Implementation Status: Protections for Certain Red Cross Names in All Generic Top-Level Domains

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This section of the Policy Briefing should be read together with the following section entitled "Implementation Status: Protection of International Governmental Organization (IGO)-International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) Identifiers in All Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) Policy Recommendations."

The Protection of IGO-INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs Policy Development Process (PDP) was completed in November 2013. Although the GNSO Council accepted all the PDP working group recommendations, the ICANN Board to date has approved only those recommendations that are consistent with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) advice received on the subject. These recommendations have been subsequently **implemented** with a Policy Effective date of 1 August 2018. The remaining recommendations are still under Board consideration. These were the subject of a facilitated dialogue between the GAC and the GNSO at ICANN58 as part of a process to reconcile the GAC advice and the GNSO PDP recommendations.

Following that facilitated discussion, the ICANN Board requested that the GNSO Council consider initiating the GNSO policy amendment process in accordance with the GNSO's procedures. The GNSO Council agreed to launch the policy amendment process and reconvene the original PDP working group. The working group developed a finite, limited list of specific names of 191 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies as well as a limited, defined set of variants for these names.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The ICANN Bylaws contain provisions that outline specific steps to be taken by the Board in cases where it disagrees with either GAC advice or GNSO PDP recommendations. In this case, the Board elected not to trigger either of these processes when it only adopted those GNSO PDP recommendations that were consistent with GAC advice in April 2014 and requested additional time to consider the remaining, inconsistent recommendations.

The GNSO Council launched the PDP on the Protection of IGO-INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs in November 2012. The aim is to consider what the appropriate form and scope of protections would be at both the top-level and second-level of the

Domain Name System (DNS) for the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and other IGOs and INGOs. All these organizations perform important public interest or humanitarian work. Cybersquatting and related abuse of domain names identical or confusingly similar to their names and acronyms could significantly impact their missions and resources. The GNSO Council approved and the Board adopted part of the PDP outcomes, which included consensus recommendations that a limited list of Red Cross Red Crescent, IOC, IGO, and INGO identifiers be reserved.

For the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, these are "Red Cross," "Red Crescent," "Red Crystal," and "Red Lion and Sun" at the top-level and second-level. For IGOs, only their full organizational names are reserved at the second-level. The appropriate DNS protections for many of the other identifiers associated with the Red Cross Red Crescent and IGOs – e.g., Red Cross Red Crescent National Society names, the names and acronyms of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and IGO acronyms – have yet to be finalized. The facilitated dialogue that took place between representatives of the GAC and the GNSO at ICANN58 was an attempt to reconcile the remaining inconsistencies between GAC advice and the GNSO PDP recommendations.

The GNSO Council's vote in May 2017 initiated the policy amendment process only for specific names associated with the Red Cross. Discussion over IGO acronyms is ongoing.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?
The ICANN org has worked with the IRT to produce an implementation plan that was published for **Public Comment**. In January 2020, the **Summary and Analysis Report** of the Public Comment was published.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The policy implementation plan will be revised per the comments received and published with an announcement for implementation. At that time, the contracted parties will receive a legal notice to implement with an effective date. The goal is to publish this policy implementation plan in February 2020.

MORE INFORMATION

- Public Comment on the "Implementation Plan for the GNSO Consensus Policy Relating to the Protection of Certain Red Cross Names": **https://go.icann.org/36WVPvf**

- IRT workspace: **https://community.icann.org/x/RJFCAw**

- PDP webpage: **https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/igo-ingo**

- Working Group workspace: **https://community.icann.org/x/2YJEAg**

- ICANN Board resolution of April 2014 adopting the PDP recommendations consistent with GAC advice and requesting more time for the remaining recommendations: **https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2014-04-30-en - 2.a**

- GAC webpage listing GAC Communiqué advice relating to IGO protections: **https://gacweb.icann.org/display/GACADV/IGO+Names+and+Acronyms**

- Documents, meetings, and mailing list for GAC-GNSO facilitated dialogue: **https://community.icann.org/x/eoPRAw**

- ICANN Board resolution at ICANN58 requesting that the GNSO Council consider amending the adopted PDP recommendations pertaining to Red Cross names: **https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2017-03-16-en#2.e.i**

- GNSO PDP Manual: **https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/annex-2-pdp-manual-01sep16-en.pdf**

- GNSO Council resolution initiating the policy amendment process: **https://gnso.icann.org/en/council/resolutions#20170503-071**

- ICANN Board resolution for Adoption of GNSO Consensus Policy relating to Certain Red Cross and Red Crescent Names at the Second Level of the Domain Name System: **https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2019-01-27-en#2.d**

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