

ICANN | GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee

October 15, 2018

Heather Forrest, GNSO Chair
Donna Austin, GNSO Council Vice Chair
Rafik Dammak, GNSO Council Vice Chair

Re: GNSO Council Liaison To The GAC

Dear Heather, Donna and Rafik,

Thank you very much for your recent suggestions about how we can increase the profile and involvement of the GNSO-GAC Liaison function in Barcelona and beyond.

For the past year, the GAC leadership has given attention to expanding the various communication and collaboration roles that the GAC has with the GNSO and other community bodies – not just regarding liaisons TO the GAC, but improving our GAC “points-of-contact” with our fellow communities as well. As the GAC begins to formalize its process for updating its standard Operating Procedures, we will be closely examining this important area of the liaison function.

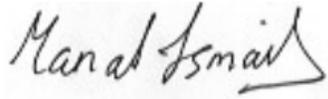
In the GNSO case specifically, Julf has been a positive contributor to our GAC work via his one-on-one connections with Ghislain de Salins and in his regular attendance at face-to-face GAC meetings. He even attended and contributed to one of our leadership conference calls prior to the Panama meeting. I value these exchanges and hope we can expand them going forward.

While we can't make the accommodation of a designated seat throughout the Barcelona meeting - no GAC members have designated seats during regular GAC ICANN Meetings, it would be great if he could gravitate to a certain area of the GAC room whenever he is present. I will make a point to recognize Julf at the Opening Plenary session of the GAC on Saturday and we will otherwise note his presence and give him an opportunity to share the GNSO perspective during other targeted discussions when I am made aware that he is in the GAC room. We should also make sure that he is a notable contributor to our bilateral meeting with the GNSO on Sunday afternoon with a spot on the stage.

I am hopeful that when we return to a more regular GAC ICANN meeting agenda at ICANN64 (not substantially loaded by challenging additional matters like the Barcelona High Level Governmental Meeting) we will be able to find more integral ways to reinforce the valuable contribution that Julf and his fellow GAC liaisons make to improving our cross-community connections and relations.

I look forward to exploring those future options and to seeing you all very soon in Barcelona!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manal Ismail". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Manal Ismail
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

Cc: Julf Helsingius, GNSO Council Liaison to the GAC