

International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies

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International Committee
of the Red Cross

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Geneva, 10th July 2013

Dear Mr. Fadi Chehade,

Further to our letter of 15 June 2012, we write again on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) acting on behalf of the worldwide community of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (collectively the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement).

We annex hereto a position paper formally requesting the ICANN Board of Directors to resolve to permanently protect the Red Cross and Red Crescent designations and names (i.e., red cross, red crescent, and related designations, hereafter, the "designations") from registration as top level and second level domain names and to ensure that these protections include not only the terms but also the full names of the different Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations, i.e.

- the 189 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recognized within the Movement,
- the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and
- the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

ICANN's domain name system, including the "New gTLD Program", must reflect the important obligations imposed under the strict legal regime of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as under the national laws in force in multiple jurisdictions.

These norms specifically reserve the use of the designations to a limited number of duly authorised persons - namely and principally the medical services of armed forces, duly authorized civilian hospitals and medical units assigned to the treatment of the wounded and sick in times of armed conflict, and the respective components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that are mandated to provide neutral and impartial humanitarian assistance in all situations of crisis. The 1949 Geneva Conventions which ground the protections of these designations and names are today among the most widely ratified treaties in the world, covering virtually all countries and territories.

Mr. Fadi Chehade
CEO and President
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Societies, form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies promotes the humanitarian activities of National Societies among vulnerable people. By coordinating international disaster relief and encouraging development support it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering.



ICRC

The ICRC, which gave rise to the Movement, is an independent humanitarian institution. As a neutral intermediary in the event of armed conflict or unrest, it endeavours, on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, to bring protection and assistance to the victims of international and non-international armed conflict and internal disturbances and tension.

The attached paper: (1) summarizes the unique nature of the Red Cross and Red Crescent designations and names and outlines the legal grounds and rationale for their protection, and (2) suggests further actions and measures to be undertaken by ICANN and other stakeholders in order to make the protections of the designations and names both permanent and effective. The paper also explains the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's mandate and efforts to assist the ICANN community to meet the international and national legal obligations to protect and reserve these internationally recognised designations.

The protection of the designations from any form of misuse, while primarily the responsibility of States, is a core function of the Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations.

The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its respective components wish herewith to urge the ICANN Board to complement the steps already undertaken and to adopt all the measures within its authority and role to ensure the permanent protection of all designations and names from unauthorised registration as top level or second domain names on the Internet.

As you will be aware, representatives of the ICRC and IFRC will be attending ICANN's upcoming Durban meeting, led by Ms Charlotte Lindsey Curtet, ICRC Director for Communication and Information Management, and we sincerely hope that a conclusive decision with regard to permanent protection for the red cross and red crescent and related designations and names is taken in Durban.

While thanking you and the Board of ICANN for your consideration of the present request, as well as to the elements and proposals formulated in the position paper annexed hereto, we remain,

Yours sincerely,



Yves Daccord
Director General
International Committee of the Red Cross



Bekele Gelata
Secretary General
International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies

- c.c.:
1. Dr. Steve Crocker, Chairman, Board of Directors
 2. Mr Cherine Chalaby, Chair of the new gTLD Program Committee
 3. Mr Akram Attalah, Divisional President of the Generic Domains Division (GDD)