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Governmental Advisory Committee Comment on Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top-Level Domain String for Private Use

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top-Level Domain String for Private Use, following the SSAC’s publishing of SAC113 SSAC Advisory on Private-Use TLDs.

The GAC wishes to focus comments on two sections of the proposed procedure:

- Item 2: Selection
- Item 4: Public Comment Proceeding for the String

Under Item 2. Selection, the [Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top-Level Domain String for Private Use](#) states:

“IANA will develop a set of candidate strings, where each string in the set is considered to match all four criteria. From this set, a preferred candidate will be identified through deliberation within an internal evaluation team. Should any issues emerge with assessing the potential suitability of the candidates, IANA intends to consult with any relevant expertise to inform its decision making.”

The GAC recommends including some clarifications related to:

1. How would the internal evaluation team be formed? Are the same individuals developing a set of strings, then deliberating and evaluating?

2. The GAC wishes clarification regarding where the relevant expertise would be coming from, i.e. from outside ICANN?

Under Item 4. Public Comment Proceeding for the String, the [Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top-Level Domain String for Private Use](#) states:

“ICANN org will hold a Public Comment proceeding on the draft selection document. The proceeding will ask the community to verify that IANA followed the process given in the final version of this document in making its choice. Commentary on the string itself will be out of scope for the Public Comment proceeding.”

The GAC notes that the public consultation appears to only be on the **process** for having chosen a name rather than on the **name** of the string itself.

Especially insofar as SSAC 113 states the “understanding that all names in this namespace will never be resolvable in the public Internet, and will not collide with existing or future delegated TLDs in the global DNS” the GAC notes that the proposed name designation itself may indeed raise concerns within the ICANN community (in particular future .brand applicants) and warrants input via a public consultation.

The GAC encourages the process drafters to consider providing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed string.

The GAC conveys its thanks for the opportunity to provide input on this Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top Level Domain String for Private Use and looks forward to further engagement with the SSAC on this matter moving forward.

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