

GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ISSUE

Protection of Certain International Organization Names in *all* gTLDs

SUMMARY

The GNSO Council has initiated a policy development process (PDP) to evaluate the need for, and develop policy recommendations to provide additional special protections at the top and second level in *all* gTLDs for the names and acronyms of certain International Government Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs). This PDP specifically includes the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the American Red Cross (collectively, the “RCRC”) and the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”). Currently, there are no permanent special protections for these international organization names available beyond the general Rights Protection Mechanisms established for existing and new gTLDs. The Working Group (WG) established by the GNSO will be considering possible permanent protections for the IOC and RCRC names in all gTLDs,¹ as well as additional special protections in all gTLDs for the names of IGOs and other INGOs that are protected by international treaties and national laws in multiple jurisdictions. After considering specific issues as outlined in its charter and the Final Issue Report, including an evaluation of the existing scope of legal protection for the names of IGOs and INGOs under international law, the WG is expected to make recommendations to the GNSO Council for any necessary additional special protections for the names of certain IGOs and INGOs. The WG is planning to publish its Initial Report for public comment in January 2013. The GAC has indicated its interest in these issues in previous GAC Communiqués.

GAC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY STATUS



The WG is open to all interested parties. Additional opportunities for input will occur such as outreach from the WG to the different SO/ACs for input as well as the publication of the Initial Report for public comment.

FINAL ISSUE REPORT

<http://gns0.icann.org/en/issues/protection-igo-names-final-issue-report-01oct12-en.pdf>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<http://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/protection-igo-names.htm>

¹ The separate GNSO IOC/RC Drafting Team has proposed recommendations for adoption by the GNSO Council to protect the IOC and RCRC names at the second level of the first round of new gTLDs.