Original recommendations:

Recommendation 37: The ICANN organization should improve the accessibility of voluntary public interest commitments by maintaining a publicly accessible database of these commitments, as extracted from the registry agreements.

Rationale/related findings: The current process of analyzing individual voluntary PICs, comparing PICs amongst TLDs, and understanding their impact is currently cumbersome for end users and the community. Unlike many other aspects of registry agreements, voluntary PICs vary greatly from one TLD to another. Therefore, a publicly accessible database of these commitments would enhance visibility and accountability.

To: ICANN organization

Prerequisite or Priority Level: Medium

Consensus within team: Yes

Recommendation 38: Future gTLD applicants should state the goals of each of their voluntary PICs.

Rationale/related findings: The intended purpose is not discernable for many voluntary PICs, making it difficult to evaluate effectiveness.

To: ICANN organization and Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group

Prerequisite or Priority Level: Prerequisite

Consensus within team: Yes

Recommendation 39: All voluntary PICs should be submitted during the application process such that there is sufficient opportunity for Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) review and time to meet the deadlines for community and Limited Public Interest objections.

Rationale/related findings: At present, there is no mechanism in place to ensure that voluntary public interest commitments do not negatively impact the public interest prior to going into effect. Therefore, it is important for voluntary PICs to be made available to the community during the public comment period of the application process.

To: Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group

Prerequisite or Priority Level: Prerequisite

Consensus within team: Yes

New consolidated recommendation:

Combined Recommendations 37, 38, 39: To the extent voluntary commitments are permitted in future gTLD application processes, all such commitments made by a gTLD applicant must state their intended goal and be submitted during the application process such that there is sufficient opportunity for community review and time to meet the deadlines for community and limited public interest objections. Furthermore, such requirements should apply to the extent that voluntary commitments may be made after delegation. Such voluntary commitments, including existing voluntary PICs, should be made accessible in an organized, searchable online database to enhance data driven policy development, community transparency, ICANN compliance, and the awareness of variables relevant to DNS abuse trends.

Rationale/related findings: The intended purpose of many existing voluntary commitments, through the form of voluntary PICs, is not readily discernable. This ambiguity stifles the community's ability to evaluate effectiveness. Moreover, upon submission in a gTLD application, there is no mechanism in place for the community to ensure that such commitments do not negatively impact public interest and other aspects of the DNS. Consequently, it is important to the multi-stakeholder process that such voluntary commitment proposals be made available to the community with adequate time for assessment and potential objections. Furthermore, once adopted, the current process for analyzing voluntary commitments, drawing comparisons amongst TLDs, measuring effectiveness, and building data points for analysis, is too cumbersome because such commitments are only available in individualized contractual documents embedded on the ICANN website and not available in a categorized, searchable form. Unlike many other aspects of registry agreements, voluntary PICs vary greatly from one TLD to another. Therefore, a publicly accessible, categorized, searchable database of these commitments would enhance data driven policy development, community transparency, ICANN compliance, and the awareness of variables relevant to DNS abuse trends, and the overall ability of future review teams to measure their effectiveness.

To: ICANN organization and Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group

Prerequisite or Priority Level: Prerequisite

Consensus within team: Yes

Success Measures: The implementation of this recommendation will be successful if the purpose any voluntary commitments proposed by registry operators is clearly stated to describe its intended goal, all parties in the multistakeholder community are given ample time to provide input before the commitment is adopted into a contract, and any adopted measures are available and easily accessible on the ICANN website in an organized way to empower community awareness and accountability.