

Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting ICANN67 Cancun – Virtual Community Forum

Saturday, 07 March 2020

Statement

Topic: Call on the ICANN Org and Community to intensify their efforts in curbing DNS Abuse

We, the African ICANN Community members participating in the ICANN67 meeting and attending the Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting on Saturday, 07 March 2020, discussed Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse and ways of curbing it. We would like to make the following comments:

- First, we will like to commend ICANN org and Board for the leadership in managing the challenges surrounding this particular meeting which has resulted to holding the first ever all remote based ICANN meeting. We hope there has been a lot of experiences from this that will further improve how we handle situations like this in future.
- We are grateful to the ICANN Org and Community for the efforts that have been made in the past to curb DNS Abuse. Aside from the effort that we at At-Large consistently put towards addressing and commenting on issues surrounding DNS abuse, we also specifically, note the efforts made by the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) through its Public Safety Working Group as well as other Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, notably the Registry and Registrar Stakeholder Group. These efforts have been geared towards developing abuse mitigation capabilities within the ICANN Org, the ICANN Community, the Global Multistakeholder Internet ecosystem and more specifically among Law Enforcement Officers in all the regions.
- On the other hand, we find the current efforts towards combatting DNS Abuse need enhancing and call upon the ICANN Org and Community to increase their efforts in addressing this important issue by sharing their expertise, experience as well as contributing resources that will support Research and Capacity Building.
- DNS Abuse has emerged as a hot topic in ICANN. In order to respond appropriately to any reports of abuse, ICANN should maintain and publish comprehensive reports on DNS Abuse.

Recommendations

We recommend the following key steps to assist in the mitigation of DNS abuse:

1. We call upon the ICANN Org to set aside adequate resources as the Steward of the Global Domain Name System, geared towards creating more awareness on DNS Abuse in its global multistakeholder community and how the same can be mitigated.
2. Fighting the DNS Abuse shouldn't turn in a content regulation which is out of the ICANN remit. In fact, what is considered as content abuse in a country may be a freedom of expression in another. AFRALO would not accept any effort to fight DNS Abuse that becomes a content regulation. In view of this, we call upon the ICANN organization to facilitate more discussions on DNS Abuse at Regional Level through the coordination of Policy, GSE and ICANN Learn teams with African community leadership to ensure effective deliberation.
3. We call upon the ICANN Org through the office of the Chief Technical Officer to embrace reporting on DNS abuse in clear and simple language geared towards end users who are major consumers of DNS Products and services.

Thank you!