



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

6 March 2015

Mr. Chuck Gomes  
Vice President, Policy  
Verisign  
Email: cgomes@verisign.com

Re: Process for addressing GAC advice

Dear Chuck:

Fadi asked me to respond to your inquiry regarding the process used to respond to Governmental Advisory Committee Advice addressed to the ICANN Board. As you are aware, [Article XI, Section 2.1](#) of the ICANN Bylaws permit the GAC to “put issues to the Board directly, either by way of comment or prior advice, or by way of specifically recommending action or new policy development or revision to existing policies.”

The GAC defines GAC advice in its [Operating Principles](#). Following the [Final Recommendations of the first Accountability and Transparency Review Team](#), the GAC clarified [what constitutes GAC advice](#) and revised its [Operating Principles](#) on GAC Advice. Pursuant to [Article XII, Principle 47](#), the GAC works on the basis of consensus: “Consistent with United Nations practice [\[1\]](#), consensus is understood to mean the practice of adopting decisions by general agreement in the absence of any formal objection.”

The [ICANN Bylaws](#) require the Board to take into account the GAC’s advice on public policy matters in the formulation and adoption of the policies. If the Board decides to take an action that is not consistent with the GAC advice, it must inform the GAC and state the reasons why it decided not to follow the advice. The Board and the GAC will then try in good faith to find a mutually acceptable solution. If no solution can be found, the Board will state in its final decision why the GAC advice was not followed.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Jamie Hedlund  
Vice President, Strategic Programs  
Global Domains Division