# Agenda Item 13: Meeting with Country Code Names Supporting Organisation (ccNSO)

## Issues

Agendas for GAC bilateral meetings of this type tend to change up until the last minute for a range of reasons. However, the following issues are likely to be raised:

1. Diversity of ccTLDs
2. Geographic names as ccTLDs
3. ISO3166

## GAC Action Required

**Diversity of ccTLDs**

Further details are being sought from the ccNSO on the intention of this item.

**Geographic Names as ccTLDs**

Further details are being sought from the ccNSO on this item.

The current Working Document for Work Track 5 of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP states:

*There has not been a consensus call on the following potential recommendations, but the following text proposed by the Work Track co-leaders has gone through two readings on Work Track calls:*

***2- character letter-letter combinations country codes (ISO 3166)****: The starting point is status quo, but narrowing it to geo-names by reserving all 2 letter-letter ASCII combinations for existing and future country codes. 2 character «letter-digit» are not geo-names and are therefore outside the scope of WT5.*

* *If 2-char letter-digit combinations were to be recommended (WT2 considering- reserved names), would be subject to string similarity review*

***Country and Territory Names:***

***3-character country codes (ISO 3166)****: Maintain the status quo, i.e. not available, and defer broader questions about which entity/entities can apply for these strings and how they may be treated (for instance, as a gTLD, a ccTLD or something else).*

***Long and short form of country and territory names (ISO 3166)****: Maintain the status quo, i.e. not available, and defer broader questions about which entity/entities can apply for these strings and how they may be treated (for instance, as a gTLD, a ccTLD or something else).*

**ISO3166**

The ccNSO has proposed that a member of ccNSO staff give the GAC a presentation on ISO3166. Further details are being sought from the ccNSO.

ISO3166 is a standard maintained by the International Organization for Standardization. It is used by ICANN for the definition of eligible designations for ccTLDs, and to determine eligibility for an Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD string. It is also used by the GAC and ICANN as a key element of reserved names policy for gTLDs.

## Current Position

The [Country Code Names Supporting Organisation](https://ccnso.icann.org/) (ccNSO) is a body within the ICANN structure created for and by ccTLD managers.

Some GAC Members are also the managers of their relevant ccTLDs. Other GAC Members have good working relationships with their ccTLD managers. Still others have a poor (or non-existent) relationship with their relevant ccTLD managers. Most governments, though, have a strong interest in ensuring that the ccTLDs relevant to their nation and/or territories are managed appropriately.

The ccNSO provides a platform to nurture consensus, technical cooperation and skill building among ccTLDs and facilitates the development of voluntary best practices for ccTLD managers. It is also responsible for developing and recommending global policies to the ICANN Board for a limited set of issues relating to ccTLDs, such as the introduction of Internationalised Domain Name ccTLDs (IDN ccTLDs). The policy development process is managed by the [ccNSO Council](http://ccnso.icann.org/about/council.htm). The ccNSO activities are mostly organised through Working Groups, such as the [Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Working Group](http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/sopiwg.htm) or the [Technical Working Group](http://ccnso.icann.org/workinggroups/techwg.htm). Membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD managers responsible for managing an ISO 3166 country-code top-level domain.

The GAC normally meets with the Chair and other members of the ccNSO Council at each ICANN meeting to discuss issues of common concern and to identify methods for better co-operation.

The current Chair of the ccNSO is Ms Katrina Sataki.

## Further Information

[ccNSO website](https://ccnso.icann.org/en)

[ISO 3166](https://www.iso.org/iso-3166-country-codes.html)

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## Document Administration

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| **Title** | Meeting with ccNSO |
| **Distribution** | GAC Members |
| **Distribution Date** | 7 June 2018 |