

## Meeting with the GAC

### Geographical Names

My name is Annebeth Lange and I am the co-chair of the Cross Community WG on the use of names of Countries and Territories as TLDs. This WG was set-up following the recommendations of the ccNSO Study Group on this issue. The Study Group identified a range of issues around using different forms of the names of those countries and territories that are listed on the ISO 3166- 1 alpha two-code standard as Top-Level Domains. In particular the Study group focused on whether under the current and potential policies for selecting a Top level domain a country or territory could be used as ccTLD, IDN ccTLD or a new GTLD.

To put it in other words, which policy or procedure is applied to a country or territory name as TLD, determines the applicable governance framework, the structure of relationships between the relevant stakeholders (including end-users) and their respective roles and responsibilities. This is not just relevant for the selection or delegation stage, but also for subsequent stages, after a country or territory name Top Level Domain is operational.

The Cross-community working group was established to try to develop a framework on using country and territory names as top-level domains. It is envisioned that once developed, adopted and implemented such a framework would at a minimum improve the predictability and minimize confusion for all relevant stakeholders on use of these names. This CCWG has members from the GAC, GNSO, ccNSO and ALAC.

To be clear the scope of the cross-community wg is very limited. First, this WG only looks at different categories of names of those countries and their sub-divisions that are listed on the ISO 3166-1 list. It does NOT look at regions, provinces in countries, or other geographic names.

Secondly the scope is limited to Top Level Domains. So second level domains, such a Norway. Com, NLD. Org, AR.Info are out of scope.

In the view of the ccNSO Council there seems to be an overlap between the work of this group and the GAC WG on Geographical Names.

As I said the mandate for the Cross Community is only country & territory names according to the ISO 3166 list - the list where the ccTLDs can be found - not other geographical names - and only country and territory names used as TLDs - not second level. And since the GAC WG also is working on country and territory names, we are of the opinion that there is an overlap here.

In our view this overlap should and could be avoided, so that we are not working on the same issues and perhaps come to different proposals or solutions.

The Cross Community WG has discussed the possible conflict with Olga Cavalli and Elise Lindeberg in a meeting of the working group on Monday.

We appreciate and understand that the GAC has a strong view on this issue. However, to use the time for both you and us most effectively, we think some clarification between us could be beneficial.

We would appreciate if the GAC would at least delay its work on names for those countries and territories that are listed on the ISO 3166-1 list and participate in any way it deems appropriate in the work of the Cross-community working group until the CCWG has completed its work and instead concentrate on the other geographical names.

If necessary the GAC could always take up the tread again if you are not content by the result presented.

We, from our side, will inform the GAC more actively when progress is achieved.

Thank you