



28 February 2013

Dr Steve Crocker, Chair, ICANN Board
Mr Cherine Chalaby, Chair, ICANN Board New gTLD Program Committee

Dear Steve, Dear Cherine,

Re: Protections for certain IGO names and acronyms by inclusion on a Reserved Names list

At the 26 November 2012 meeting, the ICANN Board requested that the ICANN GNSO Council advise the Board by no later than 28 February 2013 if it is aware of any concerns, such as with the global public interest or the security or stability of the DNS, that the Board should take into account in making its decision about whether to include second level protections for certain IGO names and acronyms by inclusion on a Reserved Names List in section 2.2.1.2.3 of the Applicant Guidebook, applicable in all new gTLD registries approved in the first round of the New gTLD Program.

With this letter, the GNSO Council would like to respond to that 26 November 2012 request.

Primarily, the GNSO Council view is that the question as to whether or not there are overarching concerns that the board should take into account, such as with respect to the global public interest and/or security or stability of the DNS, can only be properly and fully answered by the completion of the thorough, diligent work associated with a PDP.

With respect to the temporary protections for the International Olympic Committee and the International Committee of the Red Cross / Red Crescent, a directly comparable request was made to the GNSO Council and the Board asked for a response by 31 January 2013. In the light of the 20 December 2012 GNSO Council decision on temporary protections, we understand that the Board deemed the question relating to concerns such as with the global public interest or the security or stability of the DNS to be sufficiently answered, at least on temporary basis. Although we note here that the GNSO has not yet completed its PDP including on potential protections for the above organizations.

In this regard, please be aware that the PDP Working Group working on this issue (IGO / INGO WG) has deliberated on the specific point raised by your question and concerns have been voiced regarding provisional protections for IGO names. Indeed, a minority position has been advanced within the Working Group that the global public interest may indeed be harmed by such temporary protections.

In any event, please be assured that the Working Group is working on this complicated matter with focus and urgency and that the GNSO Council is willing to provide a comprehensive update on the progress that has been made to date with respect to this policy matter at the earliest convenience of the Board.

I trust that this is a satisfactory response to your request but should you require further clarification or input, please revert to me on behalf of the Council.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Robinson
Chair, ICANN GNSO Council