

Policy Development Process (PDP) Update

Protection of Certain International Organization Names in all gTLDs

July 2016

Upcoming Important Dates:

The Implementation Review Team continues to work with ICANN staff on implementing those Board-adopted PDP recommendations that are not inconsistent with GAC advice. The GNSO Council is awaiting the final proposal from the IGO “small group” prior to considering possible amendments to the remaining PDP recommendations that are inconsistent with GAC advice. Following its letter to the ICANN Board requesting Board input on next steps for resolution of the outstanding issues on this topic in late May, the GNSO Council held a discussion with interested Board members at ICANN56. The Council is currently expecting a response from the Board to its letter following up on the recent discussions.

Summary:

In November 2013, the GNSO Council unanimously adopted all the consensus recommendations from its PDP Working Group regarding protections at the top and second level in all gTLDs for the names and acronyms of certain International Government Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs), including the Red Cross international movement and its national societies (RCRC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Notably, on IGO acronyms, the GNSO did not recommend reservation either at the top or second levels; instead it recommended protection by way of claims notices via the Trademark Clearinghouse.

On 30 April 2014 the Board [adopted](#) those of the GNSO’s recommendations that are not inconsistent with GAC advice received on the topic and requested additional time to consider the remaining recommendations (which include those relating to IGO acronym protections). It also resolved to facilitate dialogue between the GAC, GNSO and other affected parties to resolve the remaining differences. An Implementation Review Team to implement the Board-adopted recommendations under the direction of the Global Domains Division has been formed and has begun to discuss a draft Implementation Plan.

In June 2014 the NGPC [requested](#) that the GNSO Council consider amending its remaining policy recommendations with respect to the nature and duration of protection for IGO acronyms, the full names of the entities making up the international Red Cross movement and the names of 189 national Red Cross societies. The GNSO Council [responded](#) to the NGPC’s request in October seeking further clarification and in January 2015 received the NGPC’s [reply](#) advising that discussions remain ongoing. In the meantime, at the ICANN meeting in Los Angeles in October 2014, the NGPC [resolved](#) to protect the names of the international Red Cross and the 189 national societies on an interim basis. Staff is currently working with the Red Cross on implementation of this resolution. The GNSO Council will proceed to consider if it should make amendments to its adopted recommendations, pursuant to the GNSO Operating Procedures, upon receipt of a response to its 31 May letter from the Board and delivery of the IGO “small group” final proposal.

Engagement Opportunity Status:



The GAC's [Los Angeles Communique](#) reaffirmed its previous advice on the protection of IGO names and acronyms and also acknowledges the NGPC's latest resolution to temporarily protect the Red Cross' national society identifiers until the differences between the GNSO's consensus recommendations and GAC advice are reconciled. In its [Singapore Communique](#) the GAC expressed its intention to continue to work with interested parties to reach agreement on appropriate permanent protections for IGO names and acronyms, including working with the GNSO PDP Working Group on IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms. The [Buenos Aires Communique](#) expressed the GAC's hope for a concrete solution by ICANN54 while welcoming the preventative protections that remain in place until the implementation of permanent mechanisms. In its [Dublin Communique, the GAC](#) requested the ICANN Board to facilitate the timely completion of the work of the IGO small group in order to resolve the issue of IGO protections. The GAC's [Marrakech Communiqué](#) noted the GAC's hope for resolution of the remaining differences between the GNSO and the GAC as to permanent protections for the Red Cross identifiers at issue. Most recently, the GAC's advice in its [Helsinki Communique](#) was for the Board to continue to pursue discussions with the GAC and the GNSO, and to engage with the IGOs, to reach a resolution on the issues.

Additional Information:

- PDP Working Group Final Report:
- <http://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/igo-ingo-final-10nov13-en.pdf>
- GNSO Council Recommendation Report to ICANN Board:
<http://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/council-board-igo-ingo-23jan14-en.pdf>
- ICANN Board Resolution of 30 April 2014: <https://features.icann.org/gnso-policy-recommendations-igo-ingo-protections>
- NGPC Letter of 16 June 2014: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/correspondence/chalaby-to-robinson-16jun14-en.pdf>
- GNSO Council Response of 7 October 2014 to NGPC Letter:
<http://gnso.icann.org/en/correspondence/robinson-to-chalaby-disspain-07oct14-en.pdf>
- NGPC Resolution of 12 October 2014 on interim protections for the international Red Cross and national Red Cross entities: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-new-gtld-2014-10-12-en#2.d>
- NGPC Letter Response to GNSO Council of 15 January 2015:
<http://gnso.icann.org/en/correspondence/chalaby-to-robinson-15jan15-en.pdf>
- GNSO Council Letter to the Chair of the ICANN Board, 31 May 2016:
<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/gnso-council-chairs-to-crocker-31may16-en.pdf>