

ccNSO Study Group on Use of Names of Countries and Territories Telephone Conference
11 May 2011

Attendees:

ccNSO

Martin Boyle
Becky Burr
Henry Chan
Ian Chiang
Keith Davidson
Sokol Haxhiu
Hiro Hotta
Annebeth Lange
Jon Lawrence
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Kathryn Reynolds
Grigori Saghyan
Ron Sherwood
Maarten Simon
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George Asare-Sakyi
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Avri Doria
Heather Forrest
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At-Large

Eduardo Diaz
Cheryl Langdon-Orr

Staff:

Marika Konings
Gabriella Schitteck

Becky Burr: Gabi, could you just go through the list of everybody who is on now?

Gabriella Schitteck: Of course. From the ccNSO, we have Martin Boyle, Becky Burr, Henry Chen, Ian Chiang, and a colleague from .cw, which I haven't got the name from yet; Keith Davidson, Sokol Haxhiu, Hiro Hotta, Annabeth Lange, Jon Lawrence, Young-Eum Lee, Kathryn Reynolds, Grigori Saghyan, Ron Sherwood, Maartin Simon, Tan Yaling.

From the GNSO we have Ilya Gazlyankov and Heather Forrest. And from the AtLarge we have Eduardo Diaz and Cheryl Langdon-Orr. And let me know if I have missed anyone. From staff we have Marika Konings, and myself, Gabriella Schitteck.

Becky Burr: Okay. Has everybody received the charter for this group?

Gabriella Schittek: The charter should also be online on our website. If you go to our website on the left bar, the Working Groups, click on the Study Group, and the charter will be online.

Becky Burr: Okay. So, our biggest job essentially is to gather material about the ways in which territory names are used so that we can determine how to be useful in terms of determining whether there is a need for a policy, and determining what the ways in which country names are used. Sorry, I didn't really get Bart's e-mail, so I am a little unprepared. I need two seconds. Do you want to just go through the charter? Can you do that? Gabi?

Gabriella Schittek: Yes, sorry. We are supposed to go through the charter? I'm sorry.

Ron Sherwood: This is Ron. May I just ask a question of Becky?

Becky Burr: Yes.

Ron Sherwood: Becky, you said you did not get Bart's e-mail. Are you talking about the e-mail that he sent with an agenda overnight?

Becky Burr: Yes.

Ron Sherwood: Can someone forward that to you, because that is the format for the meeting, I would think.

Becky Burr: Yes, exactly right. And that's why I'm struggling here.

Annabeth Lange: (Inaudible)

Becky Burr: Okay, here I've got it. Sorry.

Gabriella Schittek: So, Becky, I'm not sure what you want --

Becky Burr: No, I've received it. Okay.

Gabriella Schittek: It's not really a charter, it's purpose and scope of activity, but it is on our website. I'm not sure what you would like me to do with that.

Becky Burr: Never mind, I'm sorry. I got Bart's e-mail just a few minutes ago. Okay. So, everybody received the policy, the overview policy related to the use of country and territory names. That's what Bart sent out. I just want to make sure everybody received it. Okay.

So, our first order of business is to nominate a chair. I think that would be one member, one of the ccNSO members would be interested in serving in that role. Do we have any interested chairs? No volunteers? We'll have to go through -- maybe by the end of the call we'll have some help with this, or some volunteers here.

Okay. So, as I was saying, the goal of this working group is to review the initial overview of policies and methods that are related to use of country and territory names, TLDs. And they are, of course, the two letter code, ASCII ccTLDs taken essentially from the ISO 3166-1 list, although we know that there are some exceptions for names that are on the 3166-2 list. Some of them, actually, most of them historical.

And the reference documents for that are RFC 1591, and as were stated in ISP-1, and then the GAC principles on delegation and re-delegation of ccTLDs.

The ccNSO along with some observers from the GAC have recently gone through those documents. But there is anybody who thinks there needs to be another reference document on the list for the ccTLDs, for the ASCII ccTLDs, you should speak up. Part of our job is actually to confirm that we've got all of the policies listed.

And then with respect to IDN ccTLDs, where we are now is that the name of a country or territory has to be listed on 3166-1, and then to be a TLD string in the IDN context, it would be a meaningful representation of the name of a country or territory on that list.

And there is a description in the policy document about what a meaningful representation is for purposes of the fast-track, which is that it's the name of a territory or a part of the name of a territory that denotes the territory, or a short-form designation of the territory. For purposes of the fast track, an official language of the territory here.

Then we have the rest of the discussion here about the requirements relating to the script, being that any script that doesn't contain 26 letters. And for purposes of the fast track, there are -- the reference documents are the working group's final [board] report and the final implementation plan.

So, the question then under the new gTLD process is during the first round, and based on the latest applicant's guidebook, there are no considerations -- strings that are country or territory names will not be approved under the new gTLD program in the first round. And I think our job here is to help inform whether or, if so, how they might be approved in other names.

So, it's named on the ISO 3166-1 in the three digit code. The long standard or translation of the short-form in any language, anything on the exceptionally reserved list. And a name of a country as commonly known, as demonstrated by evidence that the country is recognized by that name under intergovernmental or treaty organization. So, that is the more official name.

Then in terms of policy being developed, there is work in the overall IDN ccTLD policies overall.

And then with respect to -- then there are some policies relating to contentions for purposes of the fast track, (inaudible) about it.

So, that is the listing of the policies that sort of -- the initial list of policies. And so one question is, is this list current and complete? Are they all there?

And so that is a critical part of our task is to ensure that we really do have a comprehensive list of current policies -- current and future policies, whether we settled a full list of all of the relevant rules to deal with conflicts such as a confusingly similar. And then what level of detail do we need in order to describe a meaningful overview?

And so the summary that we've got here is skeletal, and the question is in order to be useful and helpful, how much implementation details do we need to fill in with respect to the summary that is there?

So, our goal for this study group is actually to take this summary that Bart has provided and to fill it out to the extent that we think it needs to be filled out to be meaningful and helpful. And then to meet face-to-face in Singapore for the initial meeting.

So, I guess the first question is whether it's going to be -- what day it's going to be possible for us to meet in Singapore face-to-face. Gabi, have you and Bart talked about a date that is workable? It seems to me that Sunday might be the day.

- Gabriella Schittek: We have, actually. We actually already have a set time and date, and it is on Thursday, 23rd of June between 12:00 and 1:00.
- Becky Burr: Okay, great.
- Young-Eum Lee: Becky?
- Becky Burr: Yes.
- Young-Eum Lee: I think it's good that you kind of outlined what we are supposed to do, but if you look at the scope of activities of this study group, I mean, we basically have to do a (inaudible) study on how the country and territory names are being used, both in ASCII and IDN. And so I think that today what we need to do is maybe develop a, as you said, a date or a study plan. And while we are doing that, it will be good if we could elect a chair.
- Becky Burr: Yes.
- Young-Eum Lee: And as to that, since nobody is volunteering, can we volunteer someone? Can other people volunteer others?
- Becky Burr: (Inaudible)
- Young-Eum Lee: I mean, to be chair. I mean, can we nominate chairs, not ourselves?
- Becky Burr: Certainly, although probably if nobody is -- if we don't have a volunteer, we may want to just chat among the cc members and see if we can get a volunteer. I mean, unless you would like to volunteer, Young-Eum, that would be great.
- Young-Eum Lee: No, actually, I'm thinking of Annebeth, because she is the one that actually started the discussion on the use of names for countries and territories.
- Becky Burr: Yes, and Annebeth, I think is dedicated to working hard on this, but for a variety of reasons isn't able to chair. Am I correct on that, Anne Beth?
- Annebeth Lange: (Inaudible) issues on the table that prevent me, actually. I am prepared to do a lot of work (inaudible).
- Becky Burr: Could everybody hear Annebeth?
- Gabriella Schittek: It is very hard to hear you. I'm not sure if you're on a -- I'm not sure what kind of phone you're on, but it is very hard to hear you. We will try to do our best with the operator.
- Annebeth Lange: Can I try once more?
- Gabriella Schittek: This is much better.
- Annebeth Lange: Much better, okay. I had to tell (inaudible) and Becky closely after the San Francisco meeting that I couldn't do it, so they actually knew already on several reasons. I'm sorry for that, but I will attend the meetings, of course, and do the work, but it is impossible for me. I am sorry to say that.
- Young-Eum Lee: Okay.

