



Governmental Advisory Committee

6 March 2014

Mr. Cherine Chalaby
Chair, New gTLD Program Committee
ICANN Board

Dear Cherine,

With the ICANN Singapore meeting approaching fast and in order to timely prepare for upcoming GAC discussions in Singapore, I would deeply appreciate your and the NGPC's assistance with input on a specific matter, notably a mechanism for the protection of Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO) acronyms at the second level in the current round.

As you most certainly recall, the GAC Buenos Aires Communiqué, section II. 4, contained the following advice regarding protections for IGOs:

"The GAC Advises the ICANN Board that:

i. The GAC, together with IGOs, remains committed to continuing the dialogue with NGPC on finalising the modalities for permanent protection of IGO acronyms at the second level, by putting in place a mechanism which would:

- 1. provide for a permanent system of notifications to both the potential registrant and the relevant IGO as to a possible conflict if a potential registrant seeks to register a domain name matching the acronym of that IGO;*
- 2. allow the IGO a timely opportunity to effectively prevent potential misuse and confusion;*
- 3. allow for a final and binding determination by an independent third party in order to resolve any disagreement between an IGO and a potential registrant; and*
- 4. be at no cost or of a nominal cost only to the IGO.*

The GAC looks forward to receiving the alternative NGPC proposal adequately addressing this advice. The initial protections for IGO acronyms should remain in

place until the dialogue between the NGPC, the IGOs and the GAC ensuring the implementation of this protection is completed.”

I am fully aware and appreciative of the considerable efforts undertaken since the Buenos Aires meeting by the NGPC and a group of IGOs to identify possible ways forward on this complex matter, including ways to adapt existing ICANN mechanisms to suit the needs expressed by the GAC. I also trust that these discussions have advanced the perspectives of what can be achieved. It would therefore be most useful to receive a document ahead of the Singapore meeting outlining such a mechanism in order to inform the GAC membership about the state of affairs regarding these discussions. In addition, I would sincerely welcome an opportunity for an informal briefing meeting early in Singapore with representatives of the NGPC, IGOs and the GAC to further inform the ensuing GAC discussions.

I thank you in advance for your assistance in helping the GAC bringing this issue to a quick and constructive solution.

Very best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Dryden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heather Dryden
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee
Senior Advisor to the Government of Canada