

ccNSO Working Group and Committees: written updates July 2021 edition

About this document

This document contains the written updates of the various ccNSO working groups and committees. The document is sent to the ccNSO Council mailing list, ahead of every council meeting: This allows the ccNSO Council to remain informed about the current status and next steps of the various committees and working groups. Updates are provided in written format ahead of every ccNSO Council meeting, to allow sufficient time for discussions during the Council meeting itself.

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ccNSO Working Groups and Committees

ccPDP3 Retirement

Current status

The proposed policy for **ccPDP3 on the retirement** of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) is now into the decision-making phase. On 4 June 2021, the ccNSO Council adopted the resolution to split the third ccNSO Policy Development Process, each following its own timeline independently. On 8 June, the Issue Manager submitted the Final Report on the retirement of ccTLDs to the Chair of the ccNSO Council. The Final Report is available [here](#). The Council resolution is published here and the background material is available [here](#).

At the 17 [June 2021 meeting](#), the ccNSO Council discussed and voted on the recommendation to adopt the [proposed policy](#) on the Retirement of ccTLDs ([ccPDP3-RET](#)). The ccNSO members are currently voting on adoption of the proposed policy on the retirement of ccTLDs. The voting started on Wednesday, 7 July 2021 and shall close on Wednesday, 28 July 2021 (23:59 UTC).

Next steps

Minimum 50% of the ccNSO members need to lodge their vote, and at least 66% of the members need to vote in favour of the policy in order for the ccNSO members vote to pass. The ccNSO membership will determine whether the proposed policy will be submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors.

To learn more about the ongoing election, the proposed policy on the retirement of ccTLDs, as well as ccNSO Council's Recommendation to adopt the proposed policy, go to:

<https://ccnso.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-06jul21-en.htm>

What is this about

The goal of the ccPDP3-RET WG is to report on and recommend a policy for the retirement of the delegated Top Level Domains associated with the country codes assigned to countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 within the framework of the ccNSO Policy Development Process.

- Read more here: <https://ccnso.icann.org/en/workinggroups/pdp-retirement.htm>
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: none

ccPDP3 Review Mechanism Working Group (ccPDP3-RM)

Current status

To date the working group has identified which decisions should be subject to a review and explored the requirements for the review mechanism. The group is now taking a deep-dive into the various requirements and related topics. The WG also presented its results to date as part of the ccNSO Policy Session at ICANN71. During this session the respective working group chairs raised community awareness regarding the voting for the ccPDP3 Retirement policy, and consulted the community regarding progress to date and next steps by the ccPDP3 Review Mechanism.

Next steps

What is this about

The goal of the working group (WG) is to report on and recommend a policy for a review mechanism with respect to decisions pertaining to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of the delegated Top Level Domains associated with the country codes assigned to countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166-1 and within the framework of the ccNSO Policy Development Process.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Stephen Deerhake*

ccPDP4 Working Group on the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings (ccPDP4-IDN)

Current status

The **ccPDP4** Working Group is gradually making progress with defining the criteria, process and procedures for the selection of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD strings. The results of this ccPDP will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process. The working group sought feedback and input from the broader community via Zoom polling at the ICANN71 ccNSO Policy Session, held on Wednesday, 16 June | 10:30-12:00 UTC. Participants supported the direction of travel of the working group.

Topics the group addressed:

- Principles underpinning the policy
- The definition of territory
- An IDN country code Top Level Domain must contain at least one (1) non-ASCII character
- The IDN ccTLD string must be a Meaningful Representation of the name of a Territory
- A Meaningful Representation of the name of the Territory **MUST** be in a Designated Language of the Territory.
- Definition of Designated Language
- Only one (1) IDN ccTLD string per Designated Language
- Selected IDN ccTLD string **MUST** be non-contentious within the Territory
- Technical Criteria

Since the June 2021 Council meeting, the following meetings were held:

- ccPDP4 full group: 6 July, 13 UTC. Under the overall policy, the ccPDP4 full group continued to discuss and review the two-step process for selecting an IDN ccTLD string, including:
 - step1: string selection stage in Territory and
 - step2: validation of IDN ccTLD string.The group looked at the progress to date and adjusted the planning. The updated basic document which we are discussing now will be completed by the end of September 2021. And the new sub-group (Deselection IDN ccTLD string) is expected to start in September 2021.
- ccPDP4 sub-group on variant management: 13 July, 14 UTC. The sub-group continued to discuss and review IDN Variant TLD Recommendations.

