

GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ISSUE: Protection of Certain International Organization Names in all gTLDs

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES: Continuing implementation of Board-adopted PDP recommendations not inconsistent with GAC advice; GNSO Council consideration of possible amendments to remaining GNSO PDP recommendations to reconcile inconsistencies with GAC advice; implementation of Board resolution on interim protections for national Red Cross societies.

SUMMARY:

In November 2013, the GNSO Council unanimously adopted 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). The GNSO did not recommend reservation of IGO acronym identifiers either at the top or second levels; instead it recommended that protection for IGO acronyms be done 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 is being formed.

In June 2014 the NGPC had [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. At the Los Angeles meeting, 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.

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.

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>