



## Governmental Advisory Committee

April 12, 2012

Dr. Stephen Crocker  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
ICANN

Re: Protection of Intergovernmental Organisations

Dear Dr. Crocker, ICANN Board,

I am writing on behalf of the GAC in response to your March 11, 2012 letter requesting policy advice from the GAC on the expansion of protection afforded to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Red Cross and Red Crescent being extended to Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs).

As the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) is the main advisory body for governments and public authorities, with the participation of intergovernmental organizations as observers, the GAC and its advice should be a central consideration in the Board's deliberations on this matter.

Firstly, the GAC reaffirms previous advice that the IOC and Red Cross and Red Crescent should be protected at the top and second levels, given that these organizations enjoy protection at both the international level through international treaties (e.g. the Nairobi Treaty and the Geneva Conventions) and through national laws in multiple jurisdictions. The GAC considers the existence of such two-tiered protection as creating the criteria relevant to determining whether any other entities should be afforded comparable enhanced protection.

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.

Best,  
Ms. Heather Dryden  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Dryden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heather Dryden  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee  
Senior Advisor to the Government of Canada