Cross-Community Working Group: Use of Country and Territory Names as Top-Level Domains

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN59 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

It is anticipated that the Cross-Community Working Group (CWG) will submit its Final Report to its Chartering Organizations prior to ICANN59. The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) and the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Councils may therefore consider the Final Report in their sessions in Johannesburg.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

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

WHAT IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The treatment of country and territory names as TLDs is a topic that has been discussed by the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), ccNSO, GNSO, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the ICANN Board for a number of years. Issues regarding the treatment of representations of country and territory names have arisen in a wide range of ICANN policy processes, including the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) fast track, ccNSO IDN Policy Development Process (PDP), the development of the new gTLD Applicant Guidebook (AGB), and the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP. The CWG on Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs (UCTN) was chartered to investigate the feasibility of a uniform policy framework on this important issue that could be applied across all TLDs. The creation of such a framework could be a helpful step forward in the continuous development of the domain name system (DNS).

WHAT IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The CWG produced an Interim Report that includes extensive background information on the issue area, a full summary of the group's activities and accomplishments, and a series of recommendations. The Report summarizes deliberations on 2-character and 3-character representations of country and territory names. It also explains why the group ultimately deemed that it is not

feasible within the CWG's limited mandate to develop a consistent and uniform framework defining rules guiding the use of country and territory names as top-level domains.

The Interim Report contains recommendations supported by a substantial majority of CWG members. The recommendations include closing the CWG, consolidating all policy efforts related to geographic names, and ensuring that future policy development work facilitates an all-inclusive dialogue to give all members of the community the opportunity to participate. The CWG did not reach consensus on how to organize future work.

The Interim Report was open to a public comment period following ICANN58. Taking into account comments received, the CWG is now finalizing the document, which will be submitted to its Chartering Organizations as the Final Report.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The CWG will submit the Final Report to the ccNSO Council and the GNSO Council for discussion and adoption.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

To read the submitted public comments about the Interim Report, visit: **https://www.icann.org/public-comments/cwg-uctn-interim-paper-2017-02-24-en**.

MORE INFORMATION

- CWG Workspace: **https://community.icann.org/x/X7XhAg**

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