Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Regional Organizations for Country Code Top Level Domain Registries (ROs)

We,

Africa Top Level Domains Organization, the pan-African organization of African country code top level domains registries, headquartered at Kenya Network Information Centre, CA Centre, P.o.Box 1461 Sarit Centre 00606 Nairobi, Kenya, represented by Dr Paulos Barton Nyirenda, and hereinafter referred to as AFTLD;

and

Asia Pacific Country Code Top Level Domain Association, the organization for Asian and Pacific country code top level domains registries, headquartered at: No.1 Building, 4 South 4th Street, Zhongguancun, Haidian District, Beijing, 100 190 China, represented by Mr. LIM Choon Sai, Board Chair, and hereinafter referred to as APTLD;

and

Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries, a non-profit Association for the European country code top level domain registries, 20, Rue Belliard, Brussels, Belgium at; represented by Danko Jevtovic, Treasurer, and hereinafter referred to as CENTR;

and

Latin America and Caribbean Top Level Domain Organization, a non-profit Association of country code top level domains registries for Latin America and Caribbean, headquartered at Casa de Internet de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, Rambla Rep. de México 6125, 11400 Montevideo-Uruguay, represented by Mr. Eduardo Santoyo, Board Chair, and hereinafter referred to as LACTLD,

and jointly referred to as Regional Organizations (ROs) and/or the Parties,

Recalling
- That the ROs have shared the mission of being regional platforms for the dialogue, cooperation, information exchange and best practices sharing among their members;
- That the ROs have long cooperated on various matters pertinent to the above mission and represented and exercised the communication function on their members' behest before and within various international public and non-governmental organizations that form the Internet Governance Ecosystem;
- That the mission of ensuring a best service to their members necessitates, inter alia, observance of economies of scale and a maximum awareness raising and information exchange for the benefit of the members;

herewith agree to collaborate in exchanging information related to ccTLD administration and operation, best practices amongst their members, global surveys, and other mechanisms of sharing relevant information and best practices and agree to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) guided by the following framework:

Article 1: General Framework

This MoU aims to establish the framework for collaboration that between the Parties intend to develop within the period specified by Article. The Parties commit to formalize the existing cooperation in the areas specified above.
As such, they will engage their best efforts in the activities mentioned below.

**Article 2: Collaboration**

The Parties agree to:

- Hold, at a minimum, a quarterly conference call or in-person meeting to exchange, or plan an exchange of, and sharing of, relevant information;
- Share information about upcoming meetings and presentations and update hereof on the mailing list rtldo@aptd.org
- Make the best effort to contribute to each other's meetings and provide regional updates to the extent permitted by each RO's internal operational framework and guidelines;
- Provide regular updates on their calendar of activities for uploading on the rtldo.org website
- Collaborate on surveys or related activities on an annual basis
- Circulate amongst themselves information related to the objectives of this framework which they deem relevant and beneficial for all the Parties;
- Create a jointly maintained folder that contains relevant information, updates, case studies and other resources for the Parties.
- At every ICANN meeting, hold a joint meeting, chaired by the RO responsible for the region the meeting is held at, with the chairing organization providing an agenda, arranging a venue and other facilities and sending notes and an action item list immediately following the meeting. When the meeting is held in North America, a Chair will be appointed during the previous meeting.
- Contribute to each others newsletters with short relevant overviews of the ‘State of the Industry’ in their regions
- Rotate the lead in organization and chairing of IGF workshops or equivalent sessions at IGF.
- Synchronize their efforts on the Internet Governance arena
- Collaborate on an annual global ccTLD industry report

**Article 3: Organization of the Collaboration**

The Parties agree to rotate amongst themselves organizing this partnership in terms of coordinating the conference calls and in-person meetings.

The Parties may create working groups or similar structures to focus on specific issues or areas mutually agreed by the Parties. The working groups will report to the Parties.

The working language in the exercise of this MoU and carrying out the collaboration shall be the English language.
Each Party commits to share information and outcomes of the collaboration to its members, and may translate such information to other languages other than English, where possible.

Article 4: Duration of the MoU

This MoU shall take effect as of the date of signing by the Parties and shall remain in effect until through March 15, 2018.

Thereafter, this MoU shall be renewed automatically each year, unless at least two Parties hereto serve a notice of termination or withdrawal.

Article 5: Withdrawal from the MoU

If a Party wishes to withdraw from this MoU, it shall give a written notice (by email) in no less than 60 (sixty) days to the other Parties.

Article 6: Final Provisions

Any amendment hereto shall be made in writing and become effective if unanimously agreed upon by the Parties.

Each Party recognizes and agrees that this MoU does not create any rights, liabilities or obligations that would have binding effect on any Party hereto.

In witness whereof,

signed at the ICANN Meeting in Marrakech, 07 March 2016 in four original copies.

FOR AFTLD  FOR APTLD  FOR CENTR  FOR LACTLD

Dr Paulus Nyirenda  Lim Chdon Sai  Danko Jevtovic  Eduardo Santoyo
Board Chair  Board Chair  Treasurer  Board Chair