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7   **Interim Paper**
8   **Proposed Policy for the Retirement of ccTLD**
9   DRAFTv3. 03
10   2020-03-02
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18   ccNSO PDP3 Retirment Working Group
19   [date] 2020
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1   Background &Introduction

1.1 Background

At its meeting on 10 December 2015 the ccNSO Council discussed the launch of the formal ccNSO Policy Development Process to address the lack of policy with respect to the retirement of ccTLDs as well as a review mechanisms for decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs.

To increase the predictability and legitimacy of decision pertaining to the retirement of ccTLDs and in accordance with the recommendations of the ccNSO Delegation and Redelegation working group (DRDWG) in 2011[1], the void or lack of policy relating to the retirement of ccTLDs needs to filled by a policy developed by the ccNSO. However, at the time the DRDWG also recommended that such a ccNSO PDP should be launched following the development of a Framework of Interpretation of RFC 1591.

Following initial discussions by the ccNSO Council, input and feed-back was sought from the ccTLD community at the Marrakesh (ICANN55) and Helsinki (ICANN56)meetings. At its meeting in Helsinki (ICANN56) the ccNSO Council launched the ccNSO Policy Development Process 3.

On 9 March 2017, the Issue Manager submitted the Final Issue Report to Council.
Following the discussions by the ccNSO Council, feed-back and input from the community and the drafting team, the Issue Manager recommended:
The ccNSO Council initiates one (1) ccNSO Policy Development Process to develop policy proposals for both a Review Mechanism and on the Retirement of ccTLDs.
The initial focus needs to be on developing a Review Mechanism, which is considered the highest priority, particularly in light of the IANA Stewardship transition. Only then the focus should be on Retirement, and, if needed, revisit the Review Mechanism to include decisions relating to the Retirement of ccTLDs. To appoint two working groups each with its own charter, working method and schedule.

However, at the meeting in Copenhagen (ICANN58, March 2017, the ccTLD community present suggested to change the order in which the topics need to be addressed. Analyses showed that alternating the order would save at least 3 months and simplify the process. Effectively this meant that by reversing the order, so first develop Retirement policy proposals and then those for the Review Mechanism, the potential Review Mechanism would be available sooner to the community.

The ccNSO Council initiated the 3rd ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP3) in March 2017 by adopting the Issue Report. Accordingly the ccPDP3 Working Group to develop policy recommendations for the Retirement of ccTLDs was established by June 2017. The Charter of this WG was included in the Issue Report and is available at:
https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/pdp-retirement.htm.
The ccPDP3 Retirement WG was tasked to develop policy proposals to address at a minimum the following topics and issues identified in the Issue Report:
- Consistency of terminology
- What triggers a retirement?
- Who triggers retirement process?
- Additional conditions for retirement of a ccTLD? What are conditions for actual retirement of a ccTLD? Is the occurrence of a triggering event sufficient or should additional

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[1] See DRD WG Final Report, page 19, http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/drd-wg-final-report-07mar11-en.pdf and Council Decision 16 March 2011, http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/minutes-council-16mar11-en.pdf

97   requirements be in place?

98   • Compliance with conditions? Assuming retirement of a ccTLD is conditional, who will
99   monitor, and who will be held accountable, if at all, if requirements are not met?

100

101 As the activities of the WG are undertaken within the framework of the ccNSO Policy Development
102 Process, the limitations with respect to the scope of a ccPDP, specifically by Article 10 and Annexes B
103 and C to the ICANN Bylaws limit the scope of the WG's work and proposals.

104

105 Further, the ccPDP3 Retirement WG was tasked to report to ccNSO Council on topics or issues which
106 they identified and considered out of scope for the WG. Accordingly, the Chair of the WG informed
107 the ccNSO Council and Issue Manager that the ccPDP3 Retirement WG identified two issues, which
108 need to be addressed, but were considered out of scope of ccPDP3:
109 The ccNSO membership definition (section 10.4 (a) of the ICANN Bylaws). The membership
110 definition was changed as part of the IANA Stewardship Transition process.
111 The events that would trigger the retirement of IDN ccTLDs. The Retirement WG advised Council
112 that the events leading the de-selection of IDNccTLDs should be identified under a ccPDP that also
113 defines the selection of IDNccTLD strings.

