



Akram Atallah
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Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
By email: akram.atallah@icann.org

4 March 2015

Dear Akram,

Dealing with GAC communications: a learning point from the recent issue of 2-character code release

You will be aware that BRG members have been engaged on the issue of the release of country names and two-character codes as these are key to efficient navigation and the customization of web presence to the benefit of our customers and consumers.

We were therefore disappointed that ICANN's reaction just before ICANN52 to a letter from the GAC chair on this subject which called primarily for improved information for GAC members, eroded business certainty. Certainty of process is vital for all of us.

We were encouraged to hear this re-stated in public by Board members at ICANN52 in Singapore. We were also encouraged to hear from Board members that a practical solution for the future to deal with different types of communication from the GAC was proposed. Such a solution would bring clarity and benefit all parties: GAC, board, staff, registries and ultimately users.

A solution proposed by ICANN Vice-Chairman Bruce Tonkin

We believe the solution proposed was for ICANN staff to classify a new GAC communication into 1 of 3 categories and then react accordingly.

Category 1. Consensus GAC advice as it relates to the interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws and international agreements.

Action: Such advice will state in the letter that it is Consensus advice under the relevant by-law and the Board will react as currently.

Category 2. Public Policy-related communication from the GAC.

Action: ICANN staff refer the public policy-related communication to the relevant ICANN policy body eg GNSO, CCNSO.

Example: a change to new TLDs policy.

Category 3. A communication on implementation that is relevant to the GAC.

Action: ICANN staff take no immediate action to stop current implementation but study and, if appropriate, implement the suggestion from the GAC, having consulted with the affected community on the proposed change.

Example: a better monitoring process for GAC members to review requests for 2 character code release.

We hope this simple system will avoid the issues we experienced recently and restore business certainty for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Sutton', is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Martin Sutton
President

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