

3 October 2022

Sebastien Ducos  
GNSO Chair  
ICANN

**Subject: Response Call for Volunteers: GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) Initiation Request for Applicant Support**

Dear Sebastien,

On behalf of the GAC I would like to convey my congratulations to you on your incoming role as GNSO Chair. The GAC looks forward to collaborating with you on this and other issues.

Following the GNSO Council's [letter](#) (1 September 2022) including a call for volunteers on the upcoming GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) initiation request for Applicant Support, the GAC wishes to express its interest in the upcoming process. The GAC noted in the [ICANN75 GAC Communiqué](#), that *“stressing the need to promote diversity and a balanced geographical engagement among stakeholders, the GAC reaffirmed its continued interest in the improvement of Applicant Support for the next round of New gTLDs, noting the importance of active GAC participation in the upcoming GGP. In this regard, the GAC calls on the GNSO Council to allow broader participation from interested GAC participants, as well as other members of the community, beyond the single member per Advisory Committee presently envisioned by the call for volunteers communicated to the GAC.”*

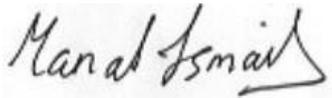
In light of recent inquiries from the GNSO Council Liaison to the GAC I wish to further clarify said GAC's position relative to the upcoming GGP, and the language included in the ICANN75 Communiqué. While the GAC appreciates the possibility of assigning multiple Observers to the process, the GAC would kindly request the GNSO Council's consideration of allowing two (2) participants and two (2) alternates from the GAC, as active participants. The GAC would like to ensure full participation for GAC members who have expressed an interest in this matter, while recognizing the importance of keeping this working group limited to a small steering group and recognizing the possibility of having GAC members participating as “subject matter experts” in the GGP process.

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Governmental Advisory Committee

My apologies for the delay in responding to the call for volunteers. The GAC will submit the names of GAC representatives shortly, pending confirmation regarding the number of possible participants on the GGP.

Best regards,

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

Manal Ismail  
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)  
ICANN