114

115 ***1.2 Introduction***
116 Request For Comment [2] ("RFC") 1591 [1] states:
117 *4. Rights to Names*
118   *[...]*
119 2) Country Codes

120

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

125

126 In 2014 the ccNSO through its Framework of Interpretation confirmed that RFC 1591 applies to ccTLDs.
127 The ISO 3166-1 list is dynamic and country codes are added and removed on a regular basis. When a
128 new ISO 3166-1 Alpha-2 code element (Alpha-2 code) is added a ccTLD corresponding to that Alpha-
129 2 code can be added to the Root by the IANA Naming Functions Operator (IFO). However, as was
130 identified in 2011 by the ccNSO Delegation and Redelegation Working Group, there is no formal policy
131 available for the removal of a ccTLD from the Root Zone when a country code is removed from the
132 ISO 3166-1 list of country names.

133

134 It is important to note that ccTLDs are defined as those entries in the Root Zone database
135 identified as such, these include:
136   • 2 letter ccTLDs corresponding to an Alpha-2 code (the majority of ccTLDs)
137   • 2 letter Latin ccTLDs not corresponding to an Alpha-2 code[2]
138   • IDN ccTLDs as approved by ICANN

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[2] [the members of WG on 6 February call propose to include a clarification around the exceptionally reserved codes in either footnote or the text:
The ccTLDs .uk and .AC which refer to exceptionally reserved codes UK and AC are grandfathered as ccTLD and .EU, which corresponds with the exceptionally reserved code EU, was delegated under the relevant ICANN Board resolution from September 2000 (" *It is therefore RESOLVED [00.74] that the IANA staff is advised that alpha-2 codes not on the ISO 3166-1 list are delegable as ccTLDs only in cases where the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency, on its exceptional reservation list, has issued a reservation of the code that covers any application of ISO 3166-1 that needs a coded representation in the name of the country, territory, or area involved."*]

139

2 Policy Objective

The objective of the policy is to provide clear and predictable guidance and to document a process that is orderly and reasonable up and to, but excluding, the removal
of a ccTLD from the Root Zone[3].

3   Applicability of the Policy

This policy is applies to all entries in the Root Zone database which are identified as ccTLDs, and are subject to a Retirement Triggering Event (Trigger).

Retirement Triggering Events are defined as follows:

- For 2 letter ccTLDs which correspond to an Alpha-2 code – The Trigger is the removal of the corresponding Alpha-2 code from the ISO 3166-1 standard by the ISO 3166-1 Maintenance Agency ("ISO 3166/MA")
- For 2 letter Latin ccTLDs which do not correspond to an Alpha-2 code – The Trigger is the ISO 3166-1/MA making a change (other than making that code an Alpha-2 code) to any of these. For each such Triggering Event the IFO will consider if the change requires retiring that ccTLD. If the ccTLD Manager disagrees with the IFO's decision to initiate the retirement process it can appeal the decision using the ccTLD appeals mechanism.
- For IDN ccTLDs – The Triggering Event will be identified in the policy which applies to IDN ccTLDs.

For the purposes of this policy a Functional Manager is the entity listed as "ccTLD Manager" in the IANA Root Zone database or any later variant, who is active with respect to the management of the ccTLD or with whom the IFO can officially and effectively communicate.

If a ccTLD is to be retired but does not have a Functional Manager the IFO cannot transfer responsibility to a new Manager according to its standard process. This set of circumstances would create a deadlock situation which would prevent the IFO from ever retiring the ccTLD. To avoid such a deadlock, and only under these specific conditions, this policy allows the IFO to proceed with a transfer of responsibility for the ccTLD to establish a Functional Manager and insure the ccTLD can be retired. Such a transfer should follow the standard IFO transfer process where possible

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[3] The removal of a (cc)TLD by the IFO is excluded form the policy, as this is outside f the policy scope of the ccNSO.

