



Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia
Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission
MCMC Tower 1, Jalan IMPACT, Cyber 6
63000 Cyberjaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan
MALAYSIA

Our ref.: SKMM (T)06-NEAM/300.004/Jld.01/28

24 March 2026

MR. KURT ERIK LINDQVIST

President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300,
Los Angeles, California 90094-2536,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

by email

Dear Sir,

**FOLLOW-UP ON PRIOR CORRESPONDENCE AND CLARIFICATION ON
SPECIFICATION 5 UNDER THE ICANN NEW GTLD REGISTRY
AGREEMENT**

Reference is made to the above and the Commission's correspondence dated 1 December 2025.

2. The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission ("the Commission") is the designated authority vested with the power to control, planning, administration, management and assignment of the numbering and electronic addressing in Malaysia, pursuant to Section 179 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 ("the Act").

3. The Commission further refers to the recent Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers 85th Public Forum ("ICANN85") held on 12 March 2026 and acknowledges the explanations provided by the ICANN Board in relation to this matter.

4. As ICANN prepares for the next round of new gTLD applications anticipated in April 2026, the Commission considers it timely to seek further clarification and understanding of the mechanisms in place to ensure

effective monitoring and enforcement of Specification 5 of the New gTLD Registry Agreement, particularly in relation to reserved country and territory names.

5. The Commission notes that the anticipated increase in application volumes and broader participation in the forthcoming round may increase operational complexity across registries and registrars. In this regard, the consistent and transparent application of Specification 5 remains important to ensure that country and territory names are not registered or used without the appropriate governmental non-objection, and to maintain confidence in the governance framework of the Domain Name System.

6. In this context, the Commission would appreciate clarification on the following matters:

6.1 Proactive Detection of Specification 5 Violations

The mechanisms by which registry operators and ICANN Contractual Compliance detect potential non-compliance with Specification 5, including situations where reserved country or territory names may be inadvertently released or registered.

6.2 Compliance Audits

Information on the frequency and triggers of compliance audits related to reserved-name protections, including whether such audits are conducted routinely or primarily in response to external reports or complaints.

6.3 Investigation and Remediation

The procedures followed by ICANN Contractual Compliance when such cases are identified, including how registry operators are required to rectify non-compliant registrations.

6.4 Correction or Enforcement Measures

The type of corrective or enforcement actions that may be applied to registry operators where non-compliance with Specification 5 is established.

6.5 Government Notification and Engagement

Whether, and how relevant governments are notified or engaged when enforcement actions involve domain names incorporating their country or territory names.

6.6 **Historical Specification 5 Incidents**

Any available aggregated information or statistics regarding past incidents involving the inadvertent release or registration of reserved country or territory names under Specification 5, including a general overview of how such cases were resolved.

6.7 **Actions Involving Registrars**

Where instances of improper registration involve registrar processes, the Commission would appreciate clarification on how ICANN addresses such matters, including any applicable corrective or compliance actions under the relevant agreement.

7. The Commission believes that greater clarity and understanding on these matters would assist in strengthening transparency and confidence in the protection of country and territory names within the Domain Name System, particularly in preparation for the forthcoming round of new gTLD applications, and in supporting the Commission's role in providing informed public-policy input within the Governmental Advisory Committee ("GAC").

8. The Commission would appreciate ICANN's clarification on the matters outlined above and looks forward to continued engagement in the effective implementation of the relevant safeguards.

Yours faithfully,



NOOR ILYANA ZAKARIA

Head, Licensing and Monitoring Division

On behalf of the Chairman