**COMPILATION OF GAC ADVICE CONCERNING PROTECTION FOR IGO NAMES & ACRONYMS**

**April 2012 (Letter to ICANN Board)**

The GAC has considered the Board's request for policy advice on the expansion of protections to include IGOs, and advises that in the event that additional IGOs are found to meet the above criteria, this would be a consideration in the formulation of GAC advice for IGO protections in future rounds, as well as consideration of protections for IGOs, more generally.

Therefore, the GAC advises that no additional protections should be afforded to IGOs, beyond the current protections found in the Applicant Guidebook, for the current round.

**October 2012 (Toronto Communique)**

While the GAC continues its deliberations on the protection of the names and acronyms of Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) against inappropriate third-party registration;

*The GAC advises the ICANN Board that:*

In the public interest, implementation of such protection at the second level must be accomplished prior to the delegation of any new gTLDs, and in future rounds of gTLDs at the second and top level.

The GAC believes that the current criteria for registration under the .int top level domain, which are cited in the Applicant Guidebook as a basis for an IGO to file a legal rights objection, provide a starting basis for protecting IGO names and acronyms in all new gTLDs.

Building on these criteria, the GAC and IGOs will collaborate to develop a list of the names and acronyms of IGOs that should be protected. Pending further work with ICANN on specific implementation measures for this initiative, the GAC believes this list of IGOs should be approved for interim protection through a moratorium against third-party registration prior to the delegation of any new gTLDs.

**April 2013 (Beijing Communique)**

The GAC stresses that the IGOs perform an important global public mission with public funds, they are the creations of government under international law, and their names and acronyms warrant special protection in an expanded DNS. Such protection, which the GAC has previously advised, should be a priority.

This recognizes that IGOs are in an objectively different category to other rights holders, warranting special protection by ICANN in the DNS, while also preserving sufficient flexibility for workable implementation.

The GAC is mindful of outstanding implementation issues and commits to actively working with IGOs, the Board, and ICANN Staff to find a workable and timely way forward.

Pending the resolution of these implementation issues, the **GAC reiterates its advice to the ICANN Board that …** appropriate preventative initial protection for the IGO names and acronyms on the provided list be in place before any new gTLDs would launch.

**July 2013 (Durban Communique)**

a. The GAC reaffirms its previous advice from the Toronto and Beijing Meetings that IGOs are in an objectively different category to other rights holders thus warranting special protection by ICANN. IGOs perform important global public missions with public funds and as such, their identifiers (both their names and their acronyms) need preventative protection in an expanded DNS.

b. The GAC understands that the ICANN Board, further to its previous assurances, is prepared to fully implement GAC advice; an outstanding matter to be finalized is the practical and effective implementation of the permanent preventative protection of IGO acronyms at the second level.

**c.     The GAC advises the ICANN Board that:**

**i.**The GAC is interested to work with the IGOs and the NGPC on a complementary cost-neutral mechanism that would:

**a.**provide notification to an IGO if a potential registrant seeks to register a domain name matching the acronym of an IGO at the second level, giving the IGO a reasonable opportunity to express concerns, if any;  and

**b.**allow for an independent third party to review any such registration request, in the event of a disagreement between an IGO and potential registrant.

**c.**The initial protections for IGO acronyms confirmed by the NGPC at its meeting of 2 July 2013 should remain in place until the dialogue between the GAC, NGPC, and IGO representatives ensuring the implementation of preventative protection for IGO acronyms at the second level is completed.

**November 2013 (Buenos Aires Communique)**

The GAC Advises the ICANN Board that:

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.

**March 2014 (Singapore Communique)**

The GAC recalls its previous public policy advice from the Toronto, Beijing, Durban and Buenos Aires Communiqués regarding protection for IGO names and acronyms at the top and second levels and awaits the Board’s response regarding implementation of the GAC advice.

**June 2014 (London Communique)**

The GAC reaffirms its advice from the Toronto, Beijing, Durban, Buenos Aires and Singapore Communiqués regarding protection for IGO names and acronyms at the top and second levels, as implementation of such protection is in the public interest given that IGOs, as created by governments under international law are objectively different rights holders; notes the NGPC’s letter of 16 June 2014 to the GNSO concerning further steps under the GNSO Policy Development Process while expressing concerns that the process of implementing GAC advice has been so protracted; welcomes the NGPC's assurance that interim protections remain in place pending any such process; and confirms its willingness to work with the GNSO on outcomes that meet the GAC’s concerns.

**October 2014 (Los Angeles Communique)**

1. The GAC reaffirms its advice from the [Toronto](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/35455781/FINAL_Toronto_Communique_20121017.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1414072141000&api=v2), [Beijing](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/35455781/Beijing%20Communique%20april2013_Final.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1414072141000&api=v2), [Durban](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/35455781/Final_GAC_Communique_Durban_20130717.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1414072141000&api=v2), [Buenos Aires](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/35455781/FINAL_Buenos_Aires_GAC_Communique_20131120.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1414072141000&api=v2), [Singapore](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/35455781/GAC_Amended_Communique_Singapore_20140327%5B1%5D.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1414072141000&api=v2) and [London](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/35455781/Communique%20London%20final.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1414072141000&api=v2) Communiqués regarding protection of IGO names and acronyms at the top and second levels, as implementation of such protection is in the public interest given that IGOs, as created by governments under international law, are objectively different right holders; namely,

i.     Concerning preventative protection at the second level, the GAC reminds the ICANN Board that notice of a match to an IGO name or acronym to prospective registrants, as well as to the concerned IGO, should apply in perpetuity for the concerned name and acronym in two languages, and at no cost to IGOs;

ii.     Concerning curative protection at the second level, and noting the ongoing GNSO PDP on access to curative Rights Protection Mechanisms, the GAC reminds the ICANN Board that any such mechanism should be at no or nominal cost to IGOs; and further, in implementing any such curative mechanism,

b.     The GAC advises the ICANN Board:

i.     That the UDRP should not be amended; welcomes the NGPC's continued assurance that interim protections remain in place pending the resolution of discussions concerning preventative protection of IGO names and acronyms; and supports continued dialogue between the GAC (including IGOs), the ICANN Board (NGPC) and the GNSO to develop concrete solutions to implement long-standing GAC advice.

**February 2015 (Singapore Communique)**

The GAC will continue to work with interested parties to reach agreement on appropriate permanent protections for names and acronyms for Inter-Governmental Organisations. This will include working with the GNSO PDP Working Group on IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms; and with IGOs and the NGPC.