be to capture the different views with respect to the use of emoji as domain names. To ensure that we would capture the essence of the Board request, the Terms of Reference includes language paraphrased from that resolution and related rationale. However, based on previous experience, the Council is very aware that some ccTLDs have taken a course of action, which may not align with an approach desired by the Board or SSAC. To ensure that their point of view, experience and considerations are understood and reflected, the Study Group is tasked to solicit their views. For that matter, I was informed that just recently the Study Group first reached out to ccTLDs who apparently accept emoji as or in second level domains, and, secondly, as you may have noticed, the group reached out to our community inviting ccTLDs to share their views with the Study Group. We are ensured that the Study Group will include these perspectives in their report to the Council and our community.

We trust we have addressed your concerns. If not, please do not hesitate to contact me on this or any other matter.

Merry Christmas! May the New Year bring you a lot of new exciting things and projects!

Kind regards,

]{ Katrina