

24 October 2022

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

Manal Ismail  
Chair  
Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

Dear Manal,

Thank you for your recent letter<sup>1</sup> of 03 October 2022 concerning the GNSO's Call for Volunteers for participation in the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) for Applicant Support. The GNSO Council noted with interest the GAC's request to consider allowing the GAC two (2) participants and two (2) alternates in the GGP to allow broader participation from interested GAC members.

As you may know, at its meeting on 20 October 2022, the GNSO Council discussed the GAC's request. In this discussion, GNSO Councilors raised the following points. First, they noted that qualified GAC members may be called upon by the GGP as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in specific fields to aid in deliberations for certain tasks, particularly those members of the GAC from regions most likely to seek applicant support. Second, Councilors emphasized that while the structure of the GGP was originally envisioned as a Steering Committee with broad membership, the Council ultimately determined that the much more limited membership structure of a Working Group was better suited to the limited scope of the GGP. Third, at least one Councilor noted that the tasks assigned to the GGP Working Group are sufficiently broad to benefit from increased participation by the GAC. Finally, Councilors noted that any expansion of the Working Group membership would have to be extended to all of the invited groups to ensure balanced participation.

After this discussion, the GNSO Council agreed to the expansion of the GGP Working Group membership from one (1) Member per invited group to one (1) Member and one (1) Alternate. As noted in the revised Initiation Request<sup>2</sup>, Alternates only participate if a Member is not available, but will be responsible for keeping up with all relevant Working Group deliberations to ensure they remain informed and can contribute when needed. With this new membership structure, we invite the GAC to designate, at its earliest convenience, its Member and Alternate in the GGP Working Group.

Thank you again for your letter and for the opportunity for the GNSO Council to consider this important request from the GAC.

Kind regards,  
Sebastien

*On behalf of the GNSO Council*  
*Sebastien Ducos, GNSO Chair*  
*Greg DiBiase, GNSO Council Vice-Chair*  
*John McElwaine, GNSO Council Vice-Chair*

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<sup>1</sup> See correspondence from Manal Ismail, Chair, GAC to Sebastien Ducos, Chair, GNSO at: <https://gns0.icann.org/sites/default/files/policy/2022/correspondence/ismail-to-ducos-03oct22-en.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See revised GGP Initiation Request redlined at: <https://gns0.icann.org/sites/default/files/policy/2022/draft/draft-subpro-ggp-initiation-request-redline-26oct22-en.pdf>.