- Becky Burr: So, I think that what we could probably do is just take that back, but Young-Eum, you are correct that in addition to the policies, the goal is to understand how country names are being used right now, both ccTLDs and just both ASCII and IDS.
- Annebeth Lange: It's Annebeth again here. While this question was raised in the first place was that we discovered that as it is today, some country and territory names were pulled between the chairs. Because it will not be -- some country and territory names will be in the gTLD as it is today if it would have been accepted, and that will mainly be -- they [weren't in the Latin letters]. And then some of them could be accepted in the IDN process. And that will mean that, for example, Norway would be in one part of the rules and Norvesh (ph) would be in the other. And they will follow different rules and different programs, and that will be very, very confusing for the users, first and foremost. So, that is what we have to look at.
- Becky Burr: So, the notion is to look at the ways in which they are being used as IDNs and the ways they are being used in the ASCII, and whether they are the same or different? Can you explain, talk a little bit about why you think it will be confusing if they are being used in different ways?
- Annebeth Lange: Well, the thoughts were if it's more like a ccTLD, (inaudible) program and the subsidiary principles will apply in a larger degree. And if it is a pure gTLD, it will follow the IDN rules, ICANN registrars, everything will be global more than local. And it is quite difficult perhaps to understand that, for example, .nor for Norway would be a gTLD, but .no would be a ccTLD. And as it is today, two different sets of rules apply.
- So, we also have to discuss, in my view, do we really want country and territory names in extension to be applied at all, or is it enough with ccTLDs for the countries? And that the rest of the geographical name will be in the gTLD side except for the IDNs, of course, because they get theirs through the IDN process.
- Becky Burr: I'm sorry, except for the ccTLD IDN?
- Annebeth Lange: Yeah.
- Becky Burr: Okay. But they're not part of the gTLD.
- Annebeth Lange: No. No, no. No, they are not; they are not. And then if after the first application round, if it is open and we don't find a solution for other country and territory names, more an extension, then they will -- they might go into the ccTLD process as it is today probably with the same rules as it is for the capitals and cities, having an approval from the government or public authority, but they will follow the gTLD rules. And then just .nor for Norway will be a gTLD, and .no will be a ccTLD, following different sets of rules.
- Becky Burr: All right. And the rules, to the extent that they're different are largely a question of whether they are bound by ICANN GSNO policy.
- Annebeth Lange: Or is it a subsidiary principle that applies, like in the GAC principles?
- Becky Burr: Well, then we would have to develop a new set of rules presumably for the operation, right.
- Annebeth Lange: It might be, or have it like one of the options for (inaudible) was also to have a reserve list and then don't use them at all. Do we need them?

Becky Burr: Right. So, the options are don't use them at all, use them with -- in the same way with the approval and support of the government, or allow them -- pardon me?

Annebeth Lange: Or find another special rule for the country and territory (inaudible). It has been discussed, also, to have the different groups, like a new category.

Becky Burr: Right. Do we have any GAC participants on the call?

Annebeth Lange: There is no one on the list.

Grigori Saghyan: Can I ask? Grigori Saghyan, Armenia.

Becky Burr: Yes, Grigori.

Grigori Saghyan: So, you suggest to have two different types of domain names. One is country names. For this domain names you suggest to have a separate various procedures and is this procedure similar for like gTLD for town names, city names?