Next steps

The ccPDP4 Working Group continues to re-review its policy proposals for the IDN ccTLD String Selection Process. There are areas of potential overlap between the work by the VM-subgroup - which is reviewing IDN Variant TLD Recommendations and the ICANN org staff paper - and the work by the full group that need to be clarified. The VM-group will soon prepare a recommendation to the full group for its consideration.

What is this about

The goal of the working group (WG) is to report on and recommend a policy for the (de-) selection of Internationalised Domain Name country code Top Level Domain strings (IDN ccTLDs) associated with the country codes assigned to countries, territories or other areas of geopolitical interest listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard and within the framework of the ccNSO Policy Development Process.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Ai-Chin Lu*

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

Current status

A GRC sub-committee organised a ccNSO Governance Session, as part of ICANN71. ICANN71 marked the 3rd ccNSO Governance Session, building on the previous sessions at ICANN69 and ICANN70. The goal of this ICANN71 session was to consult the ccNSO membership on the proposed high level structure of the revised Members Rules of the ccNSO. The new Rules will have a direct impact on the governance structure of the ccNSO, specifically on the respective roles and responsibilities of the Council and ccNSO membership.

Next steps

The ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee kicked off the brainstorming regarding GRC 2.0 at its last meeting, held on 11 July. The GRC currently organizes the continuous organizational improvement process. Council considered an expansion of the GRC mandate, to include additional aspects:

- Discuss with other committees the implications of their work on the ccNSO guidelines,
- Review on an annual basis how the ccNSO has done its work, and make suggestions
- Perform such additional duties as delegated by Council to the GRC

Secondly, a GRC sub-committee is currently working on a new set of internal Rules for the ccNSO. (see details under current status) The results of the ICANN71 governance session provided the basis for further work on the new Rules, which will be presented during ICANN72.

Lastly, the GRC is expected to draft a conflict of interest policy for Councillors, well ahead of the next Board Nomination Round.

What is this about

The purpose of the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) is to review the current guidelines and to ascertain whether they reflect current practices and working methods, identify potential gaps, and based on this analysis propose changes to the current guidelines to the Council.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Sean Copeland*

Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC)

Current status

To meet the expectation of its members, Council and the broader ccTLD community, the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) decided to evaluate its effectiveness and efficiency. The evaluation kicked off at the end of April and was conducted in various steps, including a forward-looking SOAR analysis, and an impact-effort analysis in mid-June 2021. An IGLC Action Plan (draft, pending final approval by IGLC) summarises the various steps in the analysis and proposes a way forward in terms of concrete actions.

Next steps

The IGLC is currently having a final review of the proposed Action Plan, and is expected to sign off on the draft at its next meeting, scheduled to be held on 4 August. One of the results from the Action Plan is the development of a global heat map, showing on a per-region basis which Internet Governance hot topics are relevant for ccTLDs. The IGLC, together with MPC, also intends to organise a pre-ICANN72 ccTLD News session on the hot IG topics for ccTLD managers from various regions.

What is this about

The IGLC has been established to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet Governance. The ccNSO Council and individual ccTLD Managers, collectively or individually, will be invited to support the position or input of the IGLC. The Committee will take a proactive role in seeking and fostering participation and input into the processes and provide regular feedback to the ccNSO Council, ccNSO members and broader ccTLD community.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Laura Margolis*

Meetings Programme Committee (MPC)

Current status

The ccNSO Meetings Programme Committee (MPC) organised and provided oversight over the sessions as part of the June 2021 ICANN71 ccNSO Members Meeting. The MPC met on 18 June, to wrap up and evaluate the ccNSO sessions. The MPC members invited the ccTLD regional organisations to participate in its meeting on 15 July, and to share information on how regional organisations are planning for return to in-person meetings (if any), as both the ccNSO and ROs serve the ccTLD community. The MPC also started thinking about preparing for ICANN72, including brainstorming about potential sessions and topics.

