

11 October 2023

Mr. Nicolas Caballero  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

**Re: Upcoming GAC Activities**

Dear Nicolas,

On 30 September 2023, we recognized the 25th anniversary of ICANN's founding. This is a significant milestone in ICANN history, and one in which the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has played an essential role.

As the GAC embarks on the balloting period for its 2023 Vice Chairs Election and is planning for the next High Level Government Meeting in June of next year, it is an opportune time to reflect on the past and look toward the future. The GAC has the extraordinary responsibility of ensuring that the voice of the governments around the world is well heard at ICANN. We stand at the dawn of ICANN's next 25 years and the robust participation of the GAC, led by a team of globally diverse vice chairs, will be critical to ensuring that ICANN remains well advised on the public policy issues most important to the members of the GAC.

The GAC offers an important dimension to ICANN's work. Since the inaugural meeting of the GAC's 24 member governments and seven observer organizations on 2 March 1999, the ICANN Board has looked to the GAC for advice on public policy aspects of specific issues for which ICANN has responsibility. From holding its first High Level Government Meeting in Toronto in 2012, to opening its formerly closed meeting sessions and Communiqué drafting sessions in 2013, to expanding committee leadership seats in 2016, GAC members have demonstrated their commitment to ICANN's multistakeholder principles and demonstrated the willingness and capability to evolve their committee operations and practices consistent with the best practices of accountability and transparency. We greatly value the productive dialogue and exchange of ideas that the Board has enjoyed with the GAC since its inception and look forward to the relationship continuing to grow in the years to come.

For a quarter of a century, the GAC has provided a much-needed diversity of perspectives that is only achievable through the participation of governments from across the globe. One of the GAC's most momentous achievements is its growth, which stands today at 182 countries and territories and 38 observer international governmental organizations.

It is exciting to hear that there is an array of candidates volunteering to serve as GAC Vice Chairs in the coming elections. It also is a great sign of the GAC's value to governments and its

commitment to fulfilling ICANN's mission. I am hopeful that the elections will result in broad representation, where every geographic region will have a representative in the leadership team of the GAC. The Board has the utmost confidence that the voting process will be - as usual - secure, fair, independent and transparent, as directed by the current GAC [Operating Principles](#).

We look forward to the traditional Board dialogue with the GAC at the upcoming ICANN78 meeting as well as working with the new GAC Leadership team when it is seated next March.

Sincerely,



Tripti Sinha  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors