

Mr. Jonathan Robinson
Chair, ICANN GNSO Council

20 March 2014

Dear Jonathan,

On behalf of the ICANN Board New gTLD Program Committee (NGPC), I write to provide you with an update on the NGPC's ongoing work to develop a comprehensive proposal in response to the GNSO policy recommendations regarding Protection of IGO-INGO Identifiers in All gTLDs and the advice from the GAC in its Buenos Aires Communiqué addressing the same topic.

As you are aware, at the ICANN Board's 7 February 2014 meeting, the Board directed the NGPC to: (1) consider the policy recommendations from the GNSO as it continues to actively develop an approach to respond to the GAC advice on protections for IGOs; and (2) develop a comprehensive proposal to address the GAC advice and the GNSO policy recommendations for consideration by the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Our goal is to work with the GNSO, GAC and other members of the community to find a workable solution that balances the needs and concerns of all involved. In that spirit, please find attached a draft proposal that was transmitted to the GAC Chair in response to the ongoing dialogue between the GAC and the NGPC concerning protections for IGO acronyms at the second level. I want to highlight a few concepts included in the proposal:

- The TMCH is proposed to be modified to enable eligible IGOs to submit, at no cost, up to two acronyms representing their names in up to two different languages. (Currently, IGO acronyms are temporarily being protected through the reserved list pursuant to Specification 5 of the New gTLD Registry Agreement.)
- Certain aspects of the Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS) are proposed to be modified for disputes involving IGOs to enable these organization to use the URS.
- Rules and procedures of an arbitration process to resolve claims of abuse of IGO names and acronyms are proposed to be developed, in consultation with IGOs.

I also want to highlight that the proposal includes a section acknowledging the impact of future GNSO PDPs on modifications to the URS and any arbitration mechanism available for IGOs. The NGPC is aware that this important work in the GNSO is already underway with the publishing of a Preliminary Issue Report on 10 March 2014 addressing access by IGOs and INGOs to the UDRP and URS. The NGPC will continue to monitor the ongoing work in the GNSO on this issue.

We recognize that that the GNSO has provided consensus recommendations to the ICANN Board, and along with that comes certain obligations under the ICANN Bylaws. As we work toward developing a comprehensive proposal to address protections for IGOs, we also recognize that there are specific GNSO policy recommendations that differ from the proposal to implement the GAC's advice. In addition, the temporary protections currently in place for the IGOs run contrary to the GNSO recommendation that would prohibit reservations for IGO acronyms at the second level. We realize that it will take additional discussions with all interested parties in order to try to reflect as much as possible the views of all the stakeholders that are likely to be affected.

We anticipate that this will be a topic of discussion among all of the interested parties during the ICANN 49 Meeting in Singapore and we can continue to work together through the multi-stakeholder model towards our common goal.

Sincerely,

Cherine Chalaby
Chair – New gTLD Program Committee