August 26, 2015

Mr. Thomas Schneider
Chair of the Governmental
Advisory Committee

Subject: Potential Overlap Work CCWG-UCTN and GAC WG on Protection
Geographic Names

Dear Thomas,

We write to you with regard to the ongoing work of the Cross-Community
Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names as top-level domains
(CWG-UCTN). The CWG-UCTN was chartered jointly by the GNSO and ccNSO and
tasked to provide a harmonized framework for the use as Top Level Domains of
names of countries, dependent territories and special areas of geographical
interest listed in ISO 3166-1: *Codes for the representation of names of countries
and their subdivisions – part 1: Country codes*, thereby excluding any other
geographic names or use on second- or lower-levels.

You will be aware that the substance of the CWG-UCTN's work has the potential
to overlap with the GAC own Working Group on the Protection of Geographic
Names in the new gTLD Process. What we want to share with you is our belief
that the these two groups should coordinate their efforts to ensure that the
outcome is complimentary – and not contradictory – and informs the creation of
consensus policy and policy advice through an effective multi-stakeholder model.
In this context, both the GNSO and the ccNSO communities welcomed the GAC's
statement in its ICANN52 Communiqué explicitly calling for "GAC engagement
with the CCWG on Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs."

At the joint ccNSO-GNSO Council meeting at ICANN53 the CWG-UCTN co-Chairs
reported that records show that GAC participation in the CWG-UCTN remains low
and intermittent. The co-Chairs pointed out to us that a more robust GAC
engagement would greatly increase the likelihood of the development of the
aforementioned framework.

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Looking forward, we re-emphasize that the CWG-UCTN is open to all and we hope that GAC and its members will follow through on the ICANN52 Communiqué by increasing their engagement with the CWG-UCTN and consistently contribute to this important work. It is only through such broad participation that ICANN's multi-stakeholder process can deliver results that serve the global Internet community.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any of the issues raised in greater detail, please feel free to contact us, or the Group's co-Chairs, at any time.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Robinson   Byron Holland
Chair, GNSO   Chair, ccNSO