

Terms DASC EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW
Final, 26 September 2024

1. Context

The ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) was established as a committee 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. A continued and ongoing coordinated approach regarding the existing and potential outreach and involvement efforts by and targeted at the ccNSO and ccTLD community

The ccNSO Council adopted the current Terms of Reference on 25 March 2022. The Committee held its first meeting on 31 May 2022. According to its Terms of Reference the “Terms of Reference and the activities of the Committee (DASC) will take place every two years, or earlier when considered necessary”

2. Intent of the Review

The DASC Effectiveness Review is intended to consider the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose and carrying out its tasks as defined in its Terms of Reference. The review team is expected to advise the ccNSO Council based on its findings whether:

- a. There is an ongoing need for the DASC by assessing whether the DASC
 - i. Provides continued value for the ccNSO and ccTLD Community, specifically in enhancing the value of the ccNSO.¹
 - ii. Contributes to ICANN’s broader work on its core mission and responsibilities, to advance ccTLD perspectives and interests.
- b. If there is an ongoing need for the DASC, whether the expected value of the DASC and/or its effectiveness can be improved by changing the Terms of Reference, its structure and/or operations.

3. Requirements for DASC Effectiveness

The DASC Terms of Reference require that the “Terms of Reference and the activities of the Committee will take place every two years, or earlier when considered necessary”. The method of review is not specified, nor is defined what it meant by, or how to measure, “effectiveness”.

According to its terms of Reference the purpose of the DASC is:

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.

¹ See the [ccNSO Purpose and Goals statement](#)

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.

The Scope of Responsibilities in the terms of Reference identify the primary activities of the DASC:

- a. Sharing of Information. This primary activity includes:
 - i. Coordinate the ccNSO activities to share information and practices, for instance via dedicated sessions both within and outside ICANN public meetings.
 - ii. Provide resources and points of reference for ccTLDs to access relevant, reliable, and actionable information on DNS Abuse.
 - iii. 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. This activity includes:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Maintain an archive of communications sent and received, and develop materials and collateral which will assist ccTLDs in communicating effectively on this topic area.
 - iii. It is particularly important to emphasize the diversity (geographic, linguistic, cultural and organizational) of ccTLDs, variety of solutions and practices, and the essential differences in the roles of ccTLDs and registrars.
- c. Metrics. This activity includes:
 - i. Create an overview of existing metrics. Invite ccTLDs to share metrics (directly, through DAAR or in any other way).
 - ii. Inform the ccTLD community about DAAR.
 - iii. Take other action respecting metrics, including studies, as appropriate and consistent with this charter.

4. Method to assess the effectiveness of the DASC

Metrics to measure to what extent the DASC performed its anticipated role effectively can be drawn from the purpose, goals and scope of activities contained in the Terms of Reference of the DASC and as listed above under section 2. In addition, they can be drawn from the requirements on the DASC as a group and reporting:

- a. Attendance of meetings
- b. Meeting frequency and publication of meeting record
- c. Regular updates to the ccNSO Council
- d. Work Plan and implementation of the work plan

5. Proposed Review Process

The role of the DASC Review Team is to:

- a. Conduct a review of the DASC Effectiveness by assessing the performance of the DASC in the various areas of activities. To assist the review team, it is suggested to complete the table in Annex A.
- b. If deemed valuable, interview members of the DASC and others to determine whether there is a need for a committee like the DASC, if so whether it is fit for purpose and effective, and whether measures should be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the DASC from their perspective.
- c. To assess whether the DASC met its overarching purpose, interview ccTLD community members and others whether the DASC has been able to promote an open and constructive dialogue, and assist ccTLD Managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS Abuse
- d. Report on the outcome of the review. This report should include at least a recommendation whether there is a continued need for the DASC, and if so, make recommendations, if any, to improve the effectiveness of the DASC. The Report is expected to be submitted to the ccNSO Council for discussion and adoption at its meeting during ICANN82.
- e. Develop a workplan that would allow the review team to report to the Council by ICANN82.

6. Issues which are out of scope of the DASC effectiveness review

If, in the process of the review, the DASC Effectiveness Review Team becomes aware of issues that are out of scope of this Review, but are considered relevant, it will inform the ccNSO Council accordingly.

7. DASC Effectiveness Review Team

Membership: the ccNSO Council will appoint five (5) members, of which at least two (2) members are Councillors. Current and former members of the DASC are not eligible. The ccNSO secretariat will provide staff support. The review team is expected to appoint a spokesperson who will, when needed, represent the Review Team and speak on behalf of the Review Team.

8. Omission in or unreasonable impact of the Template

If, in the process of conducting the Review, the Review Team determines that this Template does not provide sufficient guidance and/or the impact of one of the terms is found to be unreasonable for conducting the review, the Review Team has the authority to determine a proper course of action to mitigate the issue. Any proposed modification to the Template shall only be effective after approval by the ccNSO Council.

9. Background material

DASC Terms of Reference

DASC Webpage

DASC Wiki space

Annex A: Metrics and Findings

Item	Metric	Description	Finding	Achieved YES/NO
1	Overarching purpose of DASC	promote an open and constructive dialogue, and assist ccTLD Managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS Abuse		
2	Purpose of DASC	Maintain a dedicated forum for ccTLD Managers to discuss the important topic of DNS Abuse		
3	Sharing of Information	Coordinate the ccNSO activities to share information and practices, for instance via dedicated sessions both within and outside ICANN public meetings.		
4	Sharing of Information	Provide resources and points of reference for ccTLDs to access relevant, reliable, and actionable information on DNS Abuse.		
5	Sharing of Information	Create and maintain a dedicated mailing list for the Committee and relevant employees of ccTLDs to exchange information/incidents and stay informed.		
6	Sharing of Information	Other?		
7	Messaging	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.		
8	Messaging	Maintain an archive of communications sent and received, and develop materials and collateral which will assist ccTLDs in communicating effectively on this topic area		
9	Messaging	Emphasize the diversity (geographic, linguistic, cultural and organizational) of ccTLDs, variety of solutions and practices, and the essential differences in the roles of ccTLDs and registrars		
10	Metrics	Create an overview of existing (DNS Abuse) metrics. Invite ccTLDs to share metrics (directly, through DAAR or in any other way)		
11	Metrics	Inform the ccTLD community about DAAR		
12	Metrics	Take other action respecting metrics, including studies, as appropriate and consistent with this charter		

Item	Metric	Description	Finding	Achieved YES/NO
13	Fact Sheets Working Groups and Committees	Oversee development and use of Fact Sheets Working Groups and Committees		
15	Attendance meetings members DASC			
16	Adequacy meeting frequency DASC			
17	Adequacy membership composition			
