7 March 2022

Seeking Community Input on DNS Abuse

Maureen Hilyard
At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Dear Maureen,

As you may be aware, the GNSO Council has formed a small team of interested Council members to consider what policy efforts, if any, the GNSO Council should consider undertaking to support the numerous efforts already underway in the different parts of the community to tackle DNS abuse. The small team understands that the topic of DNS abuse is complex and variable, where the abuse can be perpetrated via the content on a site versus abuse from pharming, phishing, malware, and botnets, as listed in the New gTLD base registry agreement. In that complexity, the small team recognizes that a contracted party may or may not always be the best positioned entity to mitigate certain forms of abuse and as currently drafted, the ICANN Bylaws specifically prohibit ICANN from regulating content.

The small team is aware of the ALAC's interest in this topic as can be found here, as well as its participation in discussions at recent ICANN meetings (e.g., topic of interest during recent joint GAC-ALAC meetings, *The At-Large Community and DNS Abuse: An Individual User Education Campaign* session at ICANN69, participation in plenary sessions, etc.). Although the small team understands from the ALAC's statements that it is mainly looking towards ICANN org and Contracted Parties to implement certain actions, the small team would be interested to know the following:

1. Can you please provide further details on what specific problem(s) policy development in particular would be expected to address and why you believe policy development is the right mechanism to solve those problems?
2. What do you believe are the expected outcomes if policy development would be undertaken, taking into account the remit of ICANN and more specifically GNSO policy development in this context?
3. Does the ALAC have any expectations with regards to possible next steps the GNSO Council could or should undertake in the context of policy development?

We would appreciate if you could provide your feedback by **21 March 2022**. The small team is also reaching out to others in the ICANN community with similar questions that are intended to help inform the small team's deliberations and subsequent recommendations to the GNSO Council on whether or not further steps should be taken to initiate policy efforts on this topic. The GNSO community, broadly speaking, is interested, like other groups, in mitigating DNS abuse to the extent possible, but this

current exercise is to help determine what elements might be most appropriate specifically for policy making.

Best regards,
Philippe Fouquart, GNSO Chair
Sebastien Ducos, GNSO Council vice-chair
Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Council vice-chair