



Geneva, 14 January 2014

RE: Protection of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Crystal designations and names from registration as top or second level domain names.

Follow-up to the past communications by the International Committee of the Red Cross and by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the Board of ICANN on 15 June 2012 and 10 July 2013 (and their annexes).

Dear Dr. Crocker,

We wish herewith to follow-up on the dialogue established in the past two years between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), also acting on behalf of the worldwide community of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with ICANN.

The Board of ICANN is, as we understand, due to consider shortly the recommendations of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) on the protections of the designations and names of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as included in the GNSO's *Final Report on the protection of IGO and INGO identifiers* adopted at ICANN's Buenos Aires meeting. We are concerned however that these recommendations only partly reflect the protections which the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) has been calling for based on universally agreed norms of international humanitarian law and on the laws in force in multiple countries around the world.

Further to our past representations to the Board and to ICANN's GNSO, we would hence like herewith to urge ICANN's Board to consider to:

- render permanent the existing temporary reservations of the "Red Cross", "Red Crescent" and "Red Crystal" designations at the top and second levels, as set out in the Applicant Guidebook and in Annex 5 to the revised Registry Agreement;

Mr Steve Crocker  
Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)  
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6601  
United States of America

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Societies, form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- extend these permanent protections to the full names of the respective components of the Movement including:
  - the names of the 189 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in English and in their respective national languages and script
  - the names of the two international bodies within the Movement, namely the International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in the six United Nations languages, as well as their respective acronyms or initials in their most usual forms.

A full and finite list of the names and identifiers to be reserved is attached to the present letter.

- reserve the entitlement of the respective components of the Movement to register the Red Cross and Red Crescent designations and names as top and second level domain names should they require to do so in the future;

We wish the Board to note that the two latter requests indicated above extend beyond the consensus recommendations adopted by the GNSO in Buenos Aires. They would however ensure a fuller safeguard of applicable legal requirements and of the global public interest in the protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent designations and names. They are also reflected in a minority position annexed to the GNSO's Report on IGO/INGO names and have been conveyed to concerned ICANN circles on a wide range of occasions in the past year - including through two successive Public Comments posted this year on ICANN's website by a group of approximately 50 National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies.

While thanking you for the Board's consideration and attention to this important issue, we remain,

Sincerely yours,



Yves Daccord  
Director General  
International Committee of the Red Cross



Bekele Gelata  
Secretary General  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red  
Crescent Societies

c.c.: Mr Fadi Chehade, CEO and President  
Mr Cherine Chalaby, Chair of the new gTLD Program Committee  
Mr Akram Atallah, President, Global Domains Division

Attachment:

Table of names and identifiers of Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations for protection (in relevant languages and scripts)