



24 April 2018

Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani  
Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council

Dear Dr. Abdul Latif Al Zayani:

We are in receipt of your correspondence on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regarding the Final Declaration in the *GCC v. ICANN* Independent Review Process (IRP). The Board appreciates your input on the current matter and acknowledges the GCC's position.

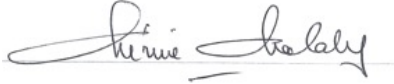
As you note in your letter, the Board determined that further consideration and analysis of the Final Declaration was needed. (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2017-03-16-en#2.b>.) Pursuant to the Board's resolution, the Board Accountability Mechanisms Committee (BAMC) conducted a further analysis of the IRP Panel's factual premises and conclusions, and provided options for the Board to consider in addressing the Final Declaration and the Panel's recommendation. Your letter, along with all the relevant information, was reviewed as part of the BAMC's consideration and analysis.

As you may be aware, the Board further considered the GCC IRP Final Declarations at its meeting on 15 March 2018. The Board resolved to accept that the IRP Panel declared the GCC as the prevailing party in the GCC IRP, and that ICANN reimburse the GCC its IRP costs as indicated in the Final Declaration As To Costs. The Board directed the President and CEO, or his designee(s), to take all steps necessary to reimburse the GCC its IRP costs, and such steps are currently in process. The Board further directed the BAMC: (i) to follow the steps required as if the GAC provided non-consensus advice to the Board pursuant to Module 3.1 (subparagraph II) of the Applicant Guidebook regarding .PERSIANGULF; (ii) to review and consider the relevant materials related to the .PERSIANGULF matter; and (iii) to provide a recommendation to the Board as to whether or not the application for .PERSIANGULF should proceed. In making these determinations, the Board considered the BAMC's recommendation, the relevant information, and all the inputs received (including your letter) so as to ensure that this decision is in the public interest, respecting ICANN's accountability mechanisms and the policies and procedures set forth in the Applicant Guidebook.

With respect to your question regarding the Reconsideration Request process, detailed information is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/accountability/reconsideration-en>.

Thank you again and please let us know if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Best regards,



Cherine Chalaby  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors