

Overview Applicable policies, related guidance, and ccNSO developed practices

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Over time, and in accordance with its mandate the ccNSO has developed various policies, policy related advisories and interpretation, and practices. The purpose of this document is to provide a current overview of those policies, policy related advisories and interpretation, and practices and those which are under development.

In 2003 the ccNSO was created with the specific mandate (with the exclusion of other groups) to develop and recommend to the ICANN Board global policies relating to country-code top-level domains (Article 10.1 ICANN Bylaws). The scope of this mandate was further detailed in Annex C of the Bylaws: the ccNSO's responsibility is limited to and with exclusion of others to develop policies specifying the rules and conditions under which data will be processed (included, altered or deleted) in the root-zone database.

In addition, the ccNSO was mandated to seek to develop voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers, assisting in skills building within the global community of ccTLD managers, and enhancing operational and technical cooperation among ccTLD managers. Adherence to the results of these additional activities will be voluntary.

As ccTLDs pre-date both ICANN (which was established in 1998) and the ccNSO, basic rules and conditions for processing data with respect to ccTLD, including the data that designates and distinguishes a ccTLD from other TLDs, were in place: RFC1591. When the ccNSO was created this was acknowledged in Annex C of the Bylaws.

In Summary, this document ((VERY ROUGH)) sets out the key elements of policy and practice that forms the framework for how ICANN/PTI and ccTLDs relate to each other - the broad global policy framework.

1. Policy mandate ccNSO

The specific mandate (with the exclusion of other groups) to develop and recommend policies to the ICANN Board global policies relating to country-code top-level domains (Article 10.1 ICANN Bylaws). The scope of this mandate was further detailed in Annex C of the Bylaws: the ccNSO's responsibility is limited to and with exclusion of others to develop policies specifying the rules and conditions under which data will be processed (included, altered or deleted) in the root-zone database.

Topic	Document	Adoption ccNSO	Adoption ICANN Board	Implementation
ccNSO mandate policy re IANA naming Function ccTLDs	ICANN Bylaws: section 10.1, 10.6 & Annex C	N/A	June 2003	N/A
ccNSO mandate Guidance/best practices voluntary basis	ICANN Bylaws section 10.1		June 2003	N/A
Local Accountability ccTLD Manager	RFC 1591 - March 1994 & ICANN Bylaws - Annex C	N/A	June 2003	Guidance ccTLD-ICANN Accountability Framework

2. Selection of country code Top Level Domains

Topic	Document	ccNSO	ICANN Board	Implementation
Use of ISO 3166-1 standard list two-letter country code as ccTLD	RFC 1591 - March 1994	N/A		Qualifying top-level domain strings
Use of some Exceptionally reserved codes as ccTLD (.eu)	Board resolution	N/A	Board decision 2000 Re EU	Qualifying top-level domain strings
Selection of IDN country codes TLD	IDN Working Group Board Proposal	June 2008	June 2008	Fast Track Implementation Plan (2009), latest version 2019

Pending (under development/to be adopted)

Topic	Document	ccNSO	ICANN Board	Implementation
(De-)Selection of IDN country codes TLD and their variants	Final Report ccPDP4			
Variants in Rootzone				

3. Delegation, Transfer, Revocation and Retirement of ccTLDs

Topic		Document	ccNSO	ICANN Board	Implementation
RFC 1591 - March 1994	Delegation	RFC 1591 - March 1994 , FoI 2015		June 2015	Delegating or transferring a country-code top-level domain (ccTLD)
	Transfer	RFC 1591 - March 1994 , FoI 2015			Delegating or transferring a country-code top-level domain (ccTLD)
	Caretaker				Caretaker operations for a top-level domain
	Revocation	RFC 1591 - March 1994 , FoI 2015			No public facing documentation at this time.
Framework of Interpretation RFC1591	https://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/foi-final-07oct14-en.pdf	October 2014, https://ccnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/filefield_46795/foi-final-resolutions-11feb15-en.pdf		June 2015	Delegating or transferring a country-code top-level domain (ccTLD)
Retirement Policy	Board Report	September 2021		September 2022	Retirement of a Country-code Top-level Domain (ccTLD)

Pending (under development/to be adopted)

Topic	Document	Adoption ccNSO	Adoption ICANN Board	Implementation
Consolidation principles RFC 1591 & FoI				
Addressing Issues and Policy Gaps, Implementation Gaps				
Deselection IDNccTLD strings	Final Report ccPDP4			

4. Dispute resolution ccTLD Manager/PTI (=IANA Function Operator)

Topic	Source Document	ccNSO	ICANN Board	Implementation
IANA Complaint Procedure Customer Complaint Resolution Process	IANA Naming Services Contract section 8.1 (a)	N/A	October 2016	https://www.iana.org/help/complaint-procedure
Mediation procedure direct customer - PTI	IANA Naming Services Contract section 8.1 (c)	N/A	October 2016	—
ICANN Ombudsman	ICANN Bylaws	N/A		Ombudsman Website

Pending (under development/to be adopted)

Topic	Document	ccNSO	ICANN Board	Implementation
ccNSO Policy Review Mechanism	Board Report ccPDP3 Review Mechanism	June 2023	Pending	

5. Guidance/Advice

Topic	Document	ccNSO	ICANN	Implementation
Advice on wildcards	Final Report Wildcarding Study Group		N/A	N/A
Advice not to use Emoji's	Final Report Study Group	September 2019	N/A	N/A
Guidance Accountability relation ccTLD- ICANN	Guideline ccTLD – ICANN Accountability Framework	19 January 2005	Letter ICANN CEO 2005	Overview Agreements ccTLDs- ICANN: https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/cctlds/cctlds-en Templates: EoL and Template letter ccTLD- to ICANN Template letter ICANN to ccTLD Template Accountability Framework
Guidance ccTLD financial contribution to ICANN	Guideline Financial Contributions	20 November 2013	Letter ICANN CEO to ccNSO accepting Guidance	Annual Overview Financial Contributions

Topic	Document	Adoption ccNSO	Adoption ICANN Board	Implementation
Advice to IDNccTLD Managers with respect to IDN Tables A. Submission of IDN Table	ccPDP4 Final Report Report Part B	Adopted by ccNSO Council 07 March 2024	N/A	https://www.iana.org/help/idn-repository-procedure & https://www.iana.org/domains/idn-tables
C .2 Advice with respect to registrations under the IDNccTLD (variants) under management	ccPDP4 Final Report Part B	Adopted by ccNSO Council 07 March 2024	N/A	N/A

6. Other Relevant Documents

Topic	Document	Adoption ccNSO	Adoption ICANN Board	Implementation
General framework of principles and guidelines for the relationship between national governments, the ccTLD Manager associated with that country, and ICANN	GAC Principles 2005	N/A	N/A	See various Delegation Reports. latest

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7. Archived

Topic	Document	Adoption ccNSO	Adoption ICANN Board	Implementation
ICP-1: Internet Domain Name System Structure and Delegation (ccTLD Administration and Delegation)	Archived		ICP-1 was adopted by the Board in May 1999 Was archived by Board resolution on adoption of Fol: June 2015	Current practices of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) in administering RFC 1591

- Structure of the root zone - is there a policy that relates to what sorts of domain names there are, beyond RFC1591? That's the foundation - ccTLDs are a subset. May be useful to reference it as 'the next step up the chain'.
- See inclusion of .test in various language/script combinations:
<https://www.iana.org/reports/2007/testetal-report-01aug2007.html>