

Report ccPDP4-IDN Vote

23 April 2024

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Executive Summary

The ccNSO members voted in March-april 2024 to determine whether the ccNSO membership supported the ccNSO Council's recommendation to adopt the proposed ccPDP4-IDN policy (part A of the Members Report). In accordance with the approved timeline, the voting started on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 (00:01 UTC) and closed Wednesday, 17 April 2024 (23:59 UTC).

The vote passed: At the closure of the vote, 56% of the Emissaries (97 out of 174 Emissaries) cast their vote. 97% of the votes cast were in support of the ccNSO Council recommendation to adopt the proposed ccPDP4-IDN policy.

The Bylaw requirements for a valid vote in support of the policy were met: at least 50% of the emissaries are required to lodge their vote and the 66 % of the votes cast need to be in favor.

1. Introduction

The ccNSO members voted in March-april 2024 to determine whether the ccNSO membership supported the ccNSO Council's recommendation to adopt the proposed policy (part A of the Members Report) which aims to provide a framework to ICANN and the broader community for:

- (i) the selection of IDN country code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) strings and variants thereof,
- (ii) the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of the selected IDN ccTLD string and its variants,
- (iii) the use of the review mechanism pertaining to decisions concerning the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of IDN ccTLDs.

Joke Braeken acted as vote process manager and author of this vote report.

2. Council recommendation

The Issue Manager drafted the Members Report. During its meeting held at ICANN79, the ccNSO Council resolved to adopt the recommended policy as contained in Part A of the Final Report of the ccPDP4 Working Group, as submitted to the Chair of the ccNSO Council on 23 February 2024. (Council Resolution 203:04 from 7 March 2024)

3. Promoting the vote

Several actions and outreach activities were undertaken. Those the vote process manager is aware of are listed below. Read more: See charts in Annex C.

Pre-vote phase

- June 2023 | ICANN77: ccNSO Members Meeting session: The ccNSO members and other interested parties had an opportunity to learn more about the proposed policy and the vote
- March 2024 | ICANN79: ccNSO Members Meeting session: The ccNSO members and other interested parties had an opportunity to learn more about the proposed policy and the vote
- 15 March: Issue manager sends e-mail to members list, informing the community about the publication of the Members Report, providing a heads up about the vote and the upcoming webinar.
- 20 March: Vote process manager sends an e-mail to the ccNSO members list, informing the community about the publication of the FAQ, providing a heads up about the vote, and inviting all interested to join the webinar on 26 March.
- 21 March: Vote process manager sends a personalised e-mail to all Emissaries, informing them about the upcoming webinar, what the vote is about, and why it is important to participate in the vote. (See Annex D)

- 25 March: Vote process manager sends ballots to Emissaries and re-sends ballots to alternative addresses, for those Emissaries where the ballots could not be delivered (IANA contacts (7), or as per Emissary instructions (1))
- 26 March: The ccNSO members and other interested parties had an opportunity to learn more about the proposed policy and the vote via two webinars, held at different times of the day, to accommodate different timezones. Also, the Vote process manager publishes Vote Notice on the ccNSO website, and shares it on the ccnsoc member mailing list.
- 27 March, 00:01 UTC: vote start

Vote phase

The Regional Organisations spread the word about the vote among their respective members. The Regional Organisations invited – either via email and/or via targeted sessions or webinars – their members to participate in the voting. The ccNSO Council Chair and Issue Manager presented about the vote during a LACTLD webinar, held on 2 April. On 5 April, the APTLD General Manager reminded his members about the ongoing vote, and on 8 April, the AFTLD General Manager did the same for the members from his region.

While the vote was ongoing, several reminders to vote were sent to the the ccnsoc-members@icann.org and ccnsocouncil@icann.org mailing lists - as well as via the voting tool – directly to the e-mail addresses of the Emissaries. The e-mail reminders included regular overviews on how many members already casted their votes, as well as links where to read more about the policy proposals.

