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# Cross-Community Working Groups on the Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs

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## **WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN57 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?**

There will be an open face-to-face working session on Saturday, 5 November to continue discussion on the direction of travel for this group. Work of the CWG will also be presented during the High Interest Topic session on New gTLD Program Reviews.

## **WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?**

Following in the footsteps of the Study Group on the Use of Names for Countries and Territories as TLDs, the purpose of this CWG is to further review the issues pertaining to the use of country and territory names as top-level domains (TLDs) and develop a policy framework.

## **WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?**

The Cross-Community Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names as top-level domains (CWG-UCTN) divided its work into three sections: 2-character TLDs; 3-character TLDs; and full name country and territory name TLDs. The CWG reached preliminary consensus in support of maintaining the status quo of 2-character codes as exclusively reserved for country code TLDs (ccTLDs). The community expressed a diverse set of views on 3-character codes, and no consensus was reached on this topic. Preliminarily, the group deems that it is not feasible within its limited mandate to develop a consistent and uniform definitional framework that could be applicable across the respective SOs and ACs defining rules guiding the use of country and territory names as top level domains.

## **WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

The CWG is in the process of finalizing a Progress Report that will outline accomplishments to date, issues identified, and direction of travel. The Progress Report will inform the CWG's Interim Report, which is currently being drafted. The Interim Report will include extensive background information on the issue area, a full summary of the group's activities and accomplishments, and a discussion of the direction of travel.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in joining the CWG-UCTN as a GNSO participant, please email the GNSO Secretariat at [gns0-secs@icann.org](mailto:gns0-secs@icann.org).

### MORE INFORMATION



The face-to-face session at ICANN57 will take place on Saturday 5 November, 15:15 to 16:45

— More information on the CWG can be found at: [community.icann.org/pages](https://community.icann.org/pages)

### BACKGROUND

The treatment of country and territory names as TLDs is a topic that has been discussed by the ccNSO, GAC, GNSO, ALAC and the ICANN Board for a number of years. So far, issues regarding the treatment of representations of country and territory names have arisen in a wide range of ICANN policy processes, including the IDN fast track, IDN ccPDP, and the development of the new gTLD Applicant Guidebook (AGB). Creating a uniform policy framework on this important issues that can be applied across all TLDs will be a very helpful step forward in the continuous development of the DNS.

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:** Steve Chan (GNSO), Bart Boswinkel (ccNSO), Emily Barabas (GNSO) and Joke Braeken (ccNSO)