Policy for the Retirement of ccTLDs

<p style="text-align:center; color:red">DRAFT</p>

<p style="text-align:center">ccNSO</p>

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1 Background

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

   4. Rights to Names

   [...]

    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[1] 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[2] (IFO). However, as was
20 identified in 2011 by the ccNSO Delegation and Redelegation 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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[1]ISO 3166-1, Section 3.4
[2]Currently operated by PTI

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

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 ~~whose~~where the ~~corresponding~~ country code
31 ~~is~~has been 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 manage-
34 ment of the ccTLD ~~and~~or with whom the IFO can officially and effectively communi-
35 cate.

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

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[3]The procedures and process related to the removal of a country code are excluded, as this is deter-
mined by ISO.
[4]The removal of a (cc)TLD by the IFO is excluded from the policy, as this 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.

4.2 Notice of Retirement

Once the IFO has been informed, and confirmed, that a country code has been removed from the ISO 3166-1 list and that the IFO has also confirmed that the ccTLD has a functional manager, it shall promptly notify the Manager of the ccTLD that the ccTLD shall be removed from the Root 5 years (Default Retirement Period) from the date of this notice (Notice of Retirement) unless a Retirement Plan (see following sections for details) which is agreed[5] to by the Manager and the IFO stipulates otherwise and is in accordance with this Retirement Policy.

~~The Notice of Retirement will also request that the Manager formally confirm receiving the Notice of Retirement within 90 days of it being sent. The Notice of Retirement shall also state that if the Manager wishes to apply for an extension to the Default Retirement Period that it must formally advise the IFO of this within 90 days of the Notice of Retirement having been sent.~~

The IFO shall include with the Notice of Retirement a document describing the reasonable requirements (Reasonable Requirements Document) it expects of a Retirement Plan and that the IFO will make itself available to the Manager to assist in the development of such a plan should the Manager request it.

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[5]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

4.3 Time Span for Retirement

The IFO cannot require that a retiring ccTLD be removed from the Root Zone less than 5 years from the time the IFO has sent a Notice of Retirement to the retiring ccTLD Manager unless this is mutually agreed by the ccTLD Manager and the IFO.

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

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

4.4 Retirement Plan

After receiving a Notice of Retirement the Manager must decide if it wishes to request an extension to the Default Retirement Period. to remove it's ccTLD from the Root Zone. Within 90 days of the Notice of Retirement having been sent, the Manager shall formally notify the IFO that it has received the Notice of Retirement and advise if it wishes to request an extension to the Default Retirement Period. If the Manager fails to formally notify the IFO within the 90-day period the IFO will consider that no

89 ~~extension is being requested and that the retiring ccTLD will be removed from the~~
90 ~~Root Zone 5 years from the Notice of Retirement having been sent.~~

91 If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD does not wish an extension ~~beyond the 5 year~~
92 ~~period~~to the Default Retirement Period stated in the Notice of Retirement it is ex-
93 pected, but not mandatory, that the Manager produce a Retirement Plan for the
94 ccTLD which would typically include:

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

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

99 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the transfer of registra-
100 tions that exceed the date of removal from the Root Zone.

101 • Date the ccTLD is expected to be removed from the Root Zone.

102 • Details of the communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement of the
103 ccTLD.

104 If the manager of the retiring ccTLD wishes to request an extension beyond the De-
105 fault Retirement Period stated in the Notice of Retirement it must produce a Retire-
106 ment Plan which is acceptable to the IFO and is in accordance with the conditions
107 listed below~~.:~~

108 Granting an extension to the Default Retirement Period is at the discretion of the IFO
109 but shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Reasonable Requirements Document
110 that the IFO will have included with the Notice of Retirement will describe the factors
111 it will consider when evaluating a request for an extension to the Default Retirement
112 Period.

113 A Retirement Plan which requests an extension shall include:

114 • The length of the extension requested (a maximum 5 additional years) including
115   the proposed date of the removal of the ccTLD from the Root Zone.

116 • The reasons for requesting an extension

117 • An impact analysis which supports the reasons for making the extension request.

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

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

122 • Date the ccTLD Manager is expected to stop accepting the transfer of registra-
123   tions that exceed the date of removal from the Root Zone.

124 • Details of the communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement of the
125   ccTLD.

126 If the ccTLD Manager wishes to produce a Retirement Plan it must do so within 12
127 months of the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of the re-
128 tiring ccTLD. The IFO at its discretion can extend the 12 month limit to a maximum
129 24 months total. If the IFO grants such an extension it shall promptly notify the
130 Manager of this.

131 If the ccTLD Manager submits a Retirement Plan to the IFO, the IFO shall provide a
132 definitive response to the Manager regarding the request for an extension within 90
133 days of such a request being received by the IFO. The response by the IFO, if positive,
134 shall state the length of the extension which has been granted. If the response is
135 negative, the IFO shall include the specific reasoning for the refusal.[6].

136 If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD and the IFO cannot agree on a Retirement Plan
137 within 12 months, or up to a maximum of 24 months if the IFO has granted an ex-
138 tension, of the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager, then the
139 IFO shall promptly advise the Manager that the ccTLD shall be removed from the
140 Root 5 years from the IFO having sent the Notice of Retirement to the Manager of
141 the retiring ccTLD.

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[6]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
applicable to decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer and revocation of a ccTLDs.

4.5 Exception Conditions

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

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

IDN ccTLDs

ISO3166-1 Exceptionally Reserved entries

5 Oversight

References

153 [1] Pᴏsᴛᴇʟ, Jon: Domain Name System Structure and Delegation / RFC Editor.
154   Version: March 1994. `http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt`. RFC
155   Editor, March 1994 (1591). – RFC. – ISSN 2070–1721. – `http://www.rfc-editor.`
156   `org/rfc/rfc1591.txt`

157 [2] Wɪᴋɪᴘᴇᴅɪᴀ: Request for Comments. `https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/`
158   `Request_for_Comments`, Last Accessed: 2019-02-08