The vote process manager sent reminders via Tally, the voting tool, directly to the Emissaries who did not yet cast their vote. Such Tally reminders were sent on the following dates:

28 March, 09:00 UTC
2 April, 07:30 UTC
4 April, noon UTC
8 April, 08:30 UTC
10 April, 10:00 UTC
12 April, 09:00 UTC
15 April, 09:00 UTC
16 April, 14:00 UTC

On 15 April, the vote process manager sent a list of Emissaries from their respective regions that had not yet voted to the Council Vice Chairs (Territory name only).
Read more: See charts in Annex C.

4. Launch of the vote

In accordance with the approved timeline, the voting started on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 (00:01 UTC). A formal vote notice was published on the ccNSO website on 26 March 2024 and

shared that same day with the ccnso-members@icann.org and ccnsocouncil@icann.org mailing lists. The vote notice contained, among others, the following information:

- Information on how the vote would be conducted
- Vote opening and closing dates
- Links with additional information regarding the proposed, as well as ccNSO Council's Recommendation to adopt the proposed policy.

The ccNSO Secretariat sent the ballots via the e-mail address tally@icann.org , to the e-mail address of the ccNSO Emissaries, as listed in the ccNSO Members database. See Annex A.

5. Closure of the vote and results

In accordance with the approved timeline, the vote closed on Wednesday, 17 April 2024 (23:59 UTC). The vote process manager informed ccNSO Council about the results during the ccNSO Council Meeting held on 18 April, and sent the following day an email to the ccnso-members@icann.org and ccnsocouncil@icann.org mailing lists with the results. An announcement was published also on the ccNSO website.

At the closure of the vote, 56% of the Emissaries (97 out of 174 Emissaries) cast their vote. 97% of the votes cast were in support of the ccNSO Council recommendation to adopt the proposed ccPDP4-IDN policy.

At the closure of the vote, 97 Emissaries out of 174 (56%) cast their votes:

Total Ballots Cast (including duplicates): 99

Ballots Counted (excluding duplicates): 97

Voters Who Haven't Voted: 77

94 votes were in support of the ccNSO Council's recommendation to adopt the proposed policy, 3 voters did not support the recommendation.

The vote passed: it met the Bylaw requirements regarding the minimum number of ccNSO members that needed to lodge their vote, and the minimum number of votes in favor. Minimum 50% of the ccNSO Members, via their Emissaries, needed to lodge their vote, and at least 66% of the members needed to vote in favour of the policy for the ccNSO members vote to pass.

6. Vote observations

- **Observation 1**

At the time the ballots were distributed, the ccNSO counted 176 members, including the IDN ccTLD managers for Egypt and Israel. The vote process manager distributed 174 ballots. ccNSO members vote via their Emissaries. According to the [ICANN Bylaws](#) (section 10.4 (e)), if two or more ccTLD managers from the same country are member of the ccNSO members, those ccTLD managers are to appoint one of the Representatives from among the respective ccNSO members to serve as the Emissary to vote on behalf of the ccNSO members

from that country. The Bylaws further specify that “during any period in which an Emissary is not appointed, the ccTLD manager that has been the member of the ccNSO for the longest period is deemed to be the Emissary for that Territory” and “The ccTLD managers within each Territory may define the process to determine how their respective Emissary's vote is determined.”

- **Observation 2**

The ballots were sent by the e-mail address tally@icann.org , to the e-mail address of the ccNSO Member Emissaries, as listed in the ccNSO Members database.

The vote process manager forwarded ballots to alternative email addresses, either at the request of the respective ccTLD manager (1 instance), or following reported delivery errors for the email addresses of the Emissaries (7 instances).

- **Observation 3**

The vote process manager noticed that the reminders via Tally, directly to the voters that had not yet voted, were very efficient. The effect of the tally reminders was clearly visible on the number of incoming votes. Please find a chart in Annex C, that provides an overview of the number of ballots cast over time, and intermediary vote results per region.

- **Observation 4**

The vote notice mentioned that voting is anonymous: The vote results are only identified by the ballot numbers, and not by the email addresses to whom the ballots were sent.

