

**Governmental Advisory Committee  
Chairman**



Paul Twomey  
CEO & President  
ICANN

Paris, 24 April 2009

Dear Paul,

I write to you regarding the GAC's previous request for travel assistance, and specifically, providing input on the FY10 Operating Plan and Budget and ICANN's call for comments on travel policy/procedures.

You will recall that during discussions with the ICANN Board at various meetings, in addition to the ICANN's Fellowship program, the GAC has requested assistance from ICANN in supporting travel of GAC members to ICANN meetings, in particular, members from developing and least developed countries. Such support is important at this time, as many developing countries are imposing restrictions on travel by government officials, who do not have sponsorship support, because of low domestic reserves due to the current global economic trends. At a time where ICANN is dealing with a number of critical issues, it is important that more governments will be able to participate in the process, especially from developing world.

The GAC notes, that the proposed provision for GAC travel assistance, as outlined in the Proposed Framework for FY10 Operating Plan and Budget, is separate from the Travel Support of the ICANN Community.

In reviewing the 'Revised Travel Support Procedure', posted on 11 August 2008, the GAC notes that in developing the purpose of the community travel support, it was stated that "... since a primary deliverable to ICANN's multi-stakeholder model is policy development, it seems logical to extend the travel support available to Supporting Organizations who originate ICANN policy" and also that "... the goal of travel support funding should be to lower the barrier to participation, broaden the group of participants, and advance the "work" of ICANN.

As the GAC's primary purpose is to provide advice to the Board on issues of public policy, the GAC is clearly one of the constituencies that contribute to the development of policy in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model, and therefore appropriate that some assistance be provided to the GAC.

As it appears that there is a commitment to provide the GAC with travel assistance through the FY10 Operating Plan and Budget, the GAC would welcome the opportunity to discuss with staff, the most appropriate mechanism by which to do so. The GAC supports and is ready to participate in the development of a pilot program which could be designed and implemented at the beginning of 2010 to allow testing a new mechanism and assessing quality and impact of participation.

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Equally, the GAC believes that further facilitation of remote participation in ICANN meetings and translation of its documentation could increase continued and informed participation of government representatives in ICANN's work. The GAC acknowledges that some assistance has been provided in these areas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JK", written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Janis Karklins  
Chairman of the Governmental Advisory Committee  
Ambassador of Latvia to France