

# IGO Protections

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**ICANN | GAC**  
Governmental Advisory Committee



IGO names and acronyms are subject to a multifaceted regime of protections, pending outcomes of several ICANN processes that are still ongoing:

## At the top level (IGO identifiers as Top-Level Domain Names)

- In the 2012 [New gTLD Applicant Guidebook](#), IGOs were eligible to file objections on New gTLD Applications
- Full Names of IGOs on the GAC List are now permanently reserved at the Top Level per ICANN Board [resolution](#) (30 April 2014) adopting GNSO Policy recommendations not inconsistent with GAC Advice

## At the second level (IGO identifiers as Second Level Domain Names)

- Full Names of IGOs listed on the [GAC List](#) are permanently protected in two languages by virtue of new [Consensus Policy](#) effective since 1 August 2018
- Acronyms of IGOs listed on the [GAC List](#) are temporarily protected by virtue of an ICANN Board [resolution](#) (9 January 2014) pending the resolution of [inconsistencies](#) between existing GNSO policy recommendations and GAC Advice, including consideration of the contested [Final Report](#) of the [IGO/INGO Access to Curative Rights Mechanism PDP WG](#) (17 July 2018).

1. Ensuring that the GAC's [IGO List](#) (22 March 2013) is **updated, complete and its currency is maintained in the future**, consistent with [Advice](#) in the [GAC San Juan Communiqué](#), in response to which the Board [directed](#) a feasibility study.
2. Seeking to resolve the long-standing issues created by the **divergence of policy advice** provided to the ICANN Board by GNSO and GAC regarding the regime of protections afforded to **IGO acronyms**
3. Specifically, addressing the **concerns of IGOs** that their Immunities (under international and national laws) and related proposals have **not** been **appropriately taken into account** in the Final Report of the GNSO PDP WG on **IGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms**.

## Latest Developments

- On 30 May 2018, in response to the the San Juan GAC Advice, the **ICANN Board resolved to defer action** on the advice until it could assess the feasibility of the GAC's request
- On 20 October 2018, representatives from the **ICANN Org, OECD, WIPO** and the GAC Chair, **agreed on principles of a collaboration** on this matter
- In January 2019, an **ICANN Org formed a project team** for an initial period of 3 months, **to assess the feasibility** of the GAC's request **and attempt to update** the IGO List

## Proposed GAC Action regarding current work by ICANN Org:

- Confirm alignment of current plans and output to date with GAC objectives
- Discuss the GAC's role in the longer term maintenance of the List

## Update on ICANN org work (Nigel Hickson, ICANN Government Engagement)

- IGO Names on the list: 192
- Those we need contact data for: 75
- Those we are calling: 19
- IGOs to write to: All of them
- Additional IGOs to “vet”: 26

## Next Steps for ICANN org work

- Issue letter to IGOs;
- This will seek to confirm name format and choice of 2 languages
- Contacting additional IGO Names
- Finalising list for GAC

## Latest Developments

- On 17 July 2018, the PDP Working Group **submitted its Final Report**
- On 27 July 2018, **IGOs disputed the Final Report** in a letter from the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Legal Affairs
- On 21 October 2018, the **GAC expressed “*its serious concerns about this report given the clear conflict between its conclusions and longstanding GAC advice*”** in a letter to the GNSO Council Chair
- In the GAC Barcelona Communiqué (25 October 2018), the **GAC advised the ICANN Board to: “*facilitate a substantive, solutions-oriented dialogue between the GNSO and the GAC in an effort to resolve the longstanding issue of IGO protections [...]*”**
- On 27 January 2019, the **ICANN Board confirmed its readiness to “*facilitate a substantive, solutions-oriented discussion [...]*”**

## Latest Developments (continued)

- Options currently considered by the GNSO Council regarding the PDP WG Final Report (released :
  - Approve the Final Report and forward it to the ICANN Board
  - Not accept the Final Report and re-start the work under a new Charter
  - Not accept the Final Report and refer it to the ongoing RPM PDP WG
  - Approve Recommendations. 1-4 and refer Recommendation 5 to the RPM PDP WG or a new EPDP
- In case the GNSO Council were to re-consider the work:
  - Would interested parties among GAC members be willing and available to participate ?
  - Does the GAC have views on the efficacy of the recent experiences in the EPDP and Sub Pro PDP WT5?
  - Does the GAC see the RPM PDP WG as a potentially suitable venue?
  - Any other suggestions from GAC toward a reasonable solution on this outstanding issue?

## Proposal For GAC Action

- Prepare for an effective engagement with the GNSO during ICANN64 (Agenda Item 7.2, Sunday 10 March at 15:15)
- Follow-up with ICANN Board and GNSO on initiation of the substantive dialogue to resolve the longstanding issue of IGO protections