



**Governmental Advisory Committee**

16 July 2015

Akram Atallah  
President, Global Domains Division  
cc: Fadi Chehade, ICANN CEO  
Steve Crocker, Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

Reference: Two-character codes as Second Level Domains

Dear Akram,

Through recent exchanges, I have understood that the GDD is currently planning for the next steps regarding release of two-character codes as second-level domains for new gTLDs. In view of the provisions in Specification 5 of the Registry Agreement, this would presumably involve review of registry measures to avoid confusion with the corresponding country codes in cooperation with concerned governments. However, in order to fulfill GAC members' expectations, it is advisable to provide the GAC with an outline of the foreseen next steps in suitable detail beforehand, regarding timeline, planned contacts and criteria to be applied for any release. Likewise, it would be appropriate to inform GAC members as to how GAC advice in this matter is going to be implemented, in particular, the clause about full consideration of governments' comments on the release of two-letter names, that was accepted by the Board in their public meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

I trust you agree with my assessment in this regard and look forward to receiving such an outline in advance of the launch of any related proceedings in practice.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Th. Schneider", written in a cursive style.

Mr Thomas Schneider  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee