

1 Policy for the Retirement of ccTLDs

2 DRAFT

3 ccNSO

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5 1 Background

6 Request For Comment ("RFC") 1591 [1] states:

7 2) *Country Codes - The IANA is not in the business of deciding what is and what*
8 *is not a country. The selection of the ISO 3166 list as a basis for country code*
9 *top-level domain names was made with the knowledge that ISO has a procedure*
10 *for determining which entities should be and should not be on that list.*

11 In 2014 the ccNSO through its FOI confirmed that RFC1591 still applies to ccTLDs.

12 The ISO 3166 list is dynamic: regularly country codes are added and removed¹ en-
13 tries. When a new country code is added a ccTLD can be added via the standard del-
14 egation process by the IANA Functions Operator (IFO). However, as was identified in
15 2011 by the ccNSO Delegation and Redellegation WG, there is no formal policy avail-
16 able for the removal of a ccTLD from the root when a country code is removed from
17 the ISO 3166 list of country names.

18 **2 Policy Objective**

19 The objective of the policy is to provide clear, and predictable guidance and to docu-
20 ment the process from and as of a country code is removed from the ISO3166 listed
21 country names² up and to, but excluding, the removal of a ccTLD from the Root
22 Zone³ in an orderly and reasonable fashion.

¹ISO 3166, Section 3.4

²The procedures and process related to the removal of a country code are excluded, as this is determined by ISO.

³The removal of a (cc)TLD by IFO is excluded from the policy, as this outside the remit of the policy scope of the ccNSO.

23 **3 General and Specific part of the policy**

24 When a country code is removed from the ISO 3166 list, the ccTLD will be removed
25 from the Root zone. The general policy recommendations are developed under the
26 following assumptions:

- 27 • It is the expectation that there will be a cooperation between the IFO and the
28 Manager of the retiring ccTLD to ensure an orderly shutdown of the registry,
29 while considering the interests of its registrants and the stability and security of
30 the DNS.
- 31 • The ccTLD is managed by a functional Manager⁴.
 - 32 – The dual conditions of a ccTLD's country that has been removed from the ISO
33 3166 list and not having a functional manager creates a corner case for the
34 IFO. If the entry for the country has been removed from the ISO 3166 list the
35 IFO cannot Transfer the ccTLD to another manager per its procedures given
36 there is no government to support the Transfer – and if there is no functional
37 Manager the IFO cannot launch the Retirement process creating a deadlock
38 situation. In such cases the IFO can proceed with a Transfer of responsibility
39 for the ccTLD, for the purpose of retiring the ccTLD, using a version of its

⁴A ccTLD Manager is the entity that is listed under the heading "ccTLD Manager" in the Root Zone Database (<https://www.iana.org/domains/root/db>)

40 standard process for Transfer which does not require government support or
41 the previous manager's agreement.

42 Each of these assumptions needs to be verified at the on-set and during the pro-
43 cess. If one of these assumptions is not or no longer valid, the specific part of
44 the policy recommendations applies, whereby specific policy recommendations are
45 paramount.

46 **4 Retirement Process Requirements**

47 **5 ccTLD Retirement Process**

48 • Notice - Once the IFO has been informed and confirmed that a country code has
49 bene removed for the ISO 3166 list, it shall notify the Manager of the ccTLD that
50 the ccTLD shall be retired within the next 5 years, from the date of the notice.

51 Question: Should there be a requirement to publicly post the Notice?

52 In conjunction with the notice the IFO should inform the manager that it is expected,
53 but not mandatory to produce a satisfactory retirement plan for the ccTLD. The IFO
54 should include with the notice a document describing the reasonable requirements

55 it expects of a retirement plan and that it will make itself available to the Manager
56 to assist in the development of such a plan should the Manager request it.

57 • The Notice should also clearly state that:

58 – If the Manager does not produce a satisfactory retirement plan the ccTLD will
59 be removed from the root 5 years from the date of Notice.

60 – If the Manager intends on producing a retirement plan it should formally com-
61 municate this to the IFO.

62 • If the Manager and the IFO agree on a retirement plan the IFO, at its discretion,
63 can extend the retirement date for a period of up to 5 additional years for a total
64 period of 10 years from the date of notice prior to removing the retiring ccTLD
65 from the root.

66 • The Manager and the IFO can, by mutual agreement, decide to retire the ccTLD
67 at any time even if less than the initial 5 year period.

68 • Retirement Plan – A retirement plan should, as a minimum, include commit-
69 ments to the following:

70 – Date the ccTLD will stop accepting new registrations

71 – Date the ccTLD will stop accepting the renewal of existing registrations

72 – Date the ccTLD will stop accepting the transfer of registrations

73 – Date the ccTLD will be removed from the Root Zone.

74 - Date the ccTLD will advise all its registrants of the retirement plan.

75 If the Manager wishes to submit a retirement plan to the IFO it should do so within
76 12 months of receiving the Notice of retirement from the IFO. The Manager can, for
77 good reasons, submit in writing a request for an extension to the 12 month period
78 from the IFO. The IFO shall not withhold granting a reasonable extension (maximum
79 12 additional months) if the application provides a valid basis for granting such an
80 extension.

81 If the manager wishes an extension to the 5 year retirement period from the time of
82 Notice it should either negotiate this with the IFO prior to submitting its Retirement
83 plan or request this in writing from the IFO as part of its Retirement plan. The IFO
84 shall not withhold granting a reasonable extension (maximum of 5 additional years)
85 to the date of retirement if the request provides valid reasons for this.

86 **6 Specific Policy Recommendations & Process** 87 **Requirements**

88 • Exception conditions

89 - Manager becomes non-functional after a retirement agreement is accepted
90 - The IFO can the same procedure outlined in the Requirements to transfer
91 the ccTLD to a new manager.

- 92 – Manager breaches the Retirement Agreement – The IFO should work with the
- 93 Manager with the objective of re-instating the Retirement agreement. If this
- 94 is not possible the IFO can advise it will return to the initial 5 year retirement
- 95 period.
- 96 – IDN ccTLD
- 97 – Non-Functional Manager

98 **7 Oversight**

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99 Nomenclature

100 **RFC** In information and communications technology, a Request for Comments (RFC)
101 is a type of publication from the technology community. RFCs may come from
102 many bodies including from the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the In-
103 ternet Research Task Force (IRTF), the Internet Architecture Board (IAB) or from
104 independent authors.[citation needed] The RFC system is supported by the In-
105 ternet Society (ISOC).

106 References

107 [1] INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE: *RFC 1591*. [https://www.ietf.org/rfc/](https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt)
108 [rfc1591.txt](https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt), Last Accessed: 2019-01-29