**ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee**

**Terms of Reference**

Version 5, 25 March

Date of adoption by ccNSO Council: 31 March 2022

Date of next review due: [March 2023]

## 1. Statement of Purpose

The ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) is intended to maintain a dedicated forum for ccTLD Managers to discuss the important topic of DNS Abuse and to share information, insights, and practices. It is primarily aimed at ccTLD Managers who participate within the ICANN community but is not limited to ccNSO members. Participation is purely voluntary.

In keeping with the nature of the ccNSO, the purpose of the Committee is not to formulate any policy or standards, recognising that policy development in this area is out of scope of the ccNSO policy remit. The overarching purpose is to raise understanding and awareness of the issues pertaining to DNS Abuse, promote open and constructive dialogue, and ultimately to assist ccTLD Managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS Abuse.

In undertaking its activities, the Committee is not mandated, nor shall it act as a representative of nor act on behalf of the ccNSO, ccNSO Membership, ccNSO Council or individual ccTLD Managers collectively or individually.

## 2. Scope of Activities

The scope of the Committee shall primarily, but not exclusively, be focussed on the following three areas of activity:

### a. Sharing of Information

Coordinate the ccNSO activities to share information and practices, for instance via dedicated sessions both within and outside ICANN public meetings.

Provide resources and points of reference for ccTLDs to access relevant, reliable, and actionable information on DNS Abuse.

In addition, create and maintain a dedicated mailing list for the Committee and relevant employees of ccTLDs to exchange information/incidents and stay informed. Subscription is on a voluntary basis. The Committee may decide to add others to the list if they deem this is relevant. This dedicated email list will remain closed.

### b. Messaging

To provide information on ccNSO and ccTLD activities and showcasing work from ccTLD Managers in this area to other ccTLD Managers and stakeholders both within and outside the ICANN ecosystem.

Maintain an archive of communications sent and received and develop materials and collateral which will assist ccTLDs in communicating effectively on this topic area.

It is particularly important to emphasise the diversity (geographic, linguistic, cultural, and organisational) of ccTLDs, variety of solutions and practices, and the essential differences in the roles of ccTLDs and registrars.

### c. Metrics

Create an overview of existing metrics. Invite ccTLDs to share metrics (directly, through DAAR or in any other way). Inform the ccTLD community about DAAR. Take other action respecting metrics, including studies, as appropriate and consistent with this charter.

## 3. Membership

Committee Members. The Committee should represent ccTLDs globally with members appointed by the ccNSO Council from time to time, and with at least one member from each of the ICANN geographical regions (AF, AP, EUR, LAC & NA).

### Chair of the Committee

The members of the Committee will nominate a chair, who will then be appointed by the ccNSO Council. If considered appropriate by the Committee, they may also nominate a vice-chair and a secretary, who will then also be appointed by the ccNSO Council.

### Liaisons and Observers

Taking into account its mandate and to exchange information, the Committee may invite an entity, which the Committee deems relevant in light of its activities, to appoint a liaison to the Committee. The Committee may also invite observers from other relevant stakeholders.

If invited, the Committee may also appoint liaisons or observers to other groups deemed relevant by the Committee. When a liaison or observer is appointed, the other group shall be informed of the mandate of the Committee.

The members, liaisons, observers of the Committee will be listed on the DNS Abuse Standing Committee homepage.

### Subgroups

The Committee may create a subgroup to execute one of the tasks. In addition to the members, liaisons, and observers of the Committee, the Committee may launch a call for volunteers to the community subscribed on the mailing lists. Subgroup members, observers etc. are appointed by the Chair of the Committee. The support staff will maintain the roster of the subgroup.

### Chair, Vice-Chair of Subgroups

The members of a subgroup will nominate the chair and vice-chair of the subgroup, who will then be appointed by the Chair of the Committee.

### *Support*

Support is provided by ICANN's ccNSO Support Staff. Meeting notes, recordings etc. will be published on a wiki-page and/or dedicated webpage on the ccNSO Website.

## 4. Miscellaneous

### *Omission in or Unreasonable Impact of the Terms of Reference*

In the event these Terms of Reference do not provide guidance and/or the impact of these Terms of Reference are unreasonable for conducting the business of the group, the Chair of the Committee, after consulting the members of the Committee, may ask the ccNSO Council for a review of the Terms of Reference, or an alternative course of action.

### *Review of the Terms of Reference and activities of the Committee*

A review of these Terms of Reference and the activities of the Committee will take place every two years, or earlier when considered necessary. An update of these Terms of Reference will only become effective after it has been adopted by the Committee and the ccNSO Council and has been published on the ccNSO website. Before publishing the updated Terms of Reference, the ccNSO Secretariat will include the version number and insert the date of adoption.

### *Closure*

If the Committee does not undertake any activities or if there is a lack of participation or interest in the work of the Committee the Committee will be closed by the ccNSO Council, either at the request of the chair of the Committee or at the suggestion of at least six Councillors, five appointed by the ccNSO Members and from each Region and one NomCom Appointee.