

6 March 2020

Donna Austin  
Chair, RySG  
gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group

RE: Release of IGO Acronyms at the second level

Dear Donna,

Thank you for your [19 February 2020 letter](#) on the “Release of IGO Acronyms at the second level.” The Board appreciates the Registries Stakeholder Group’s (RySG’s) initiative in trying to find ways to facilitate a limited release of the International Governmental Organization (IGO) acronyms that are currently reserved at the second level of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs). We also welcome your request for further discussions that could lead to the effective removal of the current temporary protections for the IGO acronyms.

As you are aware, resolving the question of appropriate permanent protections for IGO acronyms at the second level remains a topic of ongoing discussion among the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the ICANN Board. The Board understands that one remaining policy recommendation from the GNSO’s Policy Development Process (PDP) on IGO-INGO Curative Rights has been referred to another GNSO PDP for further policy work. The Board also notes that the GAC has advised the Board to maintain the temporary protections until a permanent resolution on IGO identifiers is reached.

While the Board is not in a position to provide a specific response to these suggestions at this time, we welcome the RySG’s suggestions as it continues to monitor the progress of the GNSO PDP work. We also look forward to discussions related to possible paths forward with related to the PDP recommendations and GAC advice that it has already received, including at the [ICANN Board and RySG joint meeting](#) scheduled during ICANN67 on 11 March 2020.

The Board thanks the RySG for its thoughtful contribution to the community’s efforts to find a mutually agreeable resolution surrounding the topic of appropriate second-level protections for IGO acronyms.

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors