

# 1 Policy for the Retirement of ccTLDs

2 **DRAFT**

3 ccNSO

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## 5 **1 Background**

6 Request For Comment [2] ("RFC") 1591 [1] states:

7 4. Rights to Names

8 [...]

9 2) Country Codes

10 The IANA is not in the business of deciding what is and what is not a  
11 country. The selection of the ISO 3166 list as a basis for country code  
12 top-level domain names was made with the knowledge that ISO has a  
13 procedure for determining which entities should be and should not be  
14 on that list.

15 In 2014 the ccNSO through its Framework of Interpretation confirmed that RFC 1591  
16 applies to ccTLDs.

17 The ISO 3166-1 list is dynamic and country codes are added and removed<sup>1</sup> on a regu-  
18 lar basis. When a new country code is added a ccTLD can be added via the standard  
19 delegation process by the IANA Naming Functions Operator<sup>2</sup> (IFO). However, as was  
20 identified in 2011 by the ccNSO Delegation and Redellegation Working Group, there  
21 is no formal policy available for the removal of a ccTLD from the Root Zone when a  
22 country code is removed from the ISO 3166-1 list of country names.

## 23 **2 Policy Objective**

24 The objective of the policy is to provide clear, and predictable guidance and to doc-  
25 ument a process that is orderly and reasonable from the time a country code is re-

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<sup>1</sup>ISO 3166-1, Section 3.4

<sup>2</sup>Currently operated by PTI

26 moved from the ISO 3166-1 list of country names<sup>3</sup> up and to, but excluding, the  
27 removal of a ccTLD from the Root Zone<sup>4</sup>.

## 28 **3 Applicability of the Policy**

29 This policy is applicable to all ccTLDs which are members of the ccNSO and are man-  
30 aged by a functional manager and where the corresponding country code has been-  
31 removed from the ISO 3166-1 list.

32 For the purposes of this document a functional manager is the manager of the ccTLD  
33 as listed in the IANA Root Zone database, who is active with respect to the man-  
34 agement of the ccTLD or with whom the IFO can officially and effectively communi-  
35 cate.

36 If a country code has been removed from the ISO 3166-1 list and its corresponding  
37 ccTLD does not have a functional manager the policy for the retirement of a ccTLD  
38 is not applicable and the IFO cannot transfer responsibility to a new manager ac-  
39 cording to its standard process. This set of circumstances would create a deadlock

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<sup>3</sup>The procedures and process related to the removal of a country code are excluded, as this is determined by ISO.

<sup>4</sup>The removal of a (cc)TLD by the IFO is excluded from the policy, as this is outside the remit of the policy scope of the ccNSO.

40 situation which would prevent the IFO from ever removing the retiring ccTLD from  
41 the Root Zone. To avoid such a deadlock, and only under these specific conditions,  
42 this policy allows the IFO to proceed with a transfer of responsibility for the retiring  
43 ccTLD to establish a functional manager and insure the ccTLD can be retired. Such  
44 a transfer should follow the standard IFO process where possible.

## 45 **4 Retirement Process**

### 46 **4.1 Expectations**

47 There is a good faith obligation for both the the IFO and the Manager of the retiring  
48 ccTLD to ensure an orderly shutdown of the retiring ccTLD which takes into consid-  
49 eration the interests of its registrants and the stability and security of the DNS.

50 Note: Given the importance and exceptional nature of the ccTLD retirement process  
51 the IFO, prior to sending a Notice of Retirement, should contact the ccTLD Manager  
52 and confirm who the IFO should be dealing with regarding the retirement process.  
53 The person or role identified by the ccTLD manager to deal with the retirement pro-  
54 cess is referred to as the Manager in the remainder of this document.

## 55 **4.2 Notice of Retirement**

56 Once the IFO has been informed, and confirmed, that a country code has been re-  
57 moved from the ISO 3166-1 list and that the IFO has also confirmed that the ccTLD  
58 has a functional manager, it shall promptly notify the Manager of the ccTLD that  
59 the ccTLD shall be removed from the Root 5 years (Default Retirement Period) from  
60 the date of this notice (Notice of Retirement) unless a Retirement Plan (see follow-  
61 ing sections for details) which is agreed<sup>5</sup> to by the Manager and the IFO stipulates  
62 otherwise and is in accordance with this Retirement Policy.

63 The IFO shall include with the Notice of Retirement a document describing the rea-  
64 sonable requirements (Reasonable Requirements Document) it expects of a Retire-  
65 ment Plan and that the IFO will make itself available to the Manager to assist in the  
66 development of such a plan should the Manager request it.

## 67 **4.3 Time Span for Retirement**

68 The IFO cannot require that a retiring ccTLD be removed from the Root Zone less  
69 than 5 years from the time the IFO has sent a Notice of Retirement to the retiring

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<sup>5</sup>Failure to reach agreement between the Manager and the IFO on a Retirement Plan as specified in the policy automatically implies that the ccTLD will be removed from the Root 5 years from the date of the Notice of Retirement

70 ccTLD Manager unless this is mutually agreed by the ccTLD Manager and the IFO.