170

4   Retirement Process

4.1 Expectations

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

Note: Given the importance and exceptional nature of the ccTLD retirement process the IFO, prior to sending a Notice of Removal see next section), should contact the ccTLD Manager and confirm who the IFO should be dealing with regarding the retirement process. The person or role identified by the ccTLD Manager to deal with the retirement process is referred to as the Retirement Contact and in the remainder of this document the use of the term ccTLD Manager should be understood to mean ccTLD Manager or Retirement Contact if one has been formally identified to the IFO by the ccTLD Manager.

4.2 Notice of Removal

Once the IFO confirms that a ccTLD should be retired and has a Functional Manager, it shall promptly notify the Manager of the ccTLD that the ccTLD shall be removed from the Root Zone 5 years (Default Retirement Date) from the date of this notice (Notice of Removal) unless a Retirement Plan (see following sections for details) which is agreed to by the Manager and the IFO stipulates otherwise and is in accordance with this Retirement Policy.

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

4.3 Setting a date for Retirement

The IFO cannot require that a retiring ccTLD also be removed from the Root Zone less than 5 years from the date the IFO has sent the Notice of Removal (Section 4.2 of this policy) to the retiring ccTLD Manager unless an alternate Retirement Date is mutually agreed to by both the ccTLD Manager and the IFO. If the Manager wishes to request an extension to the Default Retirement Date it must request this from the IFO as part of a Retirement Plan.

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

4.4 Retirement Plan

After receiving a Notice of Removal the Manager must decide if it wishes to request an extension to the Default Retirement Date.

If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD does not wish an extension to the Default Retirement Date stated in the Notice of Removal it is expected, but not mandatory, that the Manager produce a Retirement Plan for the ccTLD which would typically include:

- A copy of the Notice of Removal
- Date the ccTLD is expected to stop taking registrations, renewals and transfers that exceed the date of removal from the Root Zone. It is important to note that there is a reasonable expectation that the date provided is the earliest practical date for implementing this.
- Details of a communications plan to advise the registrants of retirement of the ccTLD.

219 If the manager of the retiring ccTLD wishes to request an extension beyond the Default Retirement Date
220 stated in the Notice of Removal it must produce a Retirement Plan which is acceptable to the IFO and is
221 in accordance with the conditions listed below.
222
223 Granting an extension to the Default Retirement Date is at the discretion of the IFO and shall not be
224 unreasonably withheld. The Reasonable Requirements Document that the IFO will have included with
225 the Notice of Removal will describe the factors it will consider when evaluating a request for an
226 extension to the Default Retirement
227 Period.
228
229 A Retirement Plan which requests an extension shall include, in addition to the previously listed items,
230 the following:
- The length of the extension requested (a maximum 5 additional years) including the proposed
  date of the removal of the ccTLD from the Root Zone.
- The reasons for requesting an extension. An impact analysis which supports the reasons for
  making the extension request.
235 If the ccTLD Manager wishes to produce a Retirement Plan it must do so within 12 months of the IFO
236 having sent the Notice of Removal to the Manager of the retiring ccTLD. At its discretion the IFO can
237 extend the 12 month limit to a maximum of 24 months in total upon receiving a request for such an
238 extension from the Manager. If the IFO grants such an extension it shall promptly notify the Manager of
239 this.
240
241 If the ccTLD Manager submits a Retirement Plan to the IFO, the IFO shall provide a definitive response
242 to the Manager regarding the request for an extension within 90 days of such a request being
243 received by the IFO.
244
245 The response by the IFO, if positive, shall state the length of the extension which has been granted. If the
246 response is negative, the IFO shall include the specific reasoning for the refusal. The approval of an
247 extension request shall not be unreasonably withheld.
248
249 If the request for an extension is rejected and the ccTLD Manager believes that the rejection is
250 unreasonable or is inconsistent with the Reasonable Requirements Document it may appeal the
251 decision by the IFO (see Section 5.2 of this policy).
252
253 If the Manager of the retiring ccTLD and the IFO cannot agree on a Retirement Plan within 12 months,
254 or up to a maximum of 24 months if the IFO has granted such an extension, of the IFO having sent
255 the Notice of Removal to the Manager, then the IFO shall promptly advise the Manager that the
256 ccTLD shall be removed from the Root Zone 5 years from the date the IFO has sent the Notice of
257 Removal to the Manager of the retiring ccTLD.
258
259
260 **4.5 Exception Conditions**
261 If the Manager becomes non-functional after a Retirement Plan is accepted the IFO can use the same
262 procedure outlined in the Requirements section to transfer the ccTLD to a new manager. In such
263 cases the original timeline for retiring the ccTLD shall not change.
264
265 If the Manager breaches the Retirement Plan the IFO should work with the Manager to reinstate the
266 Retirement Plan. If this is not possible the IFO can advise the Manager that it will maintain the Default
267 Retirement Date from the Notice of Retirement
268
269

