On behalf the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), I am writing to seek continued support in ICANN’s Budget in FY18 and also thereafter for forty (40) funded GAC travelers per ICANN Meeting, as granted for FY17. As prescribed in the GAC Travel Support Rules, see <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Travel+Support> , GAC travel support is provided to those needing it most – 35 travel slots go to GAC Representatives for developing countries and small island states, and 5 travel slots go to  certain pre-approved Observers, i.e. IGOs representing such countries. The Membership of the GAC is currently at 171 Members and 35 Observers (IGOs) and continues to increase, with new Members typically falling into the categories that do qualify for GAC Travel Support in line with these rules.  It would therefore be justified to increase the number of supported GAC travelers in a proportionate manner, and at the very least keep this number at the FY17 level.

Best regards,

Thomas Schneider

Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee