

Policy Development Process (PDP) Update

Protection of Certain International Organization Names in all gTLDs

December 2016

Upcoming Important Dates:

The Implementation Review Team that is working with ICANN staff on implementing those Board-adopted PDP recommendations that are not inconsistent with GAC advice is finalizing draft consensus policy language for public comment. Following receipt of the IGO Small Group Proposal in early October 2016 and further discussions with the GAC and the Board at ICANN57, the GNSO Council is considering the Board's new proposal to engage in a facilitated discussion with the GAC, to resolve remaining differences between the GAC and the GNSO on the topic of appropriate preventative protections for certain Red Cross identifiers and IGO acronyms.

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).

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 and Red Cross national society names). 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 was formed to implement those recommendations adopted by the Board.

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, as well as the names of the entities making up the international Red Cross movement and 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. The names of the international Red Cross and the 189 national societies as well as IGO names and acronyms are currently protected on an interim basis. In 2014, a small group of IGO and GAC representatives began working with ICANN Board representatives on a proposal to reconcile the inconsistent GNSO policy recommendations and GAC advice, facilitated by ICANN staff.

The GNSO Council [wrote](#) to the Board on 31 May 2016 to follow up on certain discussions at ICANN55 in Marrakech. Following additional discussions at ICANN56 in Helsinki, the Board [responded](#) to the GNSO Council in October 2016 and forwarded the final IGO Small Group Proposal at the same time.

Engagement Opportunity Status:



The GAC's [Los Angeles Communiqué](#) 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 Communiqué](#) 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 Communiqué](#) 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 Communiqué, 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. In its [Helsinki Communiqué](#), the GAC requested that the Board continue to pursue discussions with the GAC and the GNSO, and to engage with the IGOs, to reach a resolution on the issues. The GAC's [Hyderabad Communiqué](#) advised the Board: (1) to engage with all parties in order to facilitate, through a transparent and good faith dialogue, the resolution of outstanding inconsistencies between GAC advice and GNSO recommendations with regard to the protection of IGO acronyms using the IGO Small Group Proposal as a starting point; and (2) to urgently request the GNSO to amend its policy recommendation concerning the Red Cross international movement and national society names, and to confirm their protections as permanent.

The Board's proposal at ICANN57 that the GAC and GNSO engage in a good faith facilitated dialogue to resolve these outstanding issues is currently under consideration by the affected parties.

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/gnsso-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/gnsso-council-chairs-to-crocker-31may16-en.pdf>
- Board response to the GNSO Council, enclosing IGO Small Group Proposal, 4 October 2016:
<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/crocker-to-austin-et-al-04oct16-en.pdf>