

From: cmp
Date: Fri, 20 Feb 2009 04:04:33 -0800
To: Paul Twomey
Subject: Statement

TO THE PRESIDENT OF ICANN

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to forward enclosed herewith a statement which I would request that you kindly bring to the attention of the Board. Looking forward to meeting you in Mexico, I remain, yours sincerely

Mons. Carlo Maria Polvani, Holy See's Representative to the GAC

TO THE BOARD OF ICANN

The Holy See, being an active member of the GAC, would like to contribute to ICANN's success in its upcoming project of creation of new gTLD's. Specifically, the Holy See would like to bring to the attention of the Board of ICANN the possible perils connected with the assignment of new gTLDs with reference to religious traditions (e.g., .catholic, .anglican, .orthodox, .hindu, .islam; .muslim, .buddhist, etc...). These gTLDs could provoke competing claims among theological and religious traditions and could possibly result in bitter disputes that would force ICANN, implicitly and/or explicitly, to abandon its wise policy of neutrality by recognizing to a particular group or to a specific organization the legitimacy to represent a given religious tradition. The Holy See recognizes that the Community Objection process proposed as part of ICANN's draft new gTLD implementation model may be a mechanism for addressing these concerns. Hence, mindful that Article 2.1 of the GAC Principles regarding new gTLDs (28 March, 2007), prescribes that the latter should respect "the sensitivities regarding terms with national, cultural, geographic and religious significance", the Holy See asks the Board of ICANN to commence a discussion on the process of assignment of gTLDs with religious significance, including any objection process, before moving forward with its final implementation. The Holy See would like to assure the Board of ICANN's that it remains at its disposal to offer its advice and assistance, if such it is deemed opportune and necessary