

# Geographic Top-level Domain Names

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**Geographical Top-level Domain Names:** Use of Country, territory or place names and references to language or people descriptions as a generic Top-level Domain name.

### **Geographical names x 2-letter country codes**

The use of Geographic Names differs from the ccTLDs acknowledged by IETF on the RFCs 920, 1033 and 1591 based on the ISO 3166-1 list.

RFC 920 - initial set of top-level domains and ccTLDs based on the ISO list.

RFC 1032 - Domain administrators guide

RFC 1591 - Reinforces the importance of the ISO list given that deciding what is a country is not under the scope of the IANA functions.

## **AGB (New gTLD Program Applicant Guidebook)**

States that a country or territory name is:

- (a) an alpha-3 code listed in ISO 3166
- (b) long-form and small-form name or a translation of it in any language
- (c) a short or long-form name with any association with a code that has been defined as exceptionally reserved
- (d) separable component of a country name designated on the “Separable Country Names List,” or is a translation of a name appearing on the list
- (e) a permutation of any of the mentioned names or
- (f) a name under which a country is known by an intergovernmental or treaty organization.

*Country and territory names ended up being excluded from the first round of New gTLDs program, and the use of other geographic names can only be permitted under demonstrated support from the appropriate governments.*

# **Geographic Names Cross-Community sessions - ICANN59**

**Community session n. 1:** Solicited feedback on the straw person document

New gTLD Subpro working group Strawperson's proposals

- (a) Repository of Names of Geographical Relevance
- (b) Geographic Public Interest Commitment
- (c) All the names being used to indicate geographic, linguistic or cultural origin should be submitted to a Governmental evaluation in order to obtain a support or non-objection and that Geographic TLDs should have preference in contention cases.
- (d) Allow the utilization of the ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 codes as gTLDs, provided there is governmental support/non-objection and the exclusive use of 2-characters for ccTLDs.

**Community session n. 2:** Portrayed information obtained through the face-to-face meetings between sessions one and two. Initially the notion of keeping the status quo the general consensus seemed to be that there were still issues with the AGB. Also a resistance of GAC about discussing this with GNSO.

**Thank You!**

**And join the NCSG ad-hoc Working Group on  
Geonames!**