Becky Burr: Well, I don't think I'm suggesting it. I think what we're talking about is what the possibilities are. So, one possibility would be to have no additional country or territory names other than in connection with ccNSOs. So, for example, the IDN ccNSOs associated -- or IDN ccTLDs associated with the ASCII TLDs right now. So, that's one policy choice.

A second policy choice would be to have them allocated in some other way as additional, not necessarily in association with existing ccTLDs, but through the new gTLD process in a way that names of capitals are being allocated. So, with the approval of the relevant government -- with the approval and support of the relevant government. Or some third set of rules. And that really is the question. That is the ultimate question. I don't think it's the question that we are supposed to be answering.

But we are supposed to be putting together and answering is a -- understanding the ways in which they are being used in -- that country and territory names are being used right now.

So, for example, we have the set of ccTLDs in ASCII and the associated IDNs. Some of them are being operated with a kind of license from the government, others are being operated independent of the government -- I guess not independent of; I guess clearly subject to the rules of the government. But I think, Grigori, the question is not that anybody is proposing anything right now, just identifying what the potential problem is.

Grigori Saghyan: Okay. In that case, can I say? Grigori Saghyan again.

Becky Burr: Yes.

Grigori Saghyan: Okay. So, in that case I think we have two separate questions. First, ccTLD is under control of each government. It works according local legislation of each country, if it is ccTLD. If it is gTLD, it is not under control of government. It is independent, under control of ICANN, okay, let us say. [You mean] a difference.

Becky Burr: Well, I don't think right now the new gTLDs are subject to, obligated to follow ICANN adopted consensus policy, for example. That is not the case with ccTLDs. And when you say they are under the control of the government, I think it means they are subject to the -- they are in the territory and jurisdiction of the government and subject to the various laws of the territory.

- Grigori Saghyan: Yes.
- Becky Burr: But obviously in terms of the relationship between the ccTLD operator and the government, there are many different varieties of relationships right now.
- Keith Davidson: And also -- it's Keith here -- and also, Becky, with (inaudible) there is 246 ccTLDs, and I think 193 governments recognized by the United Nations, so there are a number of ccTLDs that don't have governments.
- Annebeth Lange: Yes. They are connected to the country in a much larger degree under the local community in the country, and they decide in a large degree how it should be run. Some countries have very close relationships to the government; others have not, but it's the local community that decides. It's more than ICANN as it is today.
- Keith Davidson: And some examples where there is no local community, for example, like Intactica, where there is no community and no government, and it's a disputed territory, but it does have a ccTLD. So, there are odd rules everywhere, really, is the observation I was trying to make.
- Martin Boyle: Yeah, it's Martin Boyle here. I agree with Keith. There are a number which I would describe as being legacy situations. But I think the real difference between the ccTLD and the gTLD goes back to [IPAR] RFC 1591, which then does explain that the ccTLD is designed to serve the local Internet community of the country for which the code is there. And that, I think, then starts to apply in the same way for IDN ccTLDs, because, again, that is exactly what they do.
- This is where, I think, Annabeth's drawing a distinction between the ccTLDs and the gTLDs, when there is a country name at stake, is correct because it does start causing confusion. The ccTLD will have developed its policies locally in general, and will be subject to national law in general. And it then becomes very difficult for somebody who gets a norskebank.no, and norskebank.nor, to know, well, yes, but has it been established in jurisdiction?
- If it is site that is causing them to .nor, that you end up having to go enter country to contest, and that I think is sort of underlying root concern for why it is actually quite important for the country names to be considered rather carefully and that we don't just end up with a scattering of country names appearing, where the government of the country concerned does not so wish.
- Becky Burr: Right. And -- oh, go ahead?
- Heather Forrest: No, sorry. This is Heather Forrest. I was just going to ask a follow-up question, which is either are the modern impacts of RFC 1591, are they somewhat diluted by (inaudible) ccTLDs, like two list .tv and Moldova's .md. I don't think we're in a situation where we were at 1591, where there was a clear user distinction between cc and g.
- Young-Eum Lee: This is Young-Eum. The scenario where people using .kr would very strongly disagree.
- Becky Burr: I'm sorry, people would --
- Young-Eum Lee: People using the .kr would very strongly disagree with, because there is a different user base of .kr versus .com.
- Annebeth Lange: Yes, and even if they are different models and some are really more commercial, and the more (inaudible) favor anyway. It's not decided completely of the written policy of ICANN, so that's a difference still.

