

GNSO Issues Report: Dispute Handling for IGO Names and Abbreviations



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What is an IGO?

- "International InterGovernmental Organization", e.g. WTO, UNHCR, WIPO
- IGO names and abbreviations are notified in line with the Paris Convention for protection against use as trade marks
- WIPO holds a repository of notified IGO names and abbreviations in a searchable database

The issues

- Fraudulent use by others of IGO names and abbreviations as domain names. Examples:
 - Phishing email invitations to alleged IGO meetings with "all expenses paid" – but requiring a deposit...
 - Bogus "Tsunami Relief" websites, using IGO names, soliciting contributions....
- IGOs cannot use the UDRP – their names are not trade marked and their immunity calls for a specific appeals procedure

The ICANN background

- The full "WIPO-2" recommendations were addressed in 2003-4 – no consensus solution found
- Continued ICANN dialog with WIPO, UN Legal Advisers and GAC identified an international legal basis for a subset of WIPO-2, notably protection of IGO names and abbreviations
- Topic brought up to the GNSO New gTLD PDP, with a recommendation from the IPC and inclusion of the topic in the GAC Principles regarding New gTLDs
- GNSO Council requested an Issues Report from staff on 24 May, submitted on 16 June

The considerations

- A separate Dispute Resolution Procedure (DRP) is preferred to modifying the existing UDRP
- A DRP for this purpose will be needed in a timely fashion for the New gTLD process, along with other DRPs
- The application of such a DRP to existing gTLDs requires a PDP
- A DRP can be developed as part of the New gTLD implementation phase, or as part of a PDP for existing gTLDs
- Concerns expressed within the GNSO Council about the capacity for taking on a new PDP at this point in time

The recommendation

- To develop a separate DRP as part of the New gTLD implementation phase, based on already existing preparatory work
- To develop this DRP concurrently with other DRPs needed for the New gTLD process
- That the GNSO Council, once the DRP is developed, launches a PDP regarding its application to existing gTLDs
- The report is posted at:
<http://gnsso.icann.org/issues/igo-names/issues-report-igo-drp-15jun07.pdf>

Thank You!
Questions? Comments?