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# Implementation Status: Protection of International Governmental Organization-International Non-Governmental Organization Identifiers in All Generic Top-Level Domains Policy Recommendations

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN58 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The Implementation Review Team (IRT) is scheduled to meet at ICANN58 on Wednesday, 15 March (Day 5) at 15:15-16:45 to complete its deliberations over a proposed draft implementation plan and prepare for the Public Comment process as the next step.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

The Policy Development Process (PDP) on the Protection of International Governmental Organization (IGO)-International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) Identifiers in All Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) was initiated to develop policy recommendations for the provision of protection for identifiers (e.g. names or acronyms) of certain IGOs and INGOs, including the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement (RCRC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The PDP Working Group (WG) completed its work in November 2013 and all of its consensus recommendations were **approved** by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (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 full 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 project covers only the implementation status of the recommendations that were adopted by the ICANN Board in April 2014. It is not concerned with the ongoing resolution process for the remaining, inconsistent recommendations (including on IGO acronyms and remaining names of the RCRC) or the deliberations of the ongoing PDP Working Group (WG) 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 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).

### **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

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

### **WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

If you wish to join the IRT, contact the GNSO Secretariat at [gnso-secs@ICANN.org](mailto:gnso-secs@ICANN.org). You may also join the IRT meeting in ICANN58 to provide feedback on their work and to find out more about their progress.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

- PDP Webpage: [gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities](https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities)
- IRT Workspace: [community.icann.org/x/RJFCaw](https://community.icann.org/x/RJFCaw)

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