



RWANDA
UTILITIES
REGULATORY
AUTHORITY

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Subject: Two-character country code release (.rw) at the second level

Reference is made to the ICANN proposal of 08th November 2016 and released on 13th December 2016 obliging the registry operators to release two-character country codes for second level domain registration.

The GAC has been consulted several times and some countries backed the proposal whereas others did not back the proposal and others were not present in GAC meetings according to GAC communiqués.

As there was no consensus on the two-character country code release at second Level, GAC members urged ICANN to request the relevant Registry or the Registrar to engage with the relevant GAC members.

The ICANN accredited registry operators wrote to different governments and national ccTLDs registries for consultation in a bid to exclusively reserve domains at the second level at a substantial fee within a specified period after which the two letters characters would be available for sale for all participating registrar partners. We recall that the ICANN Board resolution did neither clearly indicate the modalities for exclusive registrations nor provide better framework for cooperation between governments and registry operators.

The country code top-level domain at the second level would help the country to make economic growth and development, and to protect public interests instead of creating more and exorbitant expenses to the governments. The latter should not be required to pay a fee for reserving their two-character country codes to new gTLD applications.

Furthermore, as per the provisions of the Law governing Information and Communications Technologies, Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authorities (RURA) whose Internet governance issues are under its preview, determines the administration and management of the ".rw" domain name space. We would like to recall that two letters characters are provided by ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 list and the purpose of ISO 3166 is to establish codes for the representation of names of countries, territories or areas of geographical interest, and their subdivisions.

We would therefore like to express our concerns to ICANN Board for the use of .rw at the secondary level of generic top-level domains.

We would also like to request you to hold on the resolution, open a new consultation process for two-character country code release, and engage more governments until full consensus is reached or a balanced decision is taken.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

Sincerely Yours,



Patrick NYIRISHEMA
Director General



Cc:

- **Chief Executive Officer, RICTA**
- **Chair, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee, GAC**