- Young-Eum Lee: I certainly see that there is a different policy structure, Anna, and indeed a different legislative structure that applies. But in terms of confusion -- let's say if confusion is our aim, in preventing confusion, I wonder. Please don't misunderstand. I'm not arguing one way or the other, I'm simply tossing it out as an idea.
- Martin Boyle: It's Martin Boyle here again. I think the .tv case, yes, it is an interesting one but it is actually a very unusual case. You can count on the fingers of one hand the numbers that are, shall we say vaguely successfully selling a country code top level domain registration to a country that has a gTLD.
- But at the end of the day, the discussion has to go down to something like Tuvalu, is to Tuvalu willing to allow somebody else to use its top level domain for a different issue? It's the sovereign decision of the country concerns. And unfortunately two letters can sometimes mean something significant, and people are then inclined to exploit that option.
- But very, very quickly, if we sort of try and follow that, we end up with trying to write a set of rules that are influenced by a particular behavior and a particularly rare behavior in a very, very limited number of countries. And, therefore, I actually think it's not actually useful, I think, to start discussing.
- Becky Burr: Right. I think it's really the distinction comes back, Martin, to the distinction you made, not the ways in which -- I mean, there clearly are a variety of ways in which ccTLDs are being used right now. The question really comes back to the sort of who is the registry answerable to? Is it serving by interest of the local Internet community? And that can be [served] in a variety of different ways. So, that's really the issue. It's not what it looks like, what kinds of registration, how it's used, but really what is the fundamental focus of who you're answering to in service.
- Ron Sherwood: This is Ron Sherwood, dot the i. Can I make a point here, Becky?
- Becky Burr: Yes.
- Ron Sherwood: There are lots of variables involved and they tend to overlap and make this a very confusing and therefore a very difficult subject. In its simplest form, if you compared gTLDs with ccTLDs, the question is does the government of the appropriate cc have the right to, or to prevent gTLD being formed with the name of its nation or its country? And if there can be a simple rule that relates to that, it really does make everything else a lot easier to deal with.
- But there is also a complication there. Where is the name, for example, of the company? i, in dot the i US Virgin Islands; there is also British Virgin Islands, and if there is a gTLD application for Virgin Islands, for example, or for Samoa, for example, would American Samoa and Samoa both be able to prevent that from happening? And we're really talking about exclusion here rather than adoption. And with the British Virgin Islands as well as the US Virgin Islands have the right to prevent the use of the term Virgin Islands?
- Young-Eum Lee: This is [Young-Eum Lee] here. I think Ron is making a very valid statement and that is exactly why we needed to conduct a study on how these country names are being used. I mean, we have been hearing these examples. We need to have a relatively complete set of data as to how these country names are being used.
- Becky Burr: So, one way of gathering the data would be presumably to create some kind of survey instrument and collect data from the operators of country -- of ccTLDs right now. I

mean, country and territory names are not being used in other context at the moment other than ccTLDs.

Young-Eum Lee: Becky? I think that is where we could start, but I don't think the survey would give us a complete answer. I think we would need to come up with some additional mechanism to -- what's the word -- to supplement the incompleteness of the survey.

Becky Burr: And the incompleteness would be because we need sort of an -- because we're not necessarily going to get all of the information or because we need sort of an objective look at it?

Young-Eum Lee: Actually, both. Because it's (inaudible). Because if we just conduct a survey, each country would have their own version of how the name should be used or how the name is being used.

Becky Burr: Then the question is how do we organize the review of whatever we get and then supplementing it based on geographic area region, region-wide, or should we just set up groups, several sub working groups and say we have a subset of members of this working group who are going to look at the survey responses as they come in and then supplement them working together?

Unidentified Participant: (Inaudible)

Ron Sherwood: This is Ron Sherwood again. If we were to take an existing list, and there are many UN lists, but if a subgroup, as you call it, were to look at the existing lists of nations, countries, territories, and that list would then be obviously (inaudible) characters in order to start. And we could look at, or the subgroup could look at the possible complications involved and pull each of the cc's involved, because there is a cc for each one. And from that come up with a list of a finite geographical or territorial names, or a territorial name, with possible complications that have been developed to that point, with the assistance wherever possible of the cc. Would that not be a good starting point?

Becky Burr: So, that's an -- it seems to me that's an additional task, because one of the questions, how are country and territory names being used right now? And then the other is sort of what are the possible authoritative sources of lists of those names?

Grigori Saghyan: I have a proposal -- this is Grigori Saghyan again.

Becky Burr: Yes.

Grigori Saghyan: Okay. Maybe it would be better to do, to come to the problem from the other side. If it was separated, all ccTLDs, and (inaudible). If something which is well known by everybody. And this is something very stable and everybody knows that it's a (inaudible). There is no anybody need additional description that if (inaudible). Everybody knows that it is (inaudible). And the other name, they are automatically, they are not (inaudible). For them, it's possible to use any type of rules.

Let us start from understanding which is ccTLD. Because even when we start to discuss with other territories, it will take loads of time and we will not have enough information about local conflicts, a lot of things, to resolve it, it is necessary to have very large group.

So, my proposal is to separate the ccTLDs and they have their own rules, how to register them.

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: Becky, it's Cheryl.

Becky Burr: Yes, Cheryl?

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: Thanks. It's one of those calls with a number of people wanting to put comments forward that we really could do it in (inaudible) to have (inaudible) organized. I'm just looking at some of what's being said from the last few speakers, and I think there might be an opportunity for this work group to pick up on what you alluded to earlier, Becky, and that is the use of subteams or work teams within the larger work group.

I would suggest to us that we consider the original purpose and scope of the work group documentation, which splits the purpose of the study group into three particularly well defined areas. And I'm wondering if putting a plan of action between now and our face-to-face in Singapore, where we would have opportunity to review where we're going and how we're heading in perhaps a more manageable way than a teleconference with a large group of people.

We could self-organize by a call to a list of all members of the work group into at least three of those subteams, to meet each of the three primary proposed purposes of the study group. And then just get some of the ground work done, which, I believe, listening to what people have said so far, would be pretty well encapsulated by those three particular purposes. But we may need to have a catch-all space on the Wiki where additional issues are captured so that we don't lose those in these early stages of work group activities.

Becky Burr: No, I think that's a very good idea. I think that the discussion is, it's useful to have the initial discussion, but in order to get the work done, we are going to need to have some subteams. Do we have a -- I also agree that an adobe room would be very useful.

Unidentified Participant: Hello?

Becky Burr: Yes, did somebody have a comment?

Unidentified Participant: Yes, this is George. Let me call you back.

Becky Burr: George? So, should we perhaps send out a call for volunteers for each of the subgroups and then have some basic ground rules for how those workgroups are going to work? And then with the goal for Singapore to have those groups formed and have their kind of basic work plan set out?

Young-Eum Lee: Becky? I think that would be a good idea, but it would be more efficient if we could have people that are online right now volunteer to organize the subgroups, if we could have a couple of people who would volunteer to organize that. I think it would be more efficient.

Becky Burr: Yes, I think that's a good idea. Is anybody interested in --

Annebeth Lange: This is (inaudible). Can I ask a question?

Becky Burr: Yes.

Annebeth Lange: Perhaps I wasn't paying good enough attention, but what exactly are the three subgroups that we are organizing?

Becky Burr: Cheryl, do you have the paper in front of you?

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: I do have, Becky, if you'd like me to read them briefly for the record. From the purpose and scope of activities, the three study group purposes as outlined in that documentation for the work groups are as follows: (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 of the ISO 3166-1 list and/or otherwise considered representation of the names of countries and territories.

The second purpose, (2) a comprehensive overview of types of categories of strings currently used or proposed to be used as TLDs that are either associated with countries and territories, i.e., by inclusion of the ISO 3166-1 list and/or are otherwise considered representations for country and territory names.

And the third, (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 in the ISO 3166-1 list and/or are otherwise considered representations of countries and territories.

And then the catchall phrase after that is if considered appropriate by the study group, the study group will advise on the course of action if (inaudible) issues identified under the third comprehensive overview piece of work.

Becky Burr: Thank you.

Annebeth Lange: Can I ask another question, then?

Becky Burr: Yes, absolutely.

Annebeth Lange: I had kind of thought, and I didn't have it in front of me, so I very much appreciate you reading it, that in some sense there was some sequential nature to these questions, and hearing you read them again it strikes me that first we're looking at current uses, then we're looking at categories within those current uses, and then we're looking at policy issues as applied to those categories, etc. So, I'm not quite sure I understand how each separate group works.

Becky Burr: So, let me -- I think that the first -- I mean, we have an overview of policies that really is -- Bart and Gabi and Kristina, I don't know who did it, has sort of set out that. And so one task is looking at that to make sure it's complete.

But I agree that for a significant amount of the second and third group, it would be useful to have the collection of data first, which would be the questionnaire, survey results about how is this country name right now being used. It's being used as a ccTLD, but within that there is an enormous variety of end range and different ways.

So, it seems to me that that data right now is something that we need in order to understand perhaps the list of the issues and conflicts that could come up with it.

So, I guess -- I still come back to the need for just an initial data collection exercise. So, it would be data collection and then supplementation, as Young Eum suggested, by subgroups.

So, I guess what I was thinking, and maybe this is not a good way to go about it, but thinking that a first task is developing the kind of survey questions and then dividing people on the working group into teams to collect the information and then look at that and add more based on observation.

Cheryl, do you think that there is a way of short-circuiting the data collection piece of this?

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: Not short-circuiting it, but we've just got to get in there and somehow get it done. Again, this is one of those areas where a couple of people need to put up their hands and work probably with staff on creating an appropriate survey, which most importantly is effective. And by effective I mean not so large and onerous that people won't respond to it.

Becky Burr: Exactly.

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: It's all very nice for us to have a rush of blood to the head and want to have a whole lot of information, but some of this is probably going to be survey-based and other parts of the data collection just might be good old hard research (inaudible), because it's going to have to be done. I think there is an opportunity for that to be done by a subteam between, or at least beginning to be done between now and the Singapore face-to-face. And perhaps some preliminary results coming back in.

I wondered whether a couple of people on the call who may or may not have experience. Jon Lawrence, are you there from .iu? I'm wondering if you and a couple of other ccNSO members might want to sort of perhaps take the lead on that? I'm quite sure (inaudible) would be happy to assist, she says (inaudible).

Jon Lawrence: On which topic, Cheryl?

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: The data mining, the data research and putting a survey together. I'm putting the hot foot on you and Martin as well, I would have thought, Becky. Martin? These are the sort of things you guys do all the time. Come on, put your hand up.

Martin Boyle: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's easy for us.

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: There you go, Becky.

Becky Burr: Okay. So, I do think the first thing is to develop a survey and then the second thing that I'd like to discuss is once we get the survey, it seems like --

Cheryl Langdon-Orr: I've been dropped or has Becky dropped?

Becky Burr: I'm here, can you hear me? Okay, I'm just yakking, maybe Cheryl muted me. But then the question is how we organize the subgroups to collect the data. But one that seems to me is there are some questions about whether we want to do it regionally or whether we want to have teams that are sort of come from several different perspectives.

Looking at it, because it may be, if we're looking at how things work in our own regions, we'll miss some of the -- a little bit of objectivity about what is interesting and different about the ways in which they are working. But I take it that we have Keith and Martin and -- who else volunteered? .au?

Jon Lawrence: Yeah, Jon Lawrence.

Becky Burr: Jon, okay. And any -- it seems like perhaps we should look for a non-English-speaking participant in the survey development team.

Henry Chen: This is Henry from Hong Kong.

Becky Burr: Great.

Henry Chen: This is Henry from Hong Kong. I would like to join.

Becky Burr: Excellent. Thank you, Henry. Anybody else?

George: (Inaudible)

Becky Burr: I'm sorry, who was that?

George: (Inaudible)

Becky Burr: Great, George.

Unidentified Participant: (Inaudible)

Becky Burr: Okay, Gabi, are you keeping track of volunteers here?

Kristina: Hi, Cheryl, this is Kristina. I just switched with Gabi because she needed to go on another call, so I'm not quite following what's going on, I'm sorry.

Becky Burr: Okay, so we are creating -- we are collecting volunteers for a working group to create a survey document to gather information about the ways in which country and territory names are used right now.

Kristina: Okay.

Becky Burr: And we have Keith, Martin -- Martin, are you there?

Kristina: I think Martin may have dropped as well. He had another call as well.

Young-Eum Lee: Actually, I need to be going, but, Becky?

Becky Burr: Yes?

Young-Eum Lee: Can I also join and I need to drop off, because I need to join the other call.

Becky Burr: Okay, thanks. Well, I think we should probably wrap this up, but I think that what we'll do is set up a call with the subgroup just to kick that prospect off and then I will work with (inaudible) -- is that what you call them, Keith?

Keith Davidson: That's the one.

Becky Burr: On some of the other mechanical issues of getting us organized. Other thoughts or comments?

Eduardo Diaz: By the way, this is Eduardo Diaz. For the nonspeaking English part, I can volunteer to participate in that work group, too.

Becky Burr: Okay, I'm sorry. Say your name again?

Eduardo Diaz: Eduardo.

Becky Burr: Oh, Eduardo, perfect. Thank you.

Annabeth Lange: Becky, it's Annabeth. Can I suggest that Gabi send the suggestion out online and then someone else might be able to join as well?

Becky Burr: Yes. Yes, we'll send out a call for volunteers.

Annebeth Lange: (Inaudible)

Becky Burr: Okay.

Kathryn Reynolds: Becky, it's Kathryn Reynolds from (inaudible), and I'm happy to volunteer in any capacity, whether it's for this subgroup or another. But I'd rather ask you to tell me what you -- I don't know if this group now has enough members or if you'd rather reserve a few -- some hands for the other subgroups?

Becky Burr: Yes, I think we may have enough. I want to just make sure that we have some geographic and linguistic diversity. I might reserve you for another task.

Kathryn Reynolds: Absolutely. That's fine.

Becky Burr: Okay. We'll definitely do that. So, I think what we'll do is send this around and try to get that work started and organized so that we can have some solid -- have a good start in our face-to-face meeting in Singapore. I apologize for the sort of disorganization. I missed Bart's request for me to chair this, so we will have smoother meetings in the future.

Annebeth Lange: Becky, we should have one from the GAC on this working group. So, do you want me to try to find that?

Becky Burr: Well, I think that our GAC members are Frank March and Bill Zee; is that correct, Christina?

Annebeth Lange: I can't find anything on the list, on the Web.

Becky Burr: I think we have -- that the GAC members have been assigned, so I will reach out to the GAC members to see if one of them will volunteer to participate in this.

Annebeth Lange: Okay, fine.

Becky Burr: Okay? All right. Thank you all.