Work Plan

GAC Working Group
Protection of Geographic and Community names in future rounds of new gTLDs

Draft version 4 (May 19, 2016)

Activities

1- **Consideration of all of the public comments that were received. Discuss whether it might be appropriate for the working group to formally respond to these comments**

   Status and next steps:

   > Best practices draft document
   > Revision of "pubic interest" as requested in Singapore meeting

2- **Inject information gathered from WG into the new gTLDs first round revision process and the GNSO PDP process related with a new round of gTLDs.**

   Reinforce the importance of outreach to the whole community in possible impact of the use of geographic and community names in future rounds of new gtlds.

   Definefine procedures for affected parties in how to participate or object.

   Possible enforcement of best practices proposed by WG.

   Status and next steps:

   Already started:
   > - Contacts already made with ICANN staff since ICANN meeting in Los Angeles.
   > Presentations made during Buenos Aires and ICANN meeting in Dublin about outcomes form our WG.

   During 2016:
   > - Established contact with GNSO in order provide input about outcomes of or WG into the new round of gTLDs PDP.

   (Document submitted during Public Comment period, about next rounds of new gtlds by Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela, Uruguay and Argentina to the "Preliminary Issue Report on New gTLD Subsequent Procedures")

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http://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/new-gtlds/subsequent-procedures-prelim-issue-31aug15-en.pdf

3- Public Interest / Public good:

Based on the background information on "public interest", start working on a specific definition for geographic names and community names.

Status and next steps:

Draft document prepared by WG sent to GAC to be reviewed during the ICANN Helsinki meeting.

Suggested action item by EBU:

Perform an analysis of the GAC positions/debates within ICANN since its inception, and especially during the implementation phase of the new gTLD's round.
Most of the activity of the GAC are based on the defense of the "public interest": from the early warning procedure to many of the GAC advice, from community based applications to the request to add "PIC" (Public Interest Commitments) to the applicants dossiers for certain strings. Even the lengthy (and unresolved) debates over DOT.wine or over the IGO names and acronyms of over the Red Cross and IOC were mostly based around the divergent interpretations of what means "public interest" in various countries and cultures.
Review as another source of Public Interest definition the analysis of some of the ICANN Ombudsman acts and pronunciations. One of the functions of the Ombudsman within ICANN in fact is to recognize the primacy of public interests over private interests.

4- Analyze annexed / occupied territory names - Suggested action item by Ukraine

Raise attention on protection geo names which are situated in such territories as: annexes regions by some countries.

International and UN recognition is vital for understanding who is legally responsible for the territory geo names (self declared government or failed control government but internationally recognized).

In relation with WG draft working documents and other references, there is a proposal for considering the concept of "Government internationally recognized" instead of "relevant goverments".

Next steps:
Draft new text to be provided by Georgia and Mexico.

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5- Experiences of use of geographic names in new gTLDs:

Based on the "best practices" draft, refine them adding examples of what worked well for geo names, for community names, for PIC, for developing countries, for GAC early warning procedures and for any other tool in the guidelines that tried to define and protect the public interest.

Status and next steps:

To be prepared:

- Amazon (Peru –Brazil)
- Patagonia (Argentina – Chile)
- Spa (Belgium)
- Bar (City in Montenegro: Registry made early contact with them) (Olga)
- Berlin (Registry made early contact with other cities with the same name) (Olga)
- .info (Registry has provided information based on their experience in similar cases) (Olga)
- Shangrila (China)
- Thai (Thailand)
- Community applications. .gay, others? Giacomo - Olga
- Others?

6- Best Practices

Review practical ways on how to make these best practices "enforceable", adding also mentions of worst examples and how to tackle the worst practices.

Status and next steps:

To be analyzed by WG.

7- Explore possible Geo Names list

Interact with ISO, UNESCO and other organizations in order to create a reference list of geographic and community names that may include those names that are not in present lists.

Status and next steps:

During 2016:

Giacomo and Olga interacted with ISO.

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Still pending exploring approach with UN as suggested by Jorge from Switzerland

USA: in with regard to the ISO, and took note of the direct reference to the UN as the source of the names for the ISO 3166 lists; see http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes.htm

8- **Interact with WG about community applications.**

9- **Coordinate CCWG on use of country and territory names as TLDs.**

10-**Organize monthly calls.**