



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Yves Daccord
Director General
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

28 November 2016

PROTECTION OF ICRC AND RED CROSS NATIONAL SOCIETY IDENTIFIERS

Dear Mr. Daccord,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2016. I apologise for this late reply, though I am pleased that discussions on this important topic took place at the ICANN 57 Meeting in Hyderabad earlier this month.

First, I want to confirm with you that I and the ICANN Board take your concerns very seriously indeed. As you are aware, in recognition of the GAC's advice concerning the unique legal standing, and therefore the importance of protecting your global identifiers, the Board took a decision in 2013 to grant temporary protection to the names of your national societies; thus preventing such registrations at the second level for all new gTLDs. Such temporary protection will stay in place until an agreed permanent solution is in place.

Secondly, I would like to confirm that the important issues you raise were discussed on a call of ICANN Board members with representatives of the GAC and GNSO on 27 October 2016. During this call the Board confirmed the imperative of reaching a conclusion on this issue in the very near future, a point the GNSO also recognised.

At the ICANN 57 Meeting in Hyderabad, the issue of permanent protection of these names and identifiers was discussed by the GAC and the GNSO. The former have identified the need for permanent protection of such in their Communiqué to the Board of 8 November 2016 (see <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Governmental+Advisory+Committee?preview=/27132037/43713842/GAC%20ICANN%2057%20Communique.pdf>). At the ICANN 57 Meeting, my Deputy, Akram Atallah, also met with Mr. Stephane Hankin to discuss the protection issues as well as associated gTLD matters.



As a result of these discussions, the Board has suggested that a path forward may be for the GAC and the GNSO to engage in a facilitated dialogue in order to reach final resolution on the matter (see pages 90-92 of the transcript of the Public Forum at ICANN57: http://sched.ws/hosted_files/icann572016/60/157%20HYD_Tue08Nov2016-Public%20Forum%202-en.pdf). I will update you on developments concerning the latter and the process and likely timescales involved.

I am copying this to the ICANN Board Chairman, Steve Crocker, to my colleagues Akram Atallah and Jamie Hedlund, as well as to Nigel Hickson, our liaison with International organisations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Göran Marby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Göran Marby
President & CEO, ICANN