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Administrative and statutory matters

(f) Authorizations granted for the use of the UNWTO logo

Addendum

Protection of domain name of UNWTO

1. In June 2011, the Board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) approved its plan to “dramatically increase” the number of generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs), which are the labels on the right hand side of the dot, meaning that any entity may apply to win a gTLD.
2. The costs associated with obtaining a gTLD have been estimated to run approximately 500,000 USD, excluding ICANN annual maintenance fee of 25,000 USD.
3. There has been a great deal of discussion over the years regarding allowance for special protection of Intergovernmental Organizations names and acronyms in the Internet Domain Name System (DNS), including appeals from international organizations, yet little headway has been made.
4. However, ICANN maintains a list of “Reserved Names”, which contain terms which are automatically prevented from being registered such as country or territory names that cannot be registered and geographic names that call for special treatment, as well as of those of entities that have been actively engaged in requesting such protection.
5. The reputation of Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and assurance of the source of information are critical to the organizations, the governments and the public. IGOs are particularly vulnerable to cybersquatting and fraud and should not have to allocate extensive resources (coming from public funds) to monitor/police the Internet. In addition, IGOs names and acronyms are protected under international law within the scope of the Paris Convention. Clearly the Internet did not exist then, but the issues and reasons for the protection are the same.
6. In December 2012, the Legal Counsels of thirty-four Intergovernmental Organizations (including UNWTO) submitted a letter to ICANN to express their concerns and request the protection of their top-level domains.



7. Unfortunately, ICANN does not seem to have changed its position on the subject, but the UN specialized agencies continue to actively pursue a satisfactory solution.
8. UNWTO will continue to report on the evolution of this issue during the 94th session of the Executive Council.