ccTLD-ICANN Agreement

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Principles for ICANN - ccTLD Relationship

• Use original Postel - IANA ccTLD concept:
  • ccTLD manager is trustee for LIC
  • competent operation of registry & nameservers
  • consensus efforts to resolve disputes
  • respect views of governments

• Recognize ICANN as global consensus forum

• Use flexible agreement structure to accommodate varied circumstances:
  • different ccTLD registry models
  • different local needs
  • different governmental situations

• Complete MOU transition by reaching stable agreements with ccTLDs as soon as possible
Basic ICANN - ccTLD Agreement Structure

• Written agreement between ICANN and ccTLD manager
• Agreement should:
  – Assist ccTLD manager in serving needs of local Internet community
  – Provide for appropriate monitoring of ccTLD manager’s trust obligations
  – Enable ICANN to ensure global DNS interests are protected (technical stability, transparency in registration, etc.)
Special Concerns to Be Addressed in ICANN - ccTLD Agreements

- Appropriate application of local and global policies
- Circumstances in which delegations are changed
- ICANN’s performance of the IANA function
- Contributions to funding ICANN activities
ccTLD Agreements—Two Basic Situations

“The designated manager is the trustee of the top-level domain for both the nation, in the case of a country code, and the global Internet community.”

— J. Postel, RFC 1591

- **Legacy situation**: The IANA monitors the trust locally and globally
- **Triangular situation**: The national government, where interested, commits to responsible monitoring of the local interest; ICANN monitors the global interest
Documents for the Two Situations

• Legacy situation: Agreement between ICANN and ccTLD manager

• Triangular situation:
  • ccTLD manager and national government: agreement or equivalent addressing local interest (see .ca Umbrella Agreement)
  • National government and ICANN: letter or other communication
  • ccTLD manager and ICANN: agreement covering global interest

• Flexibility to accommodate other situations
ICANN & ccTLD Manager Responsibilities in Triangular situation

- **ICANN**
  - Maintain authoritative root server system
  - Maintain authoritative and publicly available ccTLD database
  - Maintain audit trail regarding delegations

- **ccTLD Manager**
  - Provide stable and secure registry and nameserver operation
  - Participate in development of and abide by ICANN consensus policies on global issues
  - Contribute to ICANN’s cost of operation
Further Elements for Legacy situation

- Commitment to operate ccTLD in trust for the interest of the local Internet community
- Mechanism for conversion to triangular situation
Next steps

- ICANN drafts to capture consensus points
- Support for triangular arrangements where needed/wanted
- Further input from ccTLDs and others welcome