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Subject: C&TNSG update

The Study Group on Country and Territory Names met in Toronto and identified the remaining steps required to fulfil its charter and conclude its work.

To date, the group has conducted an analysis of ICANN policies and processes (for IDNs, ccTLDs and gTLDs) and specifically the protections afforded to country and territory names.

The group has had numerous discussions on potential issues and policy inconsistencies and has used the recent round of new gTLD applications as a source of examples and case studies.

The Group also discussed the slow progress of, and low response rate to the survey circulated to a subset of 39 UNESCO Members States, and resolved to expand its consultations by writing to the Chairs of ICANN's SOs and ACs to solicit individual community member input. Although the SG was never set a formal date to conclude its work, it was expected to finalise its outputs prior to the commencement of policy discussions regarding the second round of new gTLD applications – or approximately the end of 2012 . In order to allow enough time to solicit, gather and analyse community inputs and draft its final report, the SG now expects it will finalise its work by the ICANN Beijing meeting in April 2013.