



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

ICANN

11 March 2012

Heather Dryden
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

Stephane van Gelder
Chair, Generic Names Supporting Organization Council

Re: IGO Request Regarding Registration and Use of IGO Names in DNS

Dear Heather and Stephane:

As you may be aware, on 13 December 2011 the OECD forwarded ICANN an open letter from IGO Legal Counsel expressing concerns of the IGO community regarding the registration and use of IGO names in the domain name system (DNS). A copy of the open letter is attached.

Issues regarding protections to be afforded to IGOs have been raised throughout the formation of the New gTLD Program. Upon advice of the GAC, for the first application round for New gTLDs, no entity may apply for a list of designated strings representing the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and the International Olympic Committee. The extent of further protections to be afforded to the Red Cross/IOC names was identified as a topic for policy advice developed by the GAC and GNSO, and I understand work in that regard is ongoing.

The IGOs in the attached letter are requesting at minimum that the protections afforded to the Red Cross and IOC be extended to all IGOs. In addition, there is a request for a "preemptive mechanism for IGOs at the second level."

In light of the GAC's role under the ICANN bylaws to provide advice to the Board "on matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws and international agreements," and

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because of the relationship between the IGOs' request and the work ongoing regarding the Red Cross/IOC, as well as the past GNSO work regarding the Reserved Name List, the ICANN Board formally requests that the GAC and GNSO provide policy advice to ICANN regarding the IGOs' request. Policy advice on the expansion of protections will inform ICANN in providing a meaningful response to the IGOs.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Best regards,

Steve Crocker
Chair, ICANN Board
CEO, ICANN

Rod Beckstrom
President and