71 Extending the removal of the ccTLD from the Root Zone beyond the Default Retirement  
72 Period - If the Manager wishes to request an extension to the Default Retirement  
73 Period it must request this from the IFO as part of a Retirement Plan.

74 The IFO must remove a retiring ccTLD from the Root no later than 10 years after  
75 having sent a Notice of Retirement to the ccTLD manager (Maximum Retirement  
76 Period).

#### 77 **4.4 Retirement Plan**

78 After receiving a Notice of Retirement the Manager must decide if it wishes to re-  
79 quest an extension to the Default Retirement Period..

80 If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD does not wish an extension to the Default Re-  
81 tirement Period stated in the Notice of Retirement it is expected, but not mandatory,  
82 that the Manager produce a Retirement Plan for the ccTLD which would typically in-  
83 clude:

84 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop taking registrations that exceed the  
85 date of removal from the Root Zone.

86 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the renewal of existing  
87 registrations that exceed the date of removal from the Root Zone.

- 88 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the transfer of registra-  
89 tions that exceed the date of removal from the Root Zone.
- 90 • Date the ccTLD is expected to be removed from the Root Zone.
- 91 • Details of the communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement of the  
92 ccTLD.
- 93 If the manager of the retiring ccTLD wishes to request an extension beyond the De-  
94 fault Retirement Period stated in the Notice of Retirement it must produce a Retire-  
95 ment Plan which is acceptable to the IFO and is in accordance with the conditions  
96 listed below.
- 97 Granting an extension to the Default Retirement Period is at the discretion of the IFO  
98 but shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Reasonable Requirements Document  
99 that the IFO will have included with the Notice of Retirement will describe the factors  
100 it will consider when evaluating a request for an extension to the Default Retirement  
101 Period.
- 102 A Retirement Plan which requests an extension shall include:
- 103 • The length of the extension requested (a maximum 5 additional years) including  
104 the proposed date of the removal of the ccTLD from the Root Zone.
- 105 • The reasons for requesting an extension
- 106 • An impact analysis which supports the reasons for making the extension request.

- 107 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop taking registrations that exceed the  
108 date of removal from the Root Zone.
- 109 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the renewal of existing  
110 registrations that exceed the date of removal from the Root Zone.
- 111 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the transfer of registra-  
112 tions that exceed the date of removal from the Root Zone.
- 113 • Details of the communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement of the  
114 ccTLD.

115 If the ccTLD Manager wishes to produce a Retirement Plan it must do so within 12  
116 months of the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of the re-  
117 tiring ccTLD. The IFO at its discretion can extend the 12 month limit to a maximum  
118 24 months total. If the IFO grants such an extension it shall promptly notify the  
119 Manager of this.

120 If the ccTLD Manager submits a Retirement Plan to the IFO, the IFO shall provide a  
121 definitive response to the Manager regarding the request for an extension within 90  
122 days of such a request being received by the IFO. The response by the IFO, if positive,  
123 shall state the length of the extension which has been granted. If the response is  
124 negative, the IFO shall include the specific reasoning for the refusal<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup>The WG anticipates that if the request for an extension is rejected and the ccTLD Manager feels that the rejection is inconsistent with the rules it will be able to use the review mechanism that will be developed in part 2 of the ccNSO PDP 3. To avoid any misunderstanding, ICANN's IRP process is not

125 If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD and the IFO cannot agree on a Retirement Plan  
126 within 12 months, or up to a maximum of 24 months if the IFO has granted an ex-  
127 tension, of the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager, then the  
128 IFO shall promptly advise the Manager that the ccTLD shall be removed from the  
129 Root 5 years from the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of  
130 the retiring ccTLD.

## 131 **4.5 Exception Conditions**

132 If the Manager becomes non-functional after a Retirement Plan is accepted the IFO  
133 can use the same procedure outlined in the Requirements section to transfer the  
134 ccTLD to a new manager.

135 If the Manager breaches the Retirement Plan the IFO should work with the Manager  
136 with the objective of re-instating the Retirement Plan. If this is not possible the IFO  
137 can advise it will return to the initial 5 year retirement period.

138 IDN ccTLDs

139 ISO3166-1 Exceptionally Reserved entries

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applicable to decisions pertaining to ccTLDs.

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## 141 References

- 142 [1] POSTEL, Jon: Domain Name System Structure and Delegation / RFC Editor.  
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144 Editor, March 1994 (1591). - RFC. - ISSN 2070-1721. - <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt>  
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- 146 [2] WIKIPEDIA: Request for Comments. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Request_for_Comments)  
147 [Request\\_for\\_Comments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Request_for_Comments), Last Accessed: 2019-02-08