5. Oversight & Review Mechanism
5.1 Oversight
This policy is directed at ICANN and the IFO as the entity that performs the IANA Naming Functions with respect to ccTLDs.

This policy is not intended and shall not be interpreted to amend the way in which ICANN interacts with the IFO and the delineation of their roles and responsibilities.

This policy will not change or amend the role of the ICANN Board of Directors has with respect to individual cases of ccTLD delegation, transfer and revocation, which is understood to be limited to a review to ensure that the IFO (staff) has followed its procedures properly. It is important to note that the IFO's decisions to:
- Notify the ccTLD manager of the retirement
- Remove a ccTLD from the Root Zone

Are of out scope for this policy (see Section 2)

5.2 Review Mechanism
In this policy on retirement decisions have been identified which shall be subject to a review mechanism

6. Stress testing

6.1 Definition Stress testing

Stress testing is defined as:
- Test the process as developed by applying the process to "corner case" situation and understand whether such a case results in a unwanted outcome or side effects.
- If the outcome of that situation results in an unwanted outcome or side effects adjust Policy/Process if needed.

After completion of the draft process the stress testing was conducted through answering the following questions:
- What is outcome of this situation when process is invoked?
- Is the outcome of that situation/the result unwanted or are side effects unwanted/unacceptable?
- Does Policy/Process need to be adjusted/refined?

6.2 Identified situations where adjustment/additional work may be needed
The Working group identified the following 16 situations:
> *i. Significant names change of country (resulting in change of ccTLD).*
> Examples are:
> ZR (Zaire) to CD (Congo, Democratic Republic of) (1997)
> TP (East Timor) to TL (Timor-Leste) (2002)
>
> *ii. Domain Names under management at removal date.*
> At agreed end-date (date of removal from the root-zone) Second Level domain names are still under management of the ccTLD Manager, despite reasonable efforts from the ccTLD Manager to end registrations.

318 *iii. Breach of Retirement Agreement*
319 Various situations:
320 The ccTLD Managers continues to promote ccTLD and accepts registrations during
321 retirement process. Does it make a difference if at removal date no SLDs under management
322 or the number of registrations under management has not declined or has even increased
323 compared to number at date of Retirement Notification?
324 The ccTLD Manager stops all activities i.e. goes off-line
325 The ccTLD Managers takes no action resulting in serious deterioration of the zone
326
327 *iv. The ccTLD Manager goes bankrupt after Notification of Retirement*
328
329 *v. Request for Transfer after the Retirement Notice is send*
330 Retirement result of significant name change
331 Retirement result of dissolution country, significant interested parties cannot be identified
332
333 *vi. ccTLD Manager ends membership of the ccNSO and claims policies (Retirement &*
334 *RFC1591/FoI) are therefore not applicable.*
335 Note: the ccNSO Council recently established that membership of ccNSO by definition ends
336 when entity listed as ccTLD Manager is no longer listed as such in the IANA Root Database,
337 implying that for the duration of the retirement process membership of the ccNSO does not
338 end, unless it is actively terminated by the Manager.
339
340 *vii. Country Code was removed from list of Assigned codes because country dissolved and*
341 *Code was re-assigned shortly afterwards (within 10 years) to another country added to the*
342 *list*
343
344 *viii. Uncertainty about authoritativeness of lines of communication between ccTLD Manager*
345 *and IFO*
346 The identity of authoritative entities are not clear during process.
347
348 *ix.Breach of Agreement due to conflicts of laws*
349 Due to court injunction
350 Due to applicable national law / Court order
351
352 *x. Breach of Agreement during extension period*
353
354 *xi. Island state disappears, but interests intend to keep ccTLD "alive"*
355
356 *xii.Unforeseen technical consequences/significant consequences for other affecting other*
357 *TLDs/DNS in general*
358
359 *xiii. Country disappears/ however there is a clear successor state*
360
361 *xiv. Decision by ISO 3166 MA to remove country code is completely out of line, in breach of*
362 *ISO 3166 or ISO rules*
363
364 *xv. Assets of the ccTLD go to other party during removal process*
365
366 *xvi. Does the retirement policy apply to pending retirement case?*
367

368 Each of these situations (i-xvi) was extensively discussed, and the discussion resulted in the need to
369 include a specific mechanism of transfer of ccTLD post retirement notice, for an expedient and
370 "administrative" transfer to ensure orderly retirement process. The results of the discussion and
371 reference to the relevant section in the proposed policy or other relevant policy document is
372 included the table Result of Stress Test per identified situation (Annex A)

373

7 Process to date

375 After the call for volunteers and appointment by the ccNSO Council of the members (see Annex A of
376 listed members, observers and experts and staff support) the ccPDP3 Retirement Working Group
377 held its first conference call and commenced its work in June 2017. Since then the WG has met [x]
378 times, of which [y] times in person during ICANN meetings starting at the Johannesburg meeting in
379 June 2017 (ICANN59) and [z] times through conference calls.

380

381 In the course of its work the original timeline and schedule as included in the Issue Report, was
382 updated twice (March & December 2019).

383

384 The first work item the WG completed was on the Rules of Engagement i.e the internal procedures
385 for interaction and decision-making, which guided the activities of the WG members (see:
386 https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=64081623&preview=/64081623/8998
387 1518/roe.draft.2017-08-17%20closed.pdf)
388 As of ICANN60 (in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates) and at every following meeting the ccPDP3
389 Retirement WG informed the ccTLD community and members of the Governmental Advisory
390 Committee present at the respective ICANN meetings about its progress.

391

392 At the Kobe meeting (ICANN64), the ccTLD Managers present expressed their initial support for the
393 proposed method and process, including its proposed duration. At the Montreal meeting (ICANN66)
394 the ccTLDs present expressed their support for the proposals with respect to the decisions that
395 should be subject to oversight and the Review Mechanism.

396

397 At the Montreal meeting, the chair and vice-chair of ccPDP3 Retirement WG also conducted an
398 extensive on-boarding session for members of the Governmental Advisory Committee.

399

8. References

401 • RFC 1591 (https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt)
402 • The ccNSO Delegation and Redelegation working group Final report on retirement of ccTLDs,
403 07 march 2011 (http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/drd-wg-retirement-report-07mar11-
404 en.pdf)
405 • The ccNSO Framework of Interpretation working group Final Report,
406 (http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/foi-final-07oct14-en.pdf)
407 • ISO 3166 standard (http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes)
408 • CWG-Stewardship Final Report, Annex O: ccTLD Appeals Mechanism Background and
409 supporting Findings Sections 1414- 1428,
410 (https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/53779816/FinalTransitionProposal_1
411 1June.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1434047705000&api=v2).
412 • Relevant IANA reports on the Retirement of ccTLDs.
413 • Relevant Decisions ICANN Board of Directors.
414 • Issue paper retirement ccTLDs :
415 https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/64068742/Issues%20to%20explore%2
416 0and%20define%20with%20respect%20to%20the%20retirement%20of%20ccTLDs-

417 %20v3.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1491820583082&api=v2

418

419

Annex A: Result of Stress test per identified situation

421

Item #	Situation	Result	Relevant section policy and / or other document if any	Adjustment if any
I	Significant names change of country	No need to adjust the policy. Significant name change as defined though ISO 3166 standard is one of the causes to remove country code.	Section 2	None
ii	ain Donain Names under management at removal date. S	Whether significant number under management or only a limited set, is not relevant. There is a need to avoid gaming the system. Rationale for Retirement process is to accommodate new ccTLDs per RFC 1591	Section 4.3 and RFC 1591	None
iii	Breach of Retirement Agreement ccTLD Manager promotes SLD post retirement notice ccTLD stops all activities ccTLD manager does not take any action	Process continues if agreed, Compliance is not applicable. IFO may invoke revocation	Section 4.3 proposed policy, Section 4 FoI	None
iv	The ccTLD Manager goes bankrupt after Notification of Retirement	May become a Security and stability issue: IFO assess on case-by case basis. substantively it is responsibility of operator. Revocation may be warranted if threshold for revocation is met.	Section 4 FoI	None
v	Request for Transfer after the Retirement Notice is send	There is a gap in current policy (RFC 1591 and section 3 FoI). No specific mechanisms for expedient and "administrative" transfer specifically targeted at orderly retirement process.	RFC 1591, Section 3 FoI	Need to include specific mechanism targeting retirement
Vi	ccTLD Manager ends membership of the ccNSO	Policy is by definition only targeted at ICANN see Annex C of the ICANN Bylaws).It is up to ICANN to decide whether membership of the ccNSO is relevant in individual cases.	Section 3, Annex C ICANN Bylaws on scope ccNSO Policy Development Process	None
vii	Country Code was re-assigned shortly after removal (within 10 years) to another country added to the list	Currently considered impossible.	ISO 3166	None

Item #	Situation	Result	Relevant section policy and / or other document if any	Adjustment if any
viii	Uncertainty about authoritativeness of lines of communication between ccTLD Manager and IFO. Is ccTLD manager or its administrative contact authoritative and authorized to take the decision	The IFO deals with a Functional Manager, and if required may transfer to a new entity which is Functional. In addition, section 3.1 of the FoI provides a sound basis to expect that the IFO seeks contact with the ccTLD Manager and relevant decision-making entity of the ccTLD Manager.	Section 4.1, Functional manager (proposed policy) Section 3.1 FoI	None
ix	Breach of Agreement/Plan, resulting from conflict of laws: Court Injunction to applicable Law/ Court order	The retirement plan must be subject to legally binding court order in the jurisdiction.		None
Ix a.	Breach of agreement during extension period	This situation could be handled, depending on reason, through proposed and existing policy. In case of "bad faith" or significant misbehaviour, revocation may be way to address issue.	Section 4.5 of proposed policy, Section 4 FoI	None
x	Island state disappears, but interests (was: commercial Interests" intend to keep ccTLD "alive"	If the code element is removed, the ccTLD is eligible for retirement. Reason for removal is not of relevance.	RFC 1591: IANA is not in business of deciding what is and what is not a country	None
xi	Unforeseen technical consequences/significant consequences for other affecting other TLDs/DNS in general. Nameservers for Domain names not under ccTLD, are still under ccTLD to be removed.	Communication to customers is part of the retirement plan. In addition the removal of ccTLD is predictable and foreseeable process. There should be no surprises. Customers should know where their essential services are hosted.	Section 4.4 of proposed process (line 131 and 132 above)	None
xii	Country disappears/ however there is a clear successor state	Countries do not disappear overnight. Takes some time before ISO-code is removed. In addition decision to remove country code is not part of the policy	ISO 3166 Standard	None
xiii	Decision by ISO 3166 MA to remove country code is completely out of line, in	Decision to remove country code is not part of the policy and ICANN should not be involved in process of removal of country	RFC 1591: The IANA (ICANN) is not in the business to	None

Item #	Situation	Result	Relevant section policy and / or other document if any	Adjustment if any
	breach of ISO 3166 or ISO rules	code, independent of merits of decision. Reasonably predictable decisions over the past years. This is not an issue for the policy, but an issue for the ISO3166 MA and ISO itself. No need to adjust the policy.	decide what is and what is not a country. ISO has a process for adding (and removing) country codes.	
xiv	Assets of the ccTLD go to other party during removal process.	Receiving end will be aware of the issues: Retirement of the ccTLD. No surprises for them. Even if ccTLD manager would go bankrupt. People in the country will know about the removal and retirement process.	Section 4.4 of proposed process (line 131 and 132 above)	None
xv	Does the retirement policy apply to pending retirement case? Clarification: where under the current operational practices, 1 of the ccTLDs is considered ineligible	WG is of the opinion that the policy should not be applied retroactively; the proposed policy does not apply to cases that have already emerged or will emerge up to the time the proposed policy becomes effective. This does not preclude that IFO and the ccTLD Manager may agree to use the proposed mechanisms for retirement of a ccTLD.	Line 26 and line 46-52	See footnote section 2

422

423 ## Annex B. Overview terminology used in context retirement of ccTLDs
424

425 **IANA Naming Function terminology**
426

427 Notes with respect to terminology in context of IANA Naming Function.
428 The column USED in refers to the ICANN Board and IANA reports relating to the ccTLD mentioned.
429

430

Term/Practice	Definition/description	Used in:	Comment
Not assigned		.UM (2007)	Needs to be defined
Retired; Term retired is listed as such in IANA		.AN (2010)	Process concluded in 2015
Retired; not included in IANA Root Zone Database, no record in https://www.iana.org/domains/root/db		.YU (2007) .TP (2002)	.YU Process concluded in 2009, .TP process concluded in 2015
unallocated (ccTLDs)		.UM case report (2007)	
Disposition of Top Level Domain		.AN case report (2010)	
Removal of ccTLDs		.UM case	
Retirement of (cc)TLD			Not defined in FoI nor by DRD WG in its final report
Revocation	The process by which the IANA Operator rescinds responsibility for management of a ccTLD from an incumbent manager.	Section 3.5 of RFC1591	FOI note: Section 3.5 of RFC1591 explicitly contemplates revocation appropriate In cases of persistent problems with the proper operation of a domain

431
432

433 **Specific terminology derived of the ISO 3166 standard**
434

435 Notes with respect to the terminology in context of ISO 3166 Standard
436 In the overview a distinction is made between terminology defined in the Standard and the ISO
437 Online Browsing Platform. The terminology defined in standard is included in the table in type font
438 11. The terminology used in the OnlIne Browsing Platform in type font 9
439 As stated in the overview the PDP WG considers the Standard to be paramount. Terminology from
440 the Online Browsing Platform is only included for informational purposes. It is strongly advised not
441 to use or refer to the informational terms in policy and policy related documents.
442
443

Term/Practice	Definition/description	Defined in:	Comment
Assigned (or allocated) code elements	(The result of applying the principle of) visual association between the country names (in English or French, or sometimes	Section 5.1 of the Standard	

Term/Practice	Definition/description	Defined in:	Comment
	in another language) and their corresponding code elements.		
Unassigned	NOT DEFINED IN THE STANDARD		
	codes that have not been assigned to country names.	ISO Online Browsing Platform	Defined in: https://www.iso.org/glossary-for-iso-3166.html

As this is not defined in the Standard it is only included for informational purposes and use in policy rules should be avoided. |
| Deletions from the list of country names | Deletions from the list of country names shall be made on the basis of information from the United Nations Headquarters, or upon the request of a member of ISO 3166/MA. The ISO 3166/MA shall decide upon deletion, on the basis of the information given

ISO3166-3 provides the lsit of country names deleted in this part of ISO 3166 since its first edition in 1974 | Section 7.3 | |
| Reservation of Code elements | Some code elements are reserved
For a limited period when their reservation is the result of the deletion or alteration of a country name
For an indeterminate period when the reservation is the result of the application of international law or of exceptional requests | Section 7.5 and 7.5.1 | |
Reallocation period	Code elements that the ISO3166/MA has altered or deleted should not be reallocated during a period of at least fifty years after the change. The exact period is determined in each case on the basis of the extent to which the former code element was used.	Section 7.5.2	
Transitionally reserved	NOT DEFINED IN THE STANDARD		
	Codes that are reserved during a transitional period while new code elements that may replace	ISO 3166 Online Browsing	This description is not included in the Standard. It is only included in this

Term/Practice	Definition/description	Defined in:	Comment
	them are taken into use. This results from changes in the standard.	Platform glossary. Defined in: https://www.iso.org/glossary-for-iso-3166.html	document for informational purposes and use in policy rules should be avoided.
Period of non-use	Certain code elements existing at the time of the first publication of the ISO 3166 country codes and differing form those in this part (= ISO 3166-1) should not be used for an indeterminate period to represent other country names. These code elements should be included in the list of reserved code elements and should not be reallocated during a period of at least fifty years after the date the countries or organizations concerned have discontinued their use.	ISO Standard 7.5.3	
Exceptionally reserved	Code elements may be reserved, in exceptional cases, for country names which the ISO 3166/MA has decided not to include in this part of ISO3166, but for which an interchange requirement exists. Before such code elements are reserved, advice from the relevant authority must be sought.	ISO 3166 Standard section 7.5.4	
	Codes that have been reserved for a particular use at special request of a national ISO member body, governments or international organizations.	ISO 3166 Online Browsing Platform glossary Defined in: https://www.iso.org/glossary-for-iso-3166.html	This description is not included in the Standard. It is only included in this document for informational purposes and use in policy rules should be avoided. For example, the code UK has been reserved at the request of the United Kingdom so that it cannot be used for any other country.
Reallocation	Before reallocating a former code element or a formerly reserved code element, The ISO3166/MA shall consult, as appropriate, the authority or agency on whose behalf the code element was reserved, and consideration shall be given	ISO3166 standard section 7.5.5	

Term/Practice	Definition/description	Defined in:	Comment
	to difficulties which might arise for the reallocation.		
Indeterminately reserved	NOT DEFINED IN THE STANDARD		.
	a code that has been indeterminately reserved for use in a certain way. Usually this is justified by their presence in other coding systems.	ISO 3166 Online Browsing Platform glossary. Defined in: https://www.iso.org/glossary-for-iso-3166.html	This description is not included in the Standard. It is only included in this document for informational purposes and use in policies should be avoided. For example, several codes have been reserved by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) because they have been used in its Standard ST.3
Country name	Name of Country, dependency, or other area of particular interest	ISO 3166- part 1 section 3.4	
Country code	Listing of country names with their representations by code elements	ISO 3166- part 1 section 3.3	
Code element	The result of applying a code to an element of a coded set	ISO 3166- part 1 section 3.2	
Code	Set of data	ISO 3166- part 1 section 3.1	
List of Country names	Part of the Clause 9 list	Defined in ISO 3166- part 1 section 6, 6.1. In clause 6 of part 1 the content of the list is enumerated in Clause 9.	
Formerly used codes	NOT DEFINED IN THE STANDARD		
	Codes that used to be part of the standard but that are no longer in use. See alpha-4 codes.	ISO 3166 Online Browsing Platform	As this is not described in the Standard it is only included for informational purposes and use in policy rules should be avoided.

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448 **In addition to the list of Country Codes (as defined above), the Online Browsing Platform displays:**

449 List of formerly used codes

450 List of Indeterminately reserved codes

451 List of Transitionally reserved codes

452 List of exceptionally reserved codes

453 Un-assigned codes

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455 **Annex C (membership of RET WG)**