Next steps

Shortly after its 15 July meeting, the MPC is expected to finalise the draft ICANN71 feedback-on-feedback, which aims to evaluate the community feedback received regarding the ccNSO Members meeting and provides the feedback from the ccNSO Meetings Programme Committee (MPC) in response. The satisfaction survey regarding the ICANN71 ccNSO members meeting closed 4 July (23:59 UTC). 16 respondents answered the survey. You will be able to find the results here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-8THXPDM99/>

At its meeting on 29 July, the MPC will formally kick off the planning for ICANN72 ccNSO-targeted sessions, following the brainstorming during its 15 July meeting.

What is this about

The objective of the ccNSO Meetings Programme Committee (MPC) is to coordinate and manage the high-level schedule of the ccNSO-related sessions, including the ccNSO Members Meeting agenda at ICANN public meetings, and related matters.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Alejandra Reynoso*

Outreach and Involvement Standing Committee (OISC)

Current status

The Outreach and Involvement Committee (OISC) makes progress regarding the development of the ccNSO outreach and involvement strategy. The group decided to adopt a phase approach: first determine what is within scope of the OISC, then do an SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results) analysis, and finally rank the concrete actions items against the respective effort for and impact on the ccNSO. The OISC expects to sign off on the first step (scope identification) as part of its Action Plan development process at its next meeting, on 22 July.

Next steps

Once the OISC has completed the development of the 3 steps as part of its ccNSO outreach and involvement strategy, there will be a clear path regarding the upcoming work items.

While reviewing the current ccNSO ICANN Learn Course, the OISC identified 2 potential paths forward:

- Make minor adjustments to the course, such as typo and grammar corrections, and have the course translated. As a next step, a more extensive content revision should be done.
- Do an extensive revision of the current course, addressing both content, accessibility and other aspects, and then request the translation of the revised course

The options will be discussed by Council at its 22 July meeting.

What is this about

The ccNSO OISC is established as a standing committee and will have a permanent nature, to ensure a continued and ongoing coordinated approach regarding the existing and potential outreach and involvement efforts by and targeted at the ccNSO and ccTLD community as well as ccTLDs awareness of and involvement in the aforementioned efforts.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Pablo Rodriguez*

Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC)

Current status

The ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOPC) regularly holds joint meetings with the GNSO SCBO. The groups previously discussed their respective rankings of ICANN org's Operating Initiatives and Functional Activities, as a first attempt to understand the temperature of the groups with respect to ranking the initiatives and activities. One of the topics the SOPC discussed at its ICANN71 meeting is to further improve and repeat this exercise in future.

Moreover, the SOPC met with the ICANN org Planning Team at ICANN71 on what the community may expect over the next couple of months in terms of planning- and finance topics. The org planning dept has started a project to design a work prioritization framework that once agreed upon will become a step in the ICANN Annual Operating Planning process. The step of work Prioritization will be received as input for development of the 5 year and 1 year Operating Plans and Budgets. ICANN org's planning department facilitates 2 workshop meetings to review the proposed Design Elements in this process. The first meeting, held on 14 July, included the definition of Participants and the Roles and Responsibilities of the participants.

Next steps

The SOPC will continue the discussions with the org planning dept regarding an ICANN org project to design a work prioritization framework that once agreed upon will become a step in the ICANN Annual Operating Planning process. The second workshop (26 July | 15 UTC) will include the review of several researched prioritization techniques to see which ones fit the ICANN model the best.

What is this about

The Strategic and Operational Working Group (SOPWG) was created at the Cairo ICANN meeting in November 2008. In November 2017 it was renamed the Strategic and Operational Standing Committee (SOPC) to reflect its permanent nature. The aim of the Committee is to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN and PTI's strategic and operational planning processes and related budgetary processes. The ccNSO Council and individual ccTLD managers, collectively or individually, will be invited to support the position or input of the Committee. Membership of the Committee is open to all ccTLD managers (whether members or non-members of the ccNSO). The Committee may submit a relevant Rejection Action Petition against the ICANN and IANA budgets, as well as their Strategic and operating Plans as defined in the ICANN Bylaws, Annex D, section 2.1 (f), (g), (h) and (i) to the ccNSO as Decisional Participant.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Giovanni Seppia*

Triage Committee

Current status

Currently, the Triage Committee is dedicated to quickly review incoming requests for input and make a suggestion to the Council on how to react to the requests. To better balance the workload against the available resources, Council suggested an expanded mandate for the Triage Committee, which includes work on the Council work plan prioritisation. The Triage Committee had its first meeting on 13 July, where the committee members discussed the future role of the Triage Committee, the evolution of the committee and an outline of its new role.

Next steps

During its next meeting, scheduled for 17 August, the Triage committee will have a discussion on the prioritisation method to be used for the Council work plan, as well as a high-level discussion on the changes that are needed to its Charter. It will also begin the work of prioritising the work plan, ready for Council consideration in September (in advance of the start of the October-December quarter).

What is this about

The Triage Committee is dedicated to quickly review incoming requests for input and make a suggestion to the Council on how to react to the requests. The Committee is composed of three Councillors.

- [Graphical overview of the triage process](#)
- [Decisions on the requests for input](#)
- [Workspace](#)
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Jordan Carter*

Tech Working Group

Current status

Next steps

What is this about

The purpose of the Tech Working Group is to provide the country code Top Level Domain ("ccTLD") community with advice and to share information on the technical and operational aspects of running a ccTLD.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Stephen Deerhake*

TLD-OPS Standing Committee

Current status

The TLD-OPS Standing Committee had a meeting in July, 2021. Discussion points included:

- Survey results: 22 responses were received and the results overwhelmingly showed appreciation and usefulness. The Group also discussed the future mandate of the working group. Contact list must be transformed into a useful format.
- There was a comprehensive review of the ongoing action and work items and current applicability. Items to continue with include website and database clean-up and possible options for hosting the mailing list.
- The group decided an in-depth review of the current playbook was not necessary, only occasional broad review was necessary. A small group will be formed, led by Brett Carr, who will be responsible for info sharing and communication.
- At this time, the SC determined TLD OPS would not have a formal role within the ccNSO to address DNS Abuse discussions (org wide). Subject may be revisited at a later time

Next steps

A teleconference is scheduled for late August. Topics will include prep for a ICANN72 session, as well as future workshops, and possible playbooks

What is this about

The TLD-OPS Standing Committee is the oversight body of the [TLD-OPS mailing list](#). The purpose of the Standing Committee is to govern the daily operation of the TLD-OPS email list; and, when deemed necessary, to develop and implement progress plans for future improvements and developments of the TLD-OPS email list, including its ecosystem.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Ali Hadji Mmadi*

Empowered Community Administration (ECA)

Current status

Correspondence from the Empowered Community Administration noting the formal termination of the Rejection Action Petition periods regarding the ICANN Board's formal adoption of the (1) FY22-26 Five Year Operating and Financial Plan and (2) the FY22 Operating Plan and Budget, sent on the 14 of June.

Next steps

No pending matters.

What is this about

The Empowered Community Administration is the administrative body through which the Empowered Community acts. Each of the Decisional Participants of the Empowered Community designates one representative to the Empowered Community Administration.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: *Alejandra Reynoso*

Customer Standing Committee (CSC)

Current status

AT ICANN71, the CSC met on 16 June 2021 at 09:30-10:30 UTC, outside of ICANN General schedule, to continue the committee's usual rotation schedule. There was also a joint CSC/PTI update session on 16 June 2021 at 14:30-15:30 UTC. More information [here](#).

According to the PTI Report, they met the service level agreement at 100% for the month of June 2021.

The ccNSO is now seeking a candidate from either the African, Asia-Pacific, Latin American And Caribbean or North American region, who wishes to become a member of the CSC. The call for Expressions of Interest closes on Friday, 23 July 2021 (23:59 UTC). Please read more [here](#).

In accordance with the charter of the CSC, the regular term of appointment shall be two (2) years. A member may be re-appointed for two additional terms (in total 3 terms). For an overview of the current members and liaisons, go to <https://www.icann.org/en/csc/members-liaisons>

In April 2021 one of the two current ccNSO appointed members on the CSC, Alejandra Reynoso, indicated she wants to step down from the CSC as she was elected Chair of the ccNSO. Following a call for expressions of interest and a Council selection process, Frederico Neves (.br) was appointed in June 2021 for the remainder of Alejandra's term.

Next steps

The next CSC meeting will be held on 21 July at 18:00 UTC.

What is this about

The CSC ensures the satisfactory performance of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) naming function. It is responsible for monitoring Public Technical Identifier's (PTI) performance of the IANA naming function against the service level expectations in the IANA Naming Function Contract.

- Read more [here](#).
- ccNSO Councillor, appointed as liaison to the WG/C: none