



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Heather Dryden  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee  
2 September 2014

Re: Requests for release of two- character labels as second-level domains in New gTLDs

Dear Heather,

On behalf of the Board New gTLD Program Committee (NGPC), I thank you for your letter of 8 August 2014 regarding requests from new gTLD applicants and registries for the release of two-character domain names in the new gTLD namespace. We acknowledge the GAC's time plan to address these requests and its intention to consider this matter at the ICANN 51 meeting in Los Angeles.

To date, four sets of requests have been posted for public comment.<sup>1</sup> The complete set of Registry Service Evaluation Policy (RSEP) requests are available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rsep-2014-02-19-en>. We would be happy to keep the GAC updated on any change in the status of these requests as well as any new requests that may be submitted leading up to ICANN 51.

We also note that the Re: line of your letter refers to a request for release of "two-character labels," but the text of your letter refers to requests for release of "two-letter codes." Specification 5 requires the reservation of all "two-character" labels, meaning any combination of letter-letter (aa), letter-number (a2), number-number (22) and number-letter (2a) labels. ICANN has requests pending for release of each of these four types of combinations. It would be helpful if the GAC could clarify whether its concerns extend only to letter-letter (aa) combinations such as ccTLD labels, or if its concerns extend more broadly to other two character combinations.

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<sup>1</sup> See 1) Introduction of Two-Character Domains in the New gTLD Namespace at <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-char-new-gtld-2014-06-12-en> (comment period closed 10 July 2014); 2) Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names for .DEALS et al. at <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-char-new-gtld-2014-07-08-en> (comment period closes August 20, 2014); 3) Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names for .LUXURY et al. at <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-char-new-gtld-2014-07-23-en> (comment period closes 4 September 2014); and 4) Introduction of Two-Character Domain Names for .SOHU, .IMMO, .SAARLAND, .CLUB <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/two-char-new-gtld-2014-08-19-en> (comment period closes 1 October 2014).



In addition, as outlined in Specification 5, section 4 of the Registry Agreement, we would also like to request a review by the GAC with respect to the release of Country and Territory Names. A new gTLD registry has submitted a request under the Registry Services Evaluation Policy to offer Country and Territory Names at the second level.<sup>2</sup>

I hope this information is helpful. We look forward to understanding in Los Angeles the GAC's concerns regarding two-character/letter domain names and Country and Territory Names in the new gTLD namespace.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Crocker". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Stephen D. Crocker, Chair  
ICANN Board of Directors

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/neustar-country-territory-neustar-request-21aug14-en.pdf>