

12 February 2018

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

Dear Ms. Manal Ismail:

I am writing in response to the [GAC Abu Dhabi Communiqué](#) published on 1 November 2017. On 4 February 2018, the ICANN Board adopted the [scorecard](#) "GAC Advice – Abu Dhabi Communiqué: Actions and Updates (04 February 2018)". The scorecard contains the Board's understanding of and responses to the GAC Consensus Advice to the Board contained in the Abu Dhabi Communiqué.

Additionally, the Board notes that the Abu Dhabi Communiqué includes a section for "Follow-up on Previous Advice". The Board thanks the GAC for this additional information and has provided the following responses below:

⦿ **Application for .amazon and related strings**

The Board notes the GAC's discussion on the request from the Board in its Resolutions [2017.10.29.02](#) and [2017.10.29.03](#). During the Board workshop of February 2-4, 2018, the Board was updated on the status of the facilitation role that the ICANN org President and CEO play between the different parties in the .amazon issue. As stated in the Abu Dhabi Communiqué [scorecard](#), the Board has asked the ICANN org President and CEO to facilitate negotiations between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization member states and the Amazon corporation. The Board stands ready to move this issue forward at the conclusion of these discussions in accordance with the related Board resolution.

⦿ **2-Character Country Codes at the 2nd Level**

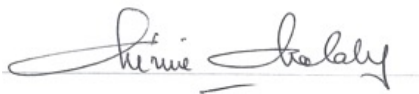
The Board notes the GAC's concerns relating to this topic. The ICANN org has communicated with several governments to understand their concerns and to provide additional information. The Board stands ready to continue to engage with the concerned governments on this issue.

⦿ **Red Cross and Red Crescent Protections**

The Board notes that the GAC reiterated its advice from the Durban Communiqué regarding this topic. The Board acknowledges the ongoing work in the community related to this topic, including the reconciliation between GNSO recommendations and GAC advice.

The Board thanks the GAC for its attention to these topics. The Board looks forward to meeting with the GAC at the ICANN61 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,



Cherine Chalaby
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors