1 June 2018

Ms. Manal Ismail  
Chair, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Re: Update on GAC Advice in the San Juan Communiqué

Dear Ms. Ismail:

On 30 May 2018, the ICANN Board passed a resolution adopting the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)-Board Scorecard (Scorecard), which addresses the GAC’s advice in the 15 March 2018 San Juan Communiqué (Communiqué).

In the Communiqué, the GAC delivered advice to the Board concerning General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and WHOIS, as well as Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) reserved acronyms. The GAC also provided a follow-up to previous advice on Applications for dot Amazon and related strings, and 2-Character Country/Territory Codes at the 2nd Level.

On 11 April 2018, the Board and the GAC held a teleconference to ensure common understanding of the GAC’s advice in the Communiqué. Meeting notes from the call are available here: https://gac.icann.org/sessions/gac-and-icann-board-conference-call-regarding-icann61-communique.

On 25 April 2018, the Board sent a letter to the GAC with clarifying questions regarding the advice on IGO reserved acronyms, to which the GAC responded on 15 May 2018.

On 8 May 2018, the Board took part in an exchange with the GAC to discuss the advice on GDPR and WHOIS. Shortly after, on 11 May 2018, the Board sent a letter to the GAC with its preliminary positions on the advice on GDPR and WHOIS, to which the GAC responded on 17 May 2018.

Following the 17 May 2018 GAC response, the Board deferred taking formal action on certain items of GAC advice on GDPR and WHOIS once it was determined that they would likely be inconsistent or viewed as inconsistent with the Temporary Specification. Consequently, in its resolution of 30 May 2018, the Board accepted six (6) of the items related to the advice on GDPR and WHOIS and deferred consideration of the remaining four (4) related items.


Should the Board need to review the current Temporary Specification for any reason, the Board will hold discussions with the GAC and the ICANN community. The Board’s intention is to proceed in a collaborative and constructive way with the GAC and the ICANN community as we
move forward to meeting the requirements of the GDPR, while maintaining the WHOIS services to the greatest extent possible.

The Board wishes to thank the GAC for its attention to the topics addressed in the Communiqué and acknowledges the thoughtful, productive and substantial follow-up dialogue and correspondence that the GAC has offered on several of those topics over the last few months.

The Board looks forward to meeting with the GAC at the ICANN62 meeting in Panama City, for further discussions on some of these topics.

Sincerely,

Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors