About this document: This document is a working draft. The purpose of this document is to encourage discussion on draft recommendations for inclusion in Work Track 5's Initial Report. It will evolve and change based on WT feedback. At this time, it only includes draft recommendations on a subset of topics within the charter. Additional draft recommendations will be included as WT deliberations progress.

The preliminary recommendations will be one element of the WT's Initial Report. The Initial Report for WT5 will include preliminary recommendations, and possibly potential options for recommendations as well in areas where there is not yet agreement. The report will also include questions for community input. It will provide background on deliberations and decision-making of the Work Track. The report will explain the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains from 8 August 2007 as well as provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook. Any references below to the 2007 policy or 2012 AGB are only a summary and should be viewed in the context of the broader Initial Report. Please note that where the text states that a recommendation is "consistent with provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook" this means that the WT is not recommending a change to the AGB text. The word "identical" is not used because the text of the recommendation is not identical to the text of the current AGB and it is not setting a requirement that future versions of the AGB are identical.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE

RECOMMENDATION #1:

The Work Track recommends reserving at the top level all two-character letter-letter ASCII combinations for existing and future country codes.

- The starting point of this recommendation is Section 2.2.1.3.2 String Requirements, Part III, 3.1 of the 2012 Applicant Guidebook, which states, **"**Applied-for gTLD strings in ASCII must be composed of three or more visually distinct characters. Two-character ASCII strings are not permitted, to avoid conflicting with current and future country codes based on the ISO 3166-1 standard."
- The Work Track's recommendation specifically addresses letter-letter combinations because the focus of the Work Track is on geographic names. The Work Track considers letter-letter combinations to be within scope of this subject area.
- The Work Track notes that Work Track 2 of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group is considering two-character letter-number combinations.

This recommendation is consistent with the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. It is consistent with provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

The Work Track recommends continuing to consider the following category a country and territory name which is reserved at the top level and unavailable for delegation, as stated in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.i:

- alpha-3 code listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard.

This recommendation is a revision to the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. It is consistent with provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

The Work Track recommends continuing to consider the following category a country and territory name which is reserved at the top level and unavailable for delegation, as stated in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.ii:

- long-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard.

This recommendation is a revision to the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. This recommendation is consistent with the existing provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook, but as currently drafted, it does not address the issue of translations of these strings. Please see questions for community input.

RECOMMENDATION #4:

The Work Track recommends continuing to consider the following category a country and territory name which is reserved at the top level and unavailable for delegation, as stated in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.iii:

- short-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard.

This recommendation is a revision to the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. This recommendation is consistent with the existing provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook, but as currently drafted, it does not address the issue of translations of these strings. Please see questions for community input.

RECOMMENDATION #5:

The Work Track recommends continuing to consider the following category a country and territory name which is reserved at the top level and unavailable for delegation, as stated in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.iv:

- short- or long-form name association with a code that has been designated as "exceptionally reserved" by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency.

This recommendation is a revision to the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. It is consistent with provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook.

RECOMMENDATION #6:

The Work Track recommends continuing to consider the following category a country and territory name which is reserved at the top level and unavailable for delegation, as stated in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.v:

- separable component of a country name designated on the "Separable Country Names List." This list is included as an appendix to the 2012 Applicant Guidebook.

This recommendation is a revision to the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. This recommendation is consistent with the existing provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook, but as currently drafted, it does not address the issue of translations of these strings. Please see questions for community input.

RECOMMENDATION #7:

The Work Track recommends clarifying 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.vi, which designates the following category as a country and territory name which is reserved at the top level and unavailable for delegation:

- permutation or transposition of any of the names included in items (i) through (v). Permutations include removal of spaces, insertion of punctuation, and addition or removal of grammatical articles like "the." A transposition is considered a change in the sequence of the long or short–form name, for example, "RepublicCzech" or "IslandsCayman."

The Work Track recommends clarifying that permutations and transpositions of the following strings are reserved:
- long-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard.
- short-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard.
- short- or long-form name association with a code that has been designated as "exceptionally reserved" by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency.
- separable component of a country name designated on the "Separable Country Names List." This list is included as an appendix to the 2012 Applicant Guidebook.

Permutations and transpositions of alpha-3 code listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard should be allowed.

This recommendation is a revision to the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. This recommendation would result in a revision to 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.vi.

RECOMMENDATION #8:

The Work Track recommends continuing to consider the following category a country and territory name which is reserved at the top level and unavailable for delegation, as stated in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.4.1.vii:

- name by which a country is commonly known, as demonstrated by evidence that the country is recognized by that name by an intergovernmental or treaty organization.

This recommendation is a revision to the GNSO policy contained in the Introduction of New Generic Top-Level Domains policy recommendations from 8 August 2007. It is consistent with provisions in the 2012 Applicant Guidebook.

Recommendation #9:

As described in recommendations 2-8, the Work Track recommends, until decided otherwise, maintaining the reservation of country and territory names at the top level in upcoming processes to delegate new gTLDs.

Questions for Community Input

- In the 2012 Applicant Guidebook, a string was considered unavailable if it was a translation **in any language** of the following categories of country and territory names:
    - long-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard.
    - short-form name listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard.
    - separable component of a country name designated on the "Separable Country Names List."
  In developing recommendations for future treatment of country and territory names, the Work Track has considered several alternatives related to translation:
    - continue to reserve as unavailable - translations in any language
    - reserve as unavailable - translations in UN languages
    - reserve as unavailable - translations in official languages of the country
    - reserve as unavailable - translations in official and commonly used languages
    - reserve as unavailable - translations in official and relevant national, regional, and community languages
    - reserve as unavailable - translations in "principal languages" where the principal languages are the official or de facto national languages and the statutory or de facto provincial languages of that country
    - a combination of two or more categories above
  In your view, which alternative is the best option? Please explain.