

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: NEXT ROUND

gTLD

Issue Overview:

Protection of IGO/INGO Identifiers in the Next Round AGB

2025-08-21 | 13:00-14:00 UTC



Status

- ICANN org and IRT agree that under the SubPro and IDN EPDP Phase 1 recommendations, strings that are reserved names (referred to in 2012 as ‘strings ineligible for delegation’) should not be be part of the string similarity evaluation.
- ICANN org and the IRT do not agree on whether the protection awarded to the IGO/INGO identifiers, that was granted to them via the IGO/INGO recommendations, extends to confusingly similar strings.

IGO/INGO Recommendation

Recs 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 3.3.1

Top-Level protections of Exact Match, Full Name Scope 1 identifiers of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement/International Olympic Committee/International Governmental Organizations are placed in the Applicant Guidebook section 2.2.1.2.3, Strings "Ineligible for Delegation" [= reserved names].

Recs 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.2

For Red Cross Red Crescent Movement/ International Olympic Committee/International Governmental Organizations, identifiers, if placed in the Applicant Guidebook as ineligible for delegation at the Top-Level, an exception procedure should be created for cases where a protected organization wishes to apply for their protected string at the Top-Level.

Question: Does this recommendation allow for strings that are confusingly similar to the protected strings to be delegated?

Hypothetical if Protected Strings are NOT part of string similarity review:

A string that would otherwise have been found confusingly similar to the protected names could be delegated, rendering it impossible for the protected organization to obtain 'their' string in future rounds.

Hypothetical if Protected Strings ARE part of string similarity review:

All applied-for strings would be evaluated whether they are confusingly similar to the reserved names list, i.e., the strings protected by the IGO/INGO recommendations, if any applied for string were to be found confusingly similar, it would not be able to proceed to delegation.

Input from the Red Cross/Red Crescent to the IGO-INGO PDP WG Initial Report

“The establishment of a string similarity review to prevent the registration of strings confusingly similar to the Red Cross and Red Crescent designations and related names at the top and second levels. This would reflect the provisions of international humanitarian law expressly prohibiting unauthorised use, at all times, of imitations of the designations (Article 53 of the First Geneva Convention). Illustrations of such imitations include, for example, ‘Red Kross’ or ‘Redd Crescent’.”

See: <https://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-igo-ingo-initial-14jun13/msg00000.html>

Board Correspondence

- Asks the Council to interpret the IGO/INGO recommendation so that the AGB can be finalized.
- States that it believes that the IGO/INGO names should be protected via string similarity evaluation, also stating the global public interest.
- If the Council agrees that the protected strings should not be included in the string similarity evaluation, the Board has laid out how it would work with the relevant organizations in case strings that could be found confusingly similar to the protected names were to be applied for.

Possible Path Forward

- Council to agree on the intent of the IGO/INGO recommendations with regard to protecting the applicable strings for future rounds.
- Not to endanger the AGB timeline or put undue pressure on the Council, ICANN org could update the AGB in a way that it reflects the current consensus view of the IRT: not to include the reserved names in the string similarity evaluation.
- If the Council comes to the same conclusion then no changes to the AGB are necessary.
- If the Council comes to the conclusion that the strings should be included in the string similarity evaluation, then the AGB can be changed either with the input from the IRT (if this occur prior to Board adoption) or the help of the SPIRT (if this occurs post Board adoption).

Annex

Reserved Strings

Reserved Names per IGO-INGO PDP

slide 1/3

Name	DNS Label 1
Red Cross	redcross
Red Crescent	redcrescent
Red Crystal	redcrystal
Red Lion and Sun	redlionandsun
Croix Rouge	croixrouge
Croissant Rouge	croissantrouge
Cristal Rouge	cristalrouge
Lion et Soleil Rouge	lionetsoleilrouge
Cruz Roja	cruzroja
Media Luna Roja	medialunaroja
Cristal Rojo	cristalrojo
León y Sol Rojos	xn--lenysolrojos-1hb
Красный Крест	xn--80aklccqteffl6h
Красный полумесяц	xn--80aklchgejigmhx9b1dvd
Красный кристалл	xn--80aaxddcjam2aeifo3k
Красный лев и солнце	xn--80aeibodfkdogkspg7fsd
الصليب الأحمر	xn--igbhad1ayx3jbcn8c
الهلال الأحمر	xn--igbhhaa5ay2kabbnq
الكريستالة البلورة الحمراء	xn--ggblaaaafgcf3b2bfdu8wqafcbdx7dwb
الأسد و الشمس الحمراوان	xn--igbhbaaa4bnvpcl7rednevzl
红十字	xn--kk01qny4a
红新月	xn--efvv3a313c
红水晶	xn--1kvs1kn4r
红狮与太阳	xn--jhqs4ylzunwk7v2a

Reserved Names per IGO-INGO PDP

slide 2/3

Name	DNS Label 1
olympic	olympic
olympiad	olympiad
olympique	olympique
olympiade	olympiade
olympisch	olympisch
olímpico	xn--olmpico-8ya
olimpíada	xn--olimpada-g2a
أوليمبي	xn--igbk7fennc
أولمبياد	xn--igbic3azhgtrc
奥林匹克	xn--74qv0co1jlpq
奥林匹亚	xn--jlq85io9flpq
奥林匹克	xn--74qv0cu1jdpq
奥林匹亞	xn--nlq05iu9fdpq
ολυμπιακοί	xn--kxadxfcgfff2c
ολυμπιάδα	xn--hxakisjgk7b
올림픽	xn--4y2bl1uwwl
올림픽아드	xn--hy1bl6gb7lq0a546c
олимпийский	xn--h1aaadbedjpny
олимпиада	xn--80aaloaqinm

Reserved Names per IGO-INGO PDP - slide 3/3

- List of non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (updated 4 April 2023)

<https://docs.un.org/en/E/2023/INF/5>

- IGO List Provided by the GAC (updated 22 March 2013)

<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/dryden-to-crocker-chalaby-annex2-22mar13-en.pdf>