

*Dear Alejandra, dear ccNSO councillors,*

*Although I fully understand that this is a complex issue and a difficult decision to take, I find it difficult to understand the Council's reasoning in full.*

*Key in this reasoning seems to be that: "the ccNSO remains ... a trusted partner of all ccTLD Managers".*

*The way I understand it, the term 'ccTLD managers' refers to the institutions managing the ccTLDs, not the individuals working for them.*

*If such an institution would be part of an aggressive state, violating international law and invading a sovereign country, I wonder:*

- 1. Why the ccNSO would have to remain a trusted partner of that institution?;*
- 2. If the council realizes that 1) above might lead to the ccNSO losing its position as a trusted partner with other ccNSO members?*

*Best,  
Roelof Meijer*

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Dear Roelof

First of all thank you for your email in response to the Council Statement.

With respect to your questions, let me start with the general observation that the need to treat all ccTLD Managers equally and impartially is fundamental. By definition, membership in the ccNSO is open to all ccTLD Managers listed in the IANA Root Zone Database. This follows the basic policies for ccTLDs, specifically RFC1591 as interpreted through the Framework of Interpretation. This foundational principle of the ccNSO was recently (2 March 2022) confirmed with the proposed Bylaw change to include IDN ccTLDs in the ccNSO. Membership in the ccNSO ends automatically after a transfer or removal from the IANA database. As ccNSO we do not have a process to suspend or end a membership, nor did we want it as recently as ICANN 70, when the question was raised explicitly.

Therefore, trust in the ccNSO is about being a trusted partner to all ccTLD Managers, independent of the environment in which they are embedded. It is about living up to our own ccNSO principles and acting predictably even under the worst circumstances and/or sometimes even at the expense of one's personal views.

To be very clear, the ccNSO Council condemns violence and war to resolve differences, now and in the future, anywhere in the world.

Best regards,  
Alejandra Reynoso  
On behalf of the ccNSO Council