The vote process manager seeks guidance from Council regarding the distribution of the lists of ccNSO Members that did not yet vote, considering the effort involved, the impact on the ballots cast, as well as the confidentiality of the vote. For comparison, please find included a comparative table with participation records for the two ccPDP3 votes, the ccPDP4 vote, and the latest two Board elections in Annex C. The vote process manager presented the charts included in Annex C of this document to GRC, at its meeting held on 22 April 2024, considering GRC's work in preparation of the ICANN80 World Café session on how to improve the ccNSO membership voting.

ANNEX A: Links

- [Council resolution 203:04](#)
- [Vote Notice: announcement 26 March 2024](#)
- ccPDP4 frequently asked questions and answers ([FAQ](#))
- [recording](#) and slides used during the informative webinar held on 26 March 2024
- [recording](#) of the ICANN79 ccPDP4 Update Session
- [recording](#) of the ICANN77 ccPDP4 Update Session
- [proposed policy \(Members Report - Part A\)](#)
- [ccPDP4-IDN materials](#) on the ccNSO website
- [Annex B of the ICANN Bylaws](#)
- [Vote Results: announcement 19 April 2024](#)

ANNEX B: Territories

Ballots (174 in total) were sent to the Representatives of the Territories included below. At the time of ballot distribution, the ccNSO counted 176 members, including two IDN ccTLD managers.

AFRICA

- Algeria
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cape Verde
- Comoros
- Congo, Republic of
- Congo, The Democratic Republic of the
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Republic of Chad
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

AUSTRALIA/ASIA/PACIFIC

- Afghanistan
- Armenia
- Australia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- China
- Christmas Islands
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Georgia
- Hong Kong
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Israel
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mongolia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Niue
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Saudi Arabia

- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- Türkiye
- Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Tokelau
- Tuvalu
- United Arab Emirates
- Vanuatu
- Viet Nam

EUROPE

- Albania
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Cayman Islands
- Croatia
- Curaçao
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Union
- Faroe Islands
- Finland
- France
- French Polynesia
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Guadeloupe
- Guernsey
- Iceland
- Italy
- Jersey
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal

- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

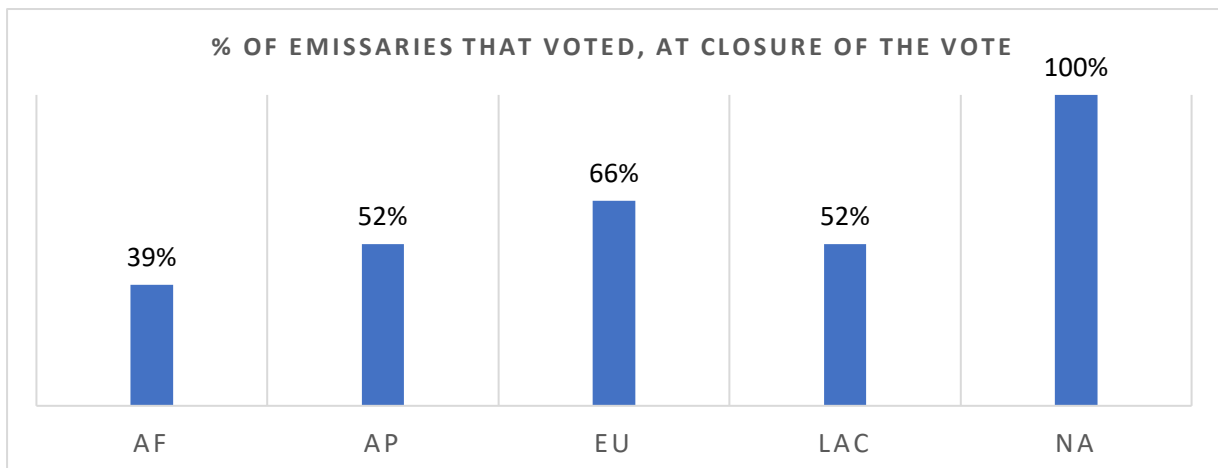
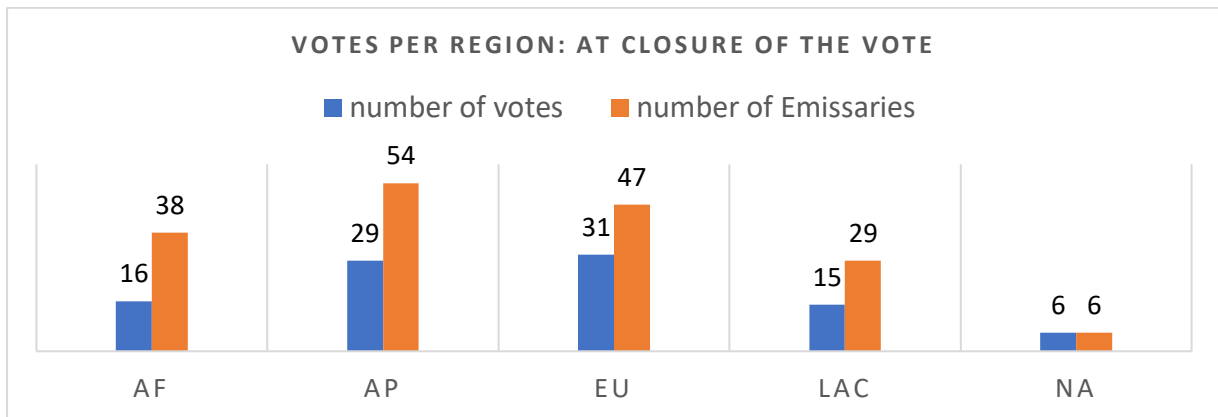
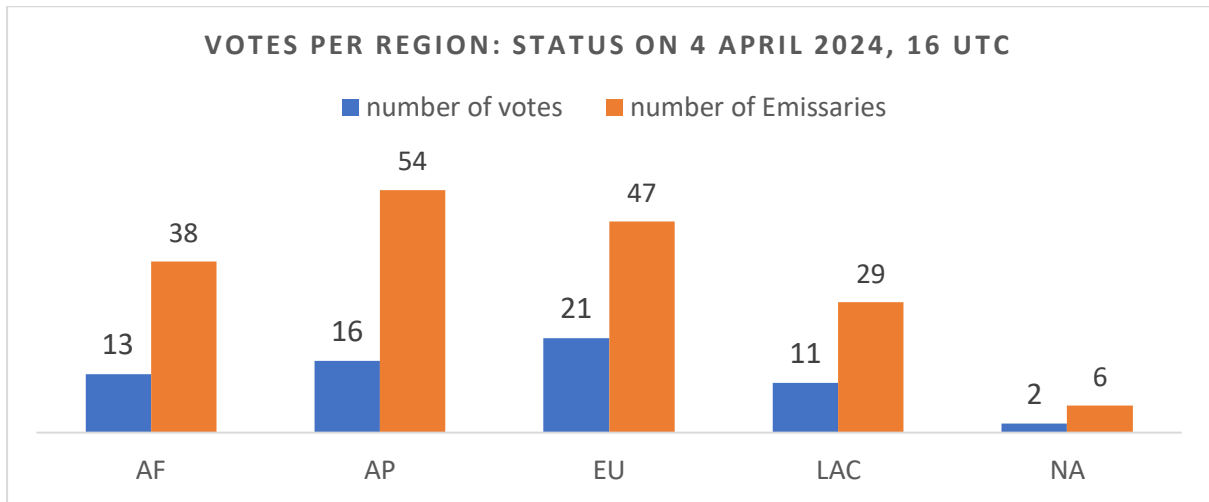
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivarian Republic Of Venezuela
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Plurinational State of Bolivia
- Saint Lucia
- Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay

NORTH AMERICA

- American Samoa
- Canada
- Guam
- Puerto Rico
- United States of America
- Virgin Islands, U.S.

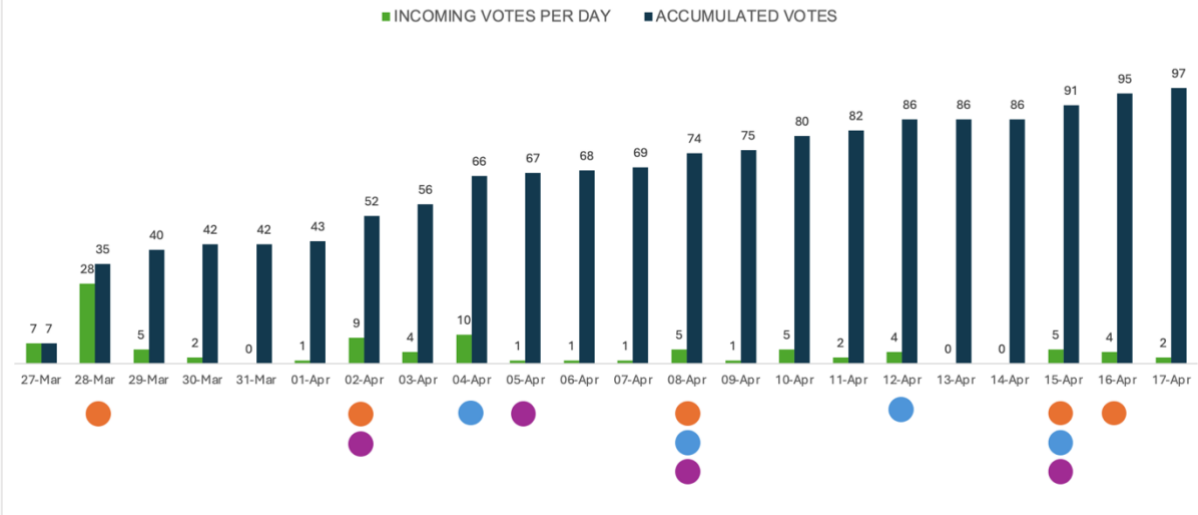
ANNEX C: Charts vote results



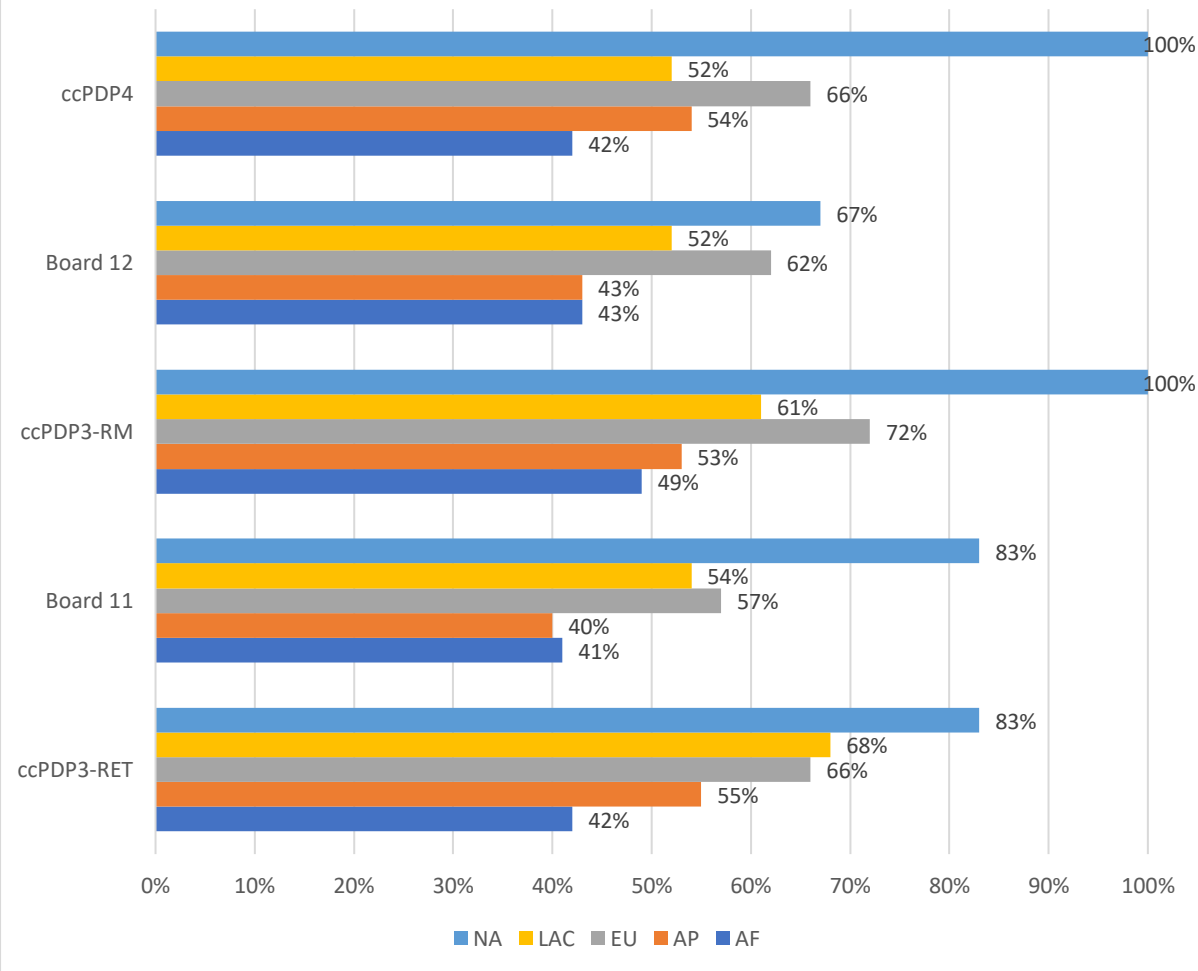
ccPDP4: voting phase

Impact reminders and outreach on number of votes

(Tally: ● | Mailing list: ● | RO outreach: ●)



Which percentage of the Members/Emissaries voted per region, per vote?



ANNEX D: e-mail to Emissaries

The parts in yellow were personalized on a per-emissary basis.

On 2024-03-21, at 12:36, Joke Braeken <joke.braeken@icann.org> wrote:

Dear **FIRST NAME LAST NAME**,

I hope this email finds you well. You have received this email, since you are listed as the ccNSO Emissary for **TERRITORY**.

I am writing to remind you about the upcoming members vote starting on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 (00:01 UTC). The members vote will cover the ccNSO Council's recommendation to adopt the proposed ccNSO policy for the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings and variants (ccPDP4). The ballot for **TERRITORY** will be sent to **EMAIL EMISSARY** by e-mail.

Your active participation in this vote holds significant weight! While the policy may not immediately impact all ccTLDs, it paves the way for non-Latin script country code Top Level Domains and their variants to be accessible for domain name registration. Approval of the recommended IDN ccTLD Policy by the ccNSO membership is pivotal, as it will then be presented to the ICANN Board of Directors for their deliberation. For approval by the ccNSO membership, at least 50% of the ccNSO Emissaries must vote and at least 66% of those votes must be in favour of the ccNSO Council recommendation. Your thoughtful consideration on these matters is deeply appreciated.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the [ccPDP4 webinars on Tuesday 26 March 2024](#), and join us at 9 UTC or 17 UTC. The purpose of the webinars is to inform you about the proposed policy for the (de-)selection of IDN ccTLD strings and related matters, as well as the upcoming ccNSO membership voting process.

If you wish to learn more about the proposed policy or the vote, the materials listed below might be helpful. For further clarification regarding the upcoming vote, please do not hesitate to reach out to Joke Braeken (joke.braeken@icann.org). Thank you!

Best regards,

Joke Braeken

LEARN MORE

- Read the ccPDP4 frequently asked questions and answers ([FAQ](#)) to learn more about the proposed policy and the vote.
- [Join the informative webinars on Tuesday, 26 March 2024](#), or [consult the recordings](#)
- Listen to the [recording](#) of the ICANN79 ccPDP4 Update Session
- Read the proposed policy (Members Report - Part A) [here](#).
- Keep an eye out for the announcements on the ccNSO members mailing list and website
- Check out the [ccPDP4-IDN materials](#) on the ccNSO website
- Go to [Annex B of the ICANN Bylaws](#), which describes the ccNSO policy development process.