

26 September 2018

GNSO COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE GAC

Dear Manal, Ghislain, Feng, Cherif, Pär and Thiago,

We write to follow up on our call with you on 5 September in preparation for ICANN63.

We are keen to strengthen the linkages between the GNSO and the GAC, and see the role of the GNSO Council liaison to the GAC as key to achieving this objective. With so much activity happening in the GNSO right now of potential GAC interest, including the EPDP and four other current PDPs, we anticipate that questions about these efforts may come up in your GAC plenary discussions in Barcelona.

At ICANN61 and ICANN62, Julf Helsingius, the GNSO Council liaison to the GAC, prioritised attending GAC plenary sessions when the GNSO Council was not itself in session. We believe that Julf's role could be more helpful to the GAC if he could be clearly identified in the GAC room with a designated seat at the tables. The liaison's role could also be made much more effective if, when questions arise in GAC discussions related to GNSO activities, Julf could be able to speak to those during the session.

We hope that these requests are made sufficiently far ahead in the GAC's planning to implement them for ICANN63, and welcome any further suggestions that you may have as to how we can emphasise the function of Julf's role as a two-way conduit of information.

On behalf of the GNSO Council,

Heather Forrest, GNSO Chair

Donna Austin, GNSO Council Vice Chair (Contracted Parties House)

Rafik Dammak, GNSO Council Vice Chair (Non-Contracted Parties House)

cc: Julf Helsingius, GNSO Council Liaison to the GAC