

Mr. Ashley Roberts
Head of New gTLD Consultancy
Com Laude

30 June 2023

Re: Release of IGO Acronyms in New gTLDs

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Thank you for your letter of [27 January 2023](#) expressing your concerns regarding the length of time for which the acronyms of International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) have been reserved. As you noted, the Board's intention was to withhold these IGO acronyms from registration at the second level on an interim basis, pending resolution by the community of the inconsistencies between GAC advice and GNSO policy recommendations from the GNSO's 2012-2013 Policy Development Process (PDP) on IGO-INGO Protections in All gTLDs.

Following the Board's [resolution](#) placing these IGO acronyms under temporary reservation, the GNSO completed two policy development processes specific to curative rights protections for IGOs. These are the PDP on IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms that was completed in 2019 and the Expedited PDP (EPDP) on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs that was completed in 2022. On 30 April 2023, the Board [voted](#) to adopt all four recommendations that the GNSO Council approved from the 2019 PDP and all five Full Consensus recommendations from the 2022 EPDP. The Board also directed the ICANN Interim President and CEO, or her designee, to proceed with implementation "as soon as feasible; and to develop and submit to the Board an implementation plan ... to inform the Board as to how the implementation of these recommendations fit into ICANN org's operational planning and prioritization of its ongoing work to implement other community-developed recommendations that the Board has adopted."

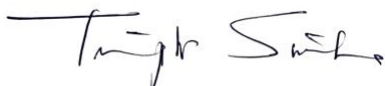
I note that the Board's action to adopt the GNSO's recommendations does not include the earlier recommendations from the GNSO's 2012-2013 PDP. As you mentioned in your letter, in October 2020 the Board [indicated](#) that we intend to direct ICANN org to provide a permanent post-registration notification mechanism for IGOs as an operational matter. Additionally, because our proposed action might not be consistent with GAC advice on this point, we engaged in a Bylaws-mandated consultation process with the GAC. The consultation took place through calls between the Board and the GAC, including the Board-GAC Interaction Group (BGIG) and included correspondence, such as the October 2021 [letter](#) from the GAC Chair to the Board Chair that you highlighted in your letter.

Since those calls took place, the Board has discussed IGO acronym protections at several of its workshops and within the Board Caucus Group on IGO Issues. Most recently, during the Board-GAC clarifying call in April, which is a customary meeting following the issuance of a GAC Communique, the Board [sought](#) the GAC’s agreement to address further questions regarding IGO protections “via channels other than formal correspondence (e.g. the BGIG, bilateral meetings, and discussions between IGO subject matter experts from the GAC and ICANN org)”.

Regarding the current moratorium on second level registrations of domain names matching the IGO acronyms on the GAC’s list, the Board has [affirmed](#) that its intention was to maintain their interim reservation status until the permanent post-registration notification mechanism is ready. In its March 2023 [Cancun Communique](#), the GAC advised the Board to maintain these temporary reservations until implementation of the EPDP curative rights recommendations are complete. On 15 May 2023, the Board [adopted](#) a scorecard that, among other matters, acknowledged this item of GAC advice.

The Board is aware that the community is eager to see all the pending issues relating to IGO acronym protections resolved. This topic also was raised during the Board’s bilateral meetings with the GNSO Council and the GAC at ICANN76. The Board believes that its adoption on 30 April of the GNSO’s curative rights recommendations is a significant step toward resolving this long standing matter and looks forward to further engagement with the GAC and the GNSO Council to ensure that we can collectively achieve a final solution as soon as is feasible.

Best regards,



Tripti Sinha
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors