9 November 2021

Manal Ismail
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Dear Manal,

I am writing with respect to the Board's recent resolution, Resolution 2021.09.12.08, relating to the .GCC application and the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) consensus advice provided in the Beijing Communiqué in April 2013 that the .GCC application "should not proceed."

As you may be aware, there is a currently pending Independent Review Process proceeding that was initiated by GCCIX, W.L.L. (the applicant for .GCC), challenging, among other things, ICANN's acceptance of the GAC consensus advice in the April 2013 Beijing Communiqué that the .GCC application should not proceed.

As noted in the Board resolution and rationale, after careful consideration of various factors, "the Board concluded that, before proceeding further with the .GCC [Independent Review Process], it could be beneficial to ask the GAC for any new or additional information that the GAC might choose to offer regarding its advice that the .GCC application should not proceed."

The Board, therefore, "authorize[d] the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to seek a stay of the .GCC [Independent Review Process] and open an informal dialogue with the GAC regarding the rationale for the GAC consensus advice on the .GCC application."

In light of the foregoing, we are reaching out to the GAC in order to open this informal dialogue, to seek input from the GAC regarding how it would like to engage with ICANN org in this dialogue, and to determine whether the GAC would prefer to receive any additional information from ICANN org in advance of such a dialogue.

Given the pending Independent Review Process, we would appreciate an initial response from the GAC as soon as you think is practicable, with the goal of receiving the GAC's substantive input, if any, before the Internet Governance Forum in early December.

Yours sincerely,

Göran Marby
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

Cc: Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors