



## CENTR position on the use of country and territory names as TLDs

The topic of geographic terms as new gTLDs was discussed at the 58<sup>th</sup> CENTR General Assembly held in Brussels on 4 October 2017. It was noted that the ccNSO Council had nominated Annebeth Lange (Norid, .no) as a co-chair of the new Work Track 5 within the ICANN Subsequent Procedures policy framework, which is going to look in more detail at this topic. It was further noted that the ICANN Cross Community Working Group on the Use of Country and Territory Names as TLDs had failed to reach a consensus after three years of work, and that the topic was also discussed at ICANN59 in Johannesburg.

Whilst Work Track 5 is still at a very early stage, the CENTR members present at the General Assembly unanimously supported the following approach:

- That CENTR members and others within the ccTLD community participate positively and constructively within Work Track 5;
- Based on CENTR members' past experience over many years, this is a complicated and contentious topic, and there is not an obvious consensus solution to the problems posed; and
- In the absence of any new consensus within Work Track 5, CENTR members believe that the current restrictions on registration of geographic terms as new gTLDs should be maintained, namely:
  - All 2-letter ASCII codes, whether or not they are currently in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list, are reserved for exclusive use as present and future ccTLDs;
  - The 3-letter ASCII codes in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 list should remain blocked and ineligible to be applied for as a new gTLD, meaning that the vast majority of the 17,576 3-letter combinations are available for use as new gTLDs, but confusion with existing ccTLDs is mitigated; and
  - The compromise restrictions on registration of country and territory names as new gTLDs as set out in ICANN's 2012 Applicant Guidebook should be retained.