

18 December 2018

Mrs. Manal Ismail
Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee

Dear GAC Chair Manal Ismail,

I am writing to express to the Government Advisory Committee (GAC) my sincere regret that the facilitation process associated with the application for the .AMAZON top-level domain (TLD) appears to have stalled.

Over the past 12 months, pursuant to GAC advice, ICANN org has put great effort into working with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and Amazon Corporation to develop a solution for the delegation of .AMAZON that would be of mutual benefit to the peoples of the Amazon region, as well as Amazon Corporation (the company that has applied for the related TLDs). Together, we developed something quite unique, which would allow the ACTO member states to protect and promote the cultural and natural heritage of the Amazon region while affording the Amazon Corporation a much-desired business tool.

Prior to the ICANN63 meeting in Barcelona, we received several letters of thanks from the ACTO Secretariat for our efforts to facilitate a mutually acceptable agreement. In fact, on 19 October 2018, I received a letter from the ACTO Secretary General in which I was invited to attend a meeting with ACTO country representatives in Brazil to further facilitate the process. The letter includes this statement: "Finally, I would like to express on behalf of the ACTO Member States our appreciation for Mr Marby's personal engagement in this process."

At ICANN63, on 25 October 2018, the Board passed a resolution directing the President and CEO, or designee, to remove the "Will Not Proceed" status and move the discussion forward, based on the understanding that progress had been made in the process, yet negotiations were not final. Let me assure the GAC that the Board resolution did not immediately delegate the TLD to the Amazon Corporation.

After ICANN63, on 5 November 2018, ACTO sent a letter to the Board stating its displeasure with the Board resolution and withdrew their invitation. In addition, ACTO filed a Reconsideration Request to ICANN asking for the annulment of the Board resolution.

On 20 November 2018, I wrote a letter to ACTO stating: "If there has been any misunderstanding in our exchanges and communication I would like to express my sincere apologies and look to a constructive way forward, and to work together to implement the Board Resolution of 25 October 2018 and recognize the hard work that you have dedicated to this in the past five years for the mutual benefit of all the concerned parties."

This recent turn of events is therefore truly unfortunate, and I sincerely hope that we can put any misunderstanding behind us and move forward in a constructive and positive manner for the shared benefit of both parties. I also wish to inform the GAC that ICANN is proceeding with its review of the Reconsideration Request that ACTO filed, using ICANN's Accountability Mechanism.

I would like to thank the GAC leaders and members for the support they have expressed throughout this process. Please feel free to share with me and the Board any questions or concerns related to the facilitation process.

With my best regards,



Göran Marby
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)