



Guide to ICANN60 Abu Dhabi



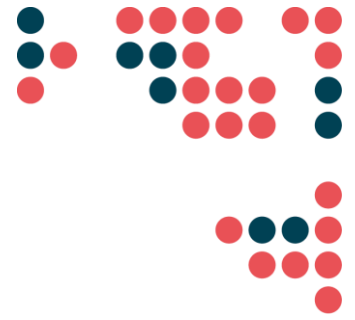
ccNSO and GAC key issues

October 2017

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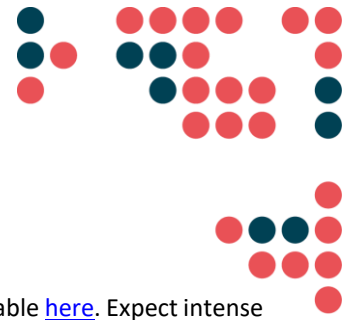
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Next week, ICANN60 takes place in Abu Dhabi. The full schedule of this 7-day meeting is available [here](#). Expect intense debates on the need to change the current **WHOIS** protocol and changes to the **registry-registrar agreements**. From a ccTLD perspective, the two important topics are the **use of country and territory names at the top level** and the Policy Development Process (PDP) on **retirement of ccTLDs**.

ccNSO pre-report

Link to [CENTR report from ICANN59](#)

The ccNSO agenda is available [at the ccNSO workspace](#).

Summaries of the ccNSO sessions are [available here](#).

Policy Development Process (PDP) on retirement of ccTLDs

As previously reported, the ccNSO Council has decided to start a ccNSO PDP to develop and recommend policies on two related issues:

1. The retirement of country code top-level domains;
2. The review mechanism for decisions relating to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of country codes.

These issues come down to two fundamental questions. The first one is: What happens to a ccTLD if the country it relates to changes its name or ceases to exist? (e.g. USSR or Yugoslavia). The second one is: What is the appeal mechanism if anyone disagrees with a decision from the ICANN Board? (e.g. refusal to add a new ccTLD to the rootzone)

The first step will be to develop a policy for the retirement of a ccTLD. The group will update the ccNSO on progress, there will be an educational session on the importance of the ISO 3166 list and how it is maintained, and the group will have a working session in Abu Dhabi following the ccNSO meeting.

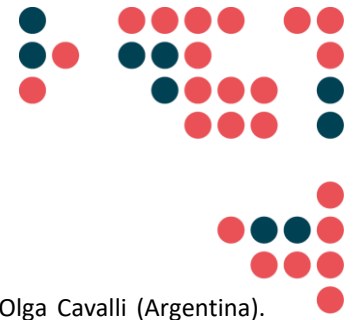
The group is currently working on the framework to analyse the retirement cases to date. This work will take place in parallel with starting the discussion on the impact of the finite stage of a country code on the ISO 3166 list and in the context of the IANA practices. A finite state is when, for example, the name of a country changes, which impacts the two-letter code.

Recommended sessions:

- Update on the work by the PDP retirement WG and next steps, 31 Oct, 10.30 – 11.45
- Presentation on retirement from ISO 3166 (MA perspective), role of the Maintenance Agency (MA), terminology and rules, 31 Oct, 10.30-11.45
- [PDP retirement WG session](#), 2 Nov, 13.30 – 15.00

Country and territory names / codes at second level; geographic names

Discussions about 2-character country and territory *codes* at second level, country and territory *names* as second level domains, as well as *geographic* names at the *top-level* will continue. The new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG will form a fifth [Work Track \(WT5\)](#) dedicated solely to geographic names at the top-level. WT5 will have shared



leadership among GAC, ALAC, ccNSO and GNSO. The GAC has “conditionally” appointed Olga Cavalli (Argentina). However, for this to become formal, the GAC have to accept the WT5 terms of reference. Also, Olga Cavalli aspires to become new GAC Chair, and if elected, is unlikely to remain in that role. In their meeting, the GAC will discuss the role of its geographic names WG in WT5 as well as “alternatives for participation in WT5”.

The ccNSO will be represented in the WT5 by Annebeth Lange (Norid) and Nick Wenban-Smith (Nominet).

Both APTLD and CENTR have already formulated their [position](#) on the issue:

- 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

It will be of the utmost importance that ccTLDs actively participate in this group. A [call for volunteers](#) has recently gone out.

Recommended sessions:

- Update and discussion on the next steps after closure of the CWG-UCTN, 31 Oct, 10.30 – 11.45
- Joint session with the GAC – Next steps: policy development on country & territory names, geo names as TLDs, 31 Oct, 13.30 – 14.15

What is not on the ccNSO agenda

GDPR implementation

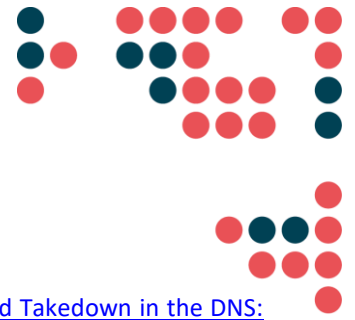
- Cross Community Session: General Data Protection Regulation implications for ICANN, 2 Nov, 10.30-12.00
- GAC discussion on WHOIS/RDS and GDPR, 31 Oct, 11.00-11.30 and 2 Nov, 12.00-12.30

An interesting read in preparation of this session: [Legal advice on WHOIS and the GDPR](#)

Content liability, a TLD’s role in controlling access to content

Not a single session.

Exception: [a closed session](#) of the GNSO’s Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) on 1 Nov, 17.00 – 18.30



Interesting read despite a complete lack of discussion during this 7-day meeting: [Notice and Takedown in the DNS: ICANN's ambivalent drift into online content regulation.](#)

GAC pre-report

Link to [ICANN59 GAC Communiqué Johannesburg](#)

All GAC meetings are public and take place in Hall 3

You can find the agenda (if you search well) on the [GAC's new website](#) (in case you are struggling to find it, [here it is](#))

Country and territory names / codes at second level; geographic names

The GAC will also meet with Amazon (the company) whose application for the top-level domain .amazon had been denied based on GAC advice (which put forward public policy concerns strongly voiced by the Brazilian and Peruvian governments). Amazon sought independent review of the ICANN Board's decision. The Independent Review Panel (IRP) issued a [final declaration](#) on 11 July 2017 calling for the Board to "promptly re-evaluate Amazon's application", asking for an "objective and independent judgment" of public policy reasons, and requesting that any future decision about how it proceeds with the application be explained (s.a. [Board Resolution](#), 23 Sept 2017). The case is interesting for the GAC, ccTLD and gTLD communities: it exemplifies policy and process with regards to a name that the GAC would like to see protected as "territory" (whereas it does not fall under the ISO-list), but that also refers to a brand with strong recognition.

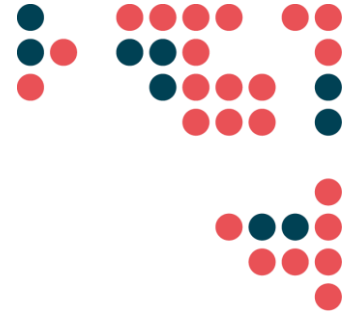
Recommended sessions:

- 2-character country/territory codes at second level, 28 Oct, 14.00-14.30
- Country and territory names as SLDs, 28 Oct, 14.30-15.00
- GAC Geographic Names WG meeting, 29 Oct, 09.30-10.30
- Meeting with GNSO new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP WG Co-Chairs, 29 Oct, 10.30-11.00
- Meeting with amazon.com, 29 Oct, 13.30-14.00; Amazon IRP Discussions, 29 Oct, 14.00-15.00 & 17.00-18.30

Data protection and privacy

The GAC will continue discussions around WHOIS reform and the impact of the GDPR on ICANN (both in GAC and the cross-community session). Progress within the [Next-Generation Registration Directory Service \(RDS\) PDP WG](#) will also be addressed. The WG is trying to reach consensus on questions concerning RDS users and purposes (who needs each data element and why?), access (control or publish data elements?) and privacy (applicability of data protection and privacy laws). The WG commissioned independent legal counsel on the impact of the GDPR on RDS and came up with a [three-column document](#) answering the WG's questions and deriving principles from these answers. In October, the first (of a series of) [memorandum](#) on the GDPR's impact on ICANN has been published. Here you can find [more information](#) about what has been done on data protection and privacy at ICANN.

- GAC discussion on WHOIS/RDS and GDPR, 31 Oct, 11.00-11.30 and 2 Nov 12.00-12.30
- Cross Community Session: General Data Protection Regulation implications for ICANN, 2 Nov, 10.30-12.00



Abuse

At the time of writing, no (draft) agenda of the two DNS abuse-related sessions was available. Please refer to the [ICANN schedule](#).

- DNS Abuse Mitigation, 01 Nov, 10.30-11.00
- Cross Community Session: DNS Abuse Reporting for policy-making and mitigation, Oct 30, 13.30-15.00

Public Safety Working Group (PSWG)

At the time of writing, no (draft) agenda of the meeting was available. However, the PSWG is usually quite interesting, covering horizontal aspects, such as abuse mitigation, law enforcement access, data protection, etc., that span across a multitude of ICANN committees and policies.

- PSWG Meeting, 31 Oct, 08.30-09.30

Human Rights and International Law Working Group Meeting

The so-called “core values” in ICANN’s [bylaws](#) include a reference to the respect of internationally human rights – the exact definition of which is subject to a framework of interpretation. The GAC aims to provide “potential advice to the Board on its use of Ruggie Principles as a tool “in the context of implementing this “core value”. The “[Ruggie Principles](#)” (named after the Special UN Representative, John Ruggie) refer to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, a global standard aimed at preventing and addressing adverse impacts on human rights in the context of business activities (e.g. contractors using unpaid or child labour, etc.). Their applicability to operations within ICANN are controversial.

- GAC HRIL WG meeting, 29 Oct, 08.30-09.30

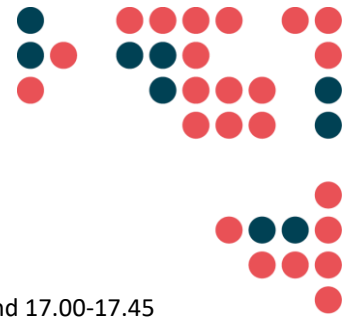
GAC Underserved Regions WG Meeting

The ccNSO has continued its work on the “Frequently Asked Questions About ccTLDs” document, which it intends to share with the GAC Underserved Regions WG ahead of ICANN60. The FAQ is scheduled for discussion in and endorsement by the GAC WG (and subsequently by the GAC). It is also likely to be discussed during the joint GAC-ccNSO meeting. The FAQ is not specifically mentioned in the context of the capacity-building workshop that will take place on Saturday.

- GAC Underserved Regions Capacity Building Workshop for Middle East GAC Members and Newcomers ([agenda](#)), 28 Oct, 08.30-13.00
- GAC-ccNSO bilateral meeting, 31 Oct, 13.30-14.15
- GAC Underserved Regions WG Meeting, 01 Nov 09.30-10.15

IANA Transition and beyond

The GAC will continue discussing their role in the “Empowered Community” as per the ICANN bylaws. Also, the issue of ICANN jurisdiction will be addressed (both in the GAC and a cross-community session).



- GAC Meeting on empowered community and ICANN Bylaws, 28 Oct, 16.15-16.45 and 17.00-17.45
- ICANN Jurisdiction (discussion in GAC), 29 Oct, 12.00-12.30
- Cross-Community Session: Community Feedback on Concluding CCWG Accountability WS2, 30 Oct, 10.30-12.00
- Cross-Community Session: **Jurisdictional challenges for ICANN, 2 Nov, 13.30-15.00**

Bilateral meetings

- GAC / ccNSO, 31 Oct, 13.30-14.15
- ICANN / GAC Operational processes, 09.45-10.15
- GAC ICANN Board, 31 Oct, 15.15-16.45
- GAC / GNSO, 29 Oct, 15.15-16.15

Operational matters

The GAC will get a new leadership with Thomas Schneider stepping down as Chair and two new Vice-Chairs to be elected. The new leadership team will have its first meeting at the end of ICANN60. The GAC will continue discussions on an independent secretariat, the future of which is unclear, since the GAC were not able to secure funding for it. Workload (i.e. participation in PDPs and working groups) also remains an issue. The GAC seems reluctant to delegate individuals to cross-community working groups, as they are normally not in a position to make statements on behalf of the GAC.

- Publication of GAC Chair Election Results, 31 Oct, 09.30-09.45
- GAC independent Secretariat, Oct 28, 15.15-16.15
- GAC participation in PDPs and CCWGs, Oct 28, 17.45-18.30
- GAC preparation for ICANN61, 1 Nov, 12.00-12.30

Other Cross-Community Sessions

- Internet Governance Public Forum, 31 Oct, 12.15-13.15
- F2F meeting of CCWG Internet Governance, 1 Nov, 12.15-13.15