8 April 2020

Manal Ismail
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

RE: Acquisition of PIR (.org)

Dear Manal,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 March 2020. We understand that the proposed change of control of Public Interest Registry (PIR) from the Internet Society (ISOC) to Ethos Capital is being followed, with interest, by the GAC, and we recognize its statements are reflected in the GAC Communiqué from ICANN67. We appreciate the unique environment ICANN67 Virtual Community Forum provided and congratulate the GAC on developing its first Communiqué without its members being physically present in one room.

We appreciate the input received on the topic during our joint meeting. ICANN continues to conduct thorough due diligence in its consideration of the proposed change of control and will provide relevant updates to the community. Since our meeting, on 17 March 2020, PIR has agreed to extend the deadline for ICANN to respond to 20 April 2020. You may be aware that Ethos Capital updated the .ORG community on 16 March 2020 by summarizing changes to its proposed Public Interest Commitments (PICs) to the .ORG Registry Agreement.

ICANN continues to urge PIR and Ethos Capital to act in an open and transparent manner throughout this process and to consider feedback from the .ORG community. In accordance with the Registry Agreement, ICANN will apply a standard of reasonableness in making its determination on whether to provide or withhold its consent to the request. As conveyed during our joint meeting in ICANN67, the ICANN Board will continue to consider the public interest in all its decision-making using the totality of the information received, including those comments received during the ICANN67 Public Forum 1.

Thank you again for the GAC's interest in this topic and the input provided during ICANN67. The Board looks forward to further engagement with the GAC on this and other topics at the upcoming virtual Board-GAC Interaction Group meeting.

Sincerely,

Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors