

Dear xyz,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Country Code Names Supporting Organisation to give you an overview of our work and mission and to invite your country's country code to consider membership.

The Country Code Names Supporting Organisation (ccNSO) was created in 2003 by country code Top Level Domain managers, to provide a platform for the our community within where issues important to ccTLDs could be raised, discussed and to represent our interests in the broader Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) community. We also develop global policies for a very limited range of topics where global policy is necessary.

Since our formation, the ccNSO has been active in several areas critical to country codes. It has, for example, been a key actor in the development of the processes for the introduction of Internationalised Domain Name country codes in cooperation with the Governmental Advisory Committee. In addition, we are currently developing clarification of the policy and process for the delegation and redelegation of country codes.

The ccNSO provides a unique global forum where country code managers can meet, network and discuss issues directly affecting them. The meetings and working groups are open for members as well as non-members of the ccNSO. Other interested parties are invited to almost all of our activities and remote participation is also possible

The ccNSO works closely with other committees and supporting organisations relevant Internet bodies, the Country Code Regional Organisations, as well as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority.

There is currently no charge to join the ccNSO, although many members choose to make contributions to ICANN costs. By participating in the ccNSO, a country code manager is able to influence global issues; and as a member they are able to vote upon proposed policies as well as the election of two Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Board posts. Please find attached more information on our background and work.

By joining the ccNSO, country code managers express their support for and strengthen the bottom-up multi-stakeholder model of internet governance. We have been growing continuously since our creation and to date have 120 members from all regions of the world. We would therefore be pleased to talk with you about participation and to answer any questions you might have. We would also be delighted to welcome you joining us.

Kind regards,

Some ccNSO Basics

ccNSO Members

The ccNSO currently has 120 Members.

A list of all members can be found at <http://www.ccnsso.icann.org/about/members.htm>
(sorted by region: <http://www.ccnsso.icann.org/about/members-sort-region.htm>)

The membership growth is outlined at: <http://www.ccnsso.icann.org/about/ccnsso-membership-aug03-oct11-07oct11-en.pdf>

The ccNSO Secretariat

Currently ICANN is providing a small Secretariat, comprised by three staff members.

The Secretariat's task is to support the ccTLDs both from an administrative, logistical and substantive point of view in their activities.

The Secretariat is presented at: <http://www.ccnsso.icann.org/about>

ccNSO Council

The role of the ccNSO Council is to administer and coordinate the affairs of the ccNSO and to manage the development of policy recommendations.

This means that the Councillors are actively involved in determining the work and direction of the ccNSO: they lead and participate in various ccNSO-working groups; they engage the community in topical issues and they develop positions based on community feedback.

The ccNSO Council is comprised of 18 Members, three from each ICANN Geographic region, plus three selected by ICANN's Nominating committee.

Every year, one Councillor for each region needs to step down and can either be re-elected or replaced by someone else, followed by a nomination period in each region.

The Councillors are presented at: <http://www.ccnsso.icann.org/council-members.htm>

Working Groups

Currently, twelve ccNSO Working Groups are active, dealing with a wide range of topics, from issues concerning the delegation & re-delegation of ccTLDs (Framework of Interpretation Working Group), to analysing the allocation of ICANN's finances (Finance Working Group). The current working groups are:

- ccNSO-GAC Liaison Working Group
- IDN PDP Working Group 1
- IDN PDP Working Group 2
- Incident Repository Implementation Working Group

- Finance Working Group
- Framework of Interpretation Working Group
- Joint ccNSO/GNSO IDN Working Group
- Joint DNS Security and Stability Analysis Working Group
- Meetings Programme Working Group
- Strategic and Operational Planning Working Group
- Study Group on Use of Names for Countries and Territories
- Technical Working Group

You can read more about each working group at:

<http://www.ccnsso.icann.org/workinggroups>

ccNSO Membership Implications

By applying for membership of the ccNSO, the ccTLD agrees to abide to the policies developed and recommended to the ICANN Board by the ccNSO, provided that the ccNSO developed policy does not conflict with applicable law, as national law always remains paramount.

A ccNSO member is also not bound by the policy if such a policy would cause the ccTLD manager to breach custom, religion, or public policy which is not embodied in the applicable law

Any ccNSO member may terminate its membership at any time in writing by a written notice of resignation to the ccNSO Council.

Membership is free of charge, until the members decide otherwise (as per ICANN Bylaw Article IX, Section 7.3 – see <http://www.icann.org/en/general/bylaws.htm#IX>).

Joining the ccNSO

Joining the ccNSO is easy – an online application form needs to be filled in:

<http://ccnsso.icann.org/applications/form.htm>

The application will then undergo an internal review before it will be presented to the ccNSO Council for approval.