
Implementation Status: Protection of IGO-INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs Policy Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN57 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Implementation Review Team (IRT) is scheduled to meet at ICANN57 to complete its deliberations over a proposed draft Consensus Policy. The IRT meeting will be held on Monday 7 November at 15:15.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This Policy Development Process (PDP) was initiated to develop policy recommendations for the provision of protection for identifiers (e.g. names or acronyms) of certain International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), including the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement (RCRC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The PDP Working Group completed its work in November 2013 and all its consensus recommendations were [approved](#) by the GNSO Council. In April 2014, the ICANN Board [adopted](#) those of the PDP recommendations that were consistent with GAC advice received on the topic, and requested more time to consider the remaining, inconsistent recommendations. The adopted recommendations relate to protection at the top and second level for specific RCRC, IOC and IGO names (with an Exception Procedure to be designed for the affected organizations), and a 90-days Claims Notification process at the second level for certain INGO acronyms.

This update concerns the implementation status of the recommendations that were adopted by the Board in April 2014. The implementation project is not concerned with the ongoing resolution process for the remaining, inconsistent recommendations or the deliberations of the ongoing PDP Working Group on IGO-INGO Curative Rights Protections.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Issues related to whether certain international organizations such as IGOs, the RCRC and the IOC should receive special protection for their names at the top level and second level in the domain name system have been raised throughout the development of the 2012 New gTLD program. In the PDP launched by the GNSO Council, the scope of organizations was expanded to also consider International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) other than the RCRC and IOC. All these organizations perform important public interest or humanitarian work and have reported that cyber-squatting and related abuse of domain names identical or confusingly similar to their names and acronyms could significantly impact their missions and resources.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

Following the Board’s adoption of the GNSO policy recommendations that were consistent with GAC advice, ICANN staff under the leadership of the Global Domains Division (GDD) began developing an Implementation Plan. An Implementation Review Team (IRT) comprising community members and led by GDD was formed and is meeting regularly to discuss and agree on timelines and steps for implementation. Most recently, the IRT discussed completion of the Draft Consensus Policy language, the proposed process for updating the list of IGO and INGO names, and needed features for the 90-days Claims Notification system that would apply to INGO identifiers (other than the RCRC and IOC).

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The GDD is finalizing the draft consensus policy, in coordination with IRT. Once finalized, the draft consensus policy will be published for Public Comment.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you wish to join the Implementation Review Team, please contact the GNSO Secretariat (gnso-secs@ICANN.org). The IRT will also be meeting at ICANN57, on Monday 7 November from 15:15-16:30. Please join the IRT to provide feedback on their work and to find out more about their progress.

MORE INFORMATION

- Webpage for the PDP WG containing background information, the WG’s Final Report with Minority Positions, the GNSO Council’s resolutions and the ICANN Board’s actions in relation to the PDP recommendations: hgnso.ICANN.org/en/group-activities/active/igo-ingo
- Online Wiki Space for the IRT containing membership information and progress updates: community.ICANN.org/x/RJFCaw

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