



Madrid, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## SPAIN'S COMMENTS ON CWG – UCTN INTERIM PAPER

The Government of Spain appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the CWG – UCTN, through the submission of comments to the interim paper dated 9 February 2017.

First, we would like to thank all working group members and co-chairs for their hard work and commitment.

The Government of Spain wishes to share the following views:

1. The GAC Principles from 2007 on gTLDs state: *“ICANN should avoid country, territory or place names, and country, territory or regional language or people descriptions, unless in agreement with the relevant governments or public authorities.”*
2. Consistent with the Nairobi GAC Communiqué, discussions on country and territory names as TLDs should be held under a particular cross-community process lead by the ccNSO where interested parties such as the GAC and the GNSO can take part.
3. Module 2 Section 2.2.1.4.1 of the 2012 Applicant Guidebook should in the meantime be respected. In particular:
  - a) 2-letter ASCII Codes: the existing ICANN policy of reserving 2-letter codes for ccTLDs should be maintained.
  - b) 3-letter ASCII Codes: the use of 3-letter country codes could create significant end-user confusion with ccTLDs. Spain supports maintaining the current protections in place for country/territory names and representations. Nevertheless, individual countries should be able to choose whether the relevant three-character country/territory codes could potentially be used as a ccTLD.
  - c) ICANN should ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the interests of governments or public authorities in country or territory names, as well as certain other types of sub-national place names like Geographical Indications (GI), including where they are three-characters in length, that should not be delegated unless in agreement with the relevant governments or public authorities.
4. Even if it is not within the scope of this group, we wish to highlight that protections for country and territory names called for by the GAC Principles on new gTLDs should also apply to the second level, as provided for in Module 5 of the Applicant Guidebook and Specification 5 of the Registry Agreement.