



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

1 April 2013

Heather Dryden  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

Re: Protections for Names and Acronyms of Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) in New gTLDs

Dear Heather,

On behalf of the Board, I write to acknowledge receipt of the letter and attachments from the GAC dated 22 March 2013 providing advice on the protection of the names and acronyms of IGOs at the second level during the first round of the New gTLD Program.

The Board New gTLD Committee requests to engage in a dialog with the GAC regarding this advice during the Board-GAC session in Beijing on Tuesday, 9 April 2013. In support of this dialog, the attached report identifies three issues that require clarification to permit ICANN to implement the GAC's advice. The requested dialog would enable the Committee to respond formally to the GAC's advice following its formal meeting on Wednesday, 10 April 2013.

Thank you for the GAC's effort in developing the advice. We look forward to meeting with you in Beijing.

Best regards,

Stephen D. Crocker, Chair  
ICANN Board of Directors

## Protection of IGO Names & Acronyms at the Second Level

**Executive Summary:** On Friday, 22 March 2013, the GAC submitted advice to the ICANN Board setting out the criteria and the corresponding final list of IGO names and acronyms for protection at the second level in the current round of New gTLDs. The documents raise three issues that may warrant further discussion by the ICANN Board and the GAC. First, the GAC advises the listed names and acronyms should be protected in ‘the following’ languages but does not specify the languages or the names and acronyms in those languages. Second, the criteria states that the list shall “be reviewed prior to delegation of any new top level domains in a subsequent new gTLD round or every three years” but offers no proposal for a process for such a review or by whom the list should be reviewed. Third, the list of IGO acronyms includes common words, trademarked terms, acronyms used by multiple organizations, and acronyms that are problematic for other reasons.

**Detail:** The GAC submission consists of three documents: 1) Letter from the GAC chair; 2) Criteria for Protection; and 3) a spreadsheet listing the organizations and acronyms to be protected. These documents raise three issues that require further clarification in order to understand the GAC’s advice.

### Protection of Names and Acronyms in Multiple Languages

The “Criteria for Protection” document states that the names and acronyms “shall be protected in the following languages: [TBD].” At present, there is only entry for each of the names and acronyms on the spreadsheet attachment. If additional languages are determined, the list of names and acronyms to be protected could grow significantly.

ICANN is not able to consider how to properly implement the GAC’s advice without 1) clarification as to the languages in which the GAC advises names and acronyms should be protected and 2) the actual text for each of the names and acronyms.

### Process for Future Review of List of Organizations

The “Criteria for Protection” document also requires a review of the list of organizations whose names and acronyms are to be protected, “prior to delegation of any new top level domains in a subsequent new gTLD round or every three years, whichever is earlier.” The document does not identify how or by whom the list should be reviewed. Should ICANN or the GAC be responsible for the review?

### Acronyms for which there are Competing Claims

The list of acronyms contains a number of entries for which there are competing rights. There are acronyms that are also common words, trademarked terms, terms that are used by multiple organizations, and terms that are problematic for other reasons. The impact of providing protection for some of the acronyms would be to block the legitimate use of the terms by third parties. The list would deprive other organizations the opportunity to register terms for which they have valid trademarks. Finally, by universally blocking

registration of some of the acronyms, the IGOs may be afforded greater rights than they are be entitled to under applicable law.

**Examples:**

**1. CAN – Andean Community**

CAN may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- The ISO 3166-1 three-letter (alpha-3) code for Canada
- The IATA airport code for the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong, China.
- Controller Area Network, a serial communication technology as specified in ISO 11898 that supports distributed real-time control and multiplexing for use within road vehicles.

**2. CFC – Common Fund for Commodities**

CFC may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- U.S. federal employee-funded Combined Federal Campaign
- Chlorofluorocarbon
- Christian Fellowship Church

**3. COE – Council of Europe**

COE may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- Church of England, the officially established Christian church in England
- Center of excellence, a formally appointed, and informally accepted, body of knowledge and experience on the subject area
  - NATO Centres of Excellence
  - Afghanistan-Pakistan Center of Excellence
- Centre of the Earth Environmental Education Centre, located in Birmingham, England
- Chamber Orchestra of Europe
- Claremorris Open Exhibition, an annual arts exhibition in Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland
- College of Education, a college or university with primary focus on training schoolteachers
- Colorado and Eastern Railroad, reporting mark
- Círculo Odinista Europeo, Spanish Odinist Community
- Connection-oriented Ethernet, a high performance implementation of Metro/Carrier Ethernet networking used to deliver point-to-point or point-to-multipoint Ethernet services

- Contingent owned equipment, a designation for equipment brought to United Nations peacekeeping missions by UN member states
- Cost of equity, in finance, the rate of return on investment that is required by the company's ordinary shareholders
- Council of Elders (disambiguation), various
- Comtel Air, ICAO airline designator
- Comité Olímpico Español, Spanish Olympic Committee

#### 4. **ECO – Economic Cooperation Organization**

ECO may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- eco-, a prefix mostly relating to ecological or environmental terms
- .eco, (dot-eco), a proposed top-level domain for the Internet
- Eco (video game), a computer simulation game
- Umberto Eco (born 1932), Italian philosopher, semiotician, novelist
- European Communications Office, the permanent secretariat of the Electronic Communications Committee, a part of European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
- Eco – Verband der deutschen Internetwirtschaft (de), German electronic commerce group
- The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
- Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand
- English Chamber Orchestra, a chamber orchestra based in London
- Esporte Clube Osasco, a Brazilian football (soccer) club

#### 5. **EPO – European Patent Office, European Patent Organization**

EPO may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- EPO (publisher), a Belgian publishing company
- Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, an American orchestra
- Hellenic Football Federation (Greek: Ελληνική Ποδοσφαιρική Ομοσπονδία), the governing body of football in Greece
- Erythropoietin, a hormone that induces red blood cell production, sometimes used for doping in sports like cycling
- Evening Primrose Oil, a plant genus
- Epoxy, also known as polyepoxide
- Extended Prediction Orbit (EPO), used by GPS-based navigation software
- EPO, a Japanese singer-songwriter
- Esperanto, a constructed language that has ISO 639-2 code 'epo'
- European Payment Order, a system of cross-border debt-collecting methods used in the European Union
- Exclusive Provider Organization, a variant of the Preferred Provider health insurance organization

6. **EUCLID** - EUCLID University

EUCLID may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- Greek mathematician
- Chemical company
- City name (Euclid, Ohio)

7. **GCC** - Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

GCC may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- Garden City Collegiate
- Genesee Community College
- Germanna Community College
- Glendale Community College (Arizona)
- Glendale Community College (California)
- Gloucester County College (New Jersey)
- Gogebic Community College (Michigan)
- Good Counsel College, Innisfail, (Queensland, Australia)
- Greenfield Community College
- Greensburg Central Catholic
- Greenwich Community College
- Grenville Christian College
- Grove City College (Pennsylvania)
- Guam Community College
- Gold Coast City, Australia's second largest Local Government Area in terms of population, with jurisdiction over Queensland's Gold Coast.
- Garde Côtière Canadienne (Canadian Coast Guard)
- General Chiropractic Council, regulatory body for chiropractic in the United Kingdom.
- Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, or Georgia-Cumberland Conference
- Glasgow City Council, United Kingdom
- Global China Connection
- Global Corporate Challenge, a corporate health program provider
- Goodwood Cricket Club in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom
- Grand Council of the Crees
- Great Commission Churches
- Great Council of Chiefs of Fiji
- Gene Codes Corporation, a bioinformatics software company
- General Computer Corporation, a computer printer manufacturer, formerly a video-game producer
- Ghirardelli Chocolate Company, the second-oldest chocolate company in the United States

- Global carbon cycle, the biogeochemical cycle by which carbon is exchanged
- Global climate change, climate change on a global scale
- Glucocorticoids, a class of steroid hormones
- Guanylyl cyclase c, an enzyme
- General Communication Channel
- Gillette-Campbell County Airport in Wyoming, United States
- Grand Cru Classé, a designation of Bordeaux wines

## 8. **ICO - International Coffee Organization**

ICO may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- UK Information Commissioner's Office
- International Council of Ophthalmology
- Sony PlayStation video game
- Image file format for computer icons in Microsoft Windows

## 9. **IDA - International Development Association**

IDA may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- Institute for Defense Analysis
- International Dyslexia Association
- A Windows, Linux or Mac OS X hosted multi-processor disassembler and debugger

## 10. **IDEA - International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance**

“Idea” may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- The noun e.g., a thought or conception, that potentially or actually exists in the mind as a product of mental activity
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (US law)
- IT consulting and solutions company (idea.com)
- A blog (idea.org) that promotes the role of technology in advancing scientific & cultural literacy

## 11. **ISO - International Sugar Organization**

ISO may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- International Organization for Standardization
- Film speed
- Archive file of an optical disk

**12. LAS - League of Arab States**

LAS may also, amongst other things, refer, as a word, acronym or abbreviation, to:

- IATA code for McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, NV, USA
- Legal Aid Society
- Plural article in Spanish

**13. WHO - World Health Organization**

“Who” may also refer to:

- British rock band
- Pronoun
- Broadcast television company
- A magazine