

# ICANN | GAC

## Governmental Advisory Committee

25 January 2022

Göran Marby  
President and CEO, ICANN

Cc: Maarten Botterman  
Chairman, ICANN Board

**Subject: GAC Response to ICANN CEO letter on .GCC Application**

Dear Göran,

Pursuant to your [letter](#) (9 November 2021) regarding the .GCC application, the GAC acknowledged the Board's [resolution](#) to seek additional information from the GAC relative to advice contained in the April 2013 [Beijing Communiqué](#).

The GAC has discussed sharing additional information regarding its consensus advice that the .GCC application “should not proceed”, noting, however, that at the time of the Beijing Communiqué in 2013 it was not required for the GAC to include a rationale for GAC consensus advice to the ICANN Board.

The GAC has nevertheless agreed to share further factual information with ICANN org, after reviewing GAC discussions from 2013 held in closed sessions at ICANN46 in Beijing on the .GCC application, which helped inform the language included in the Beijing Communiqué consensus advice text.

In November 2012, in accordance with section 1.1.2.4 of the Applicant Guidebook, the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and UAE issued a [GAC Early Warning](#) to the Applicant expressing serious concerns against the application.

In February 2013, the GAC received requests from several GAC members (Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and UAE) as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to include “.GCC” in a GAC Objection

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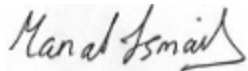
Advice that the application should not proceed for the reasons highlighted in the GAC Early Warning.

Accordingly, the GAC, during ICANN46 Beijing (April 2013) deliberated and reached consensus on “GAC Objection Advice” and advised the ICANN Board that the application **should not proceed** in accordance with Module 3.1 part I of the Applicant Guidebook for the reasons expressed by the concerned GAC members as follows:

- The applied-for string (GCC) is an exact match of the known acronym for an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO), the Gulf Cooperation Council and as such, warrants special protection to its name and acronym.
- The application clearly targeted the GCC community without any support from the GCC, its six members or its community.

I am hopeful that this information will prove useful for the Independent Review Process (IRP) currently underway.

Best regards,



Manal Ismail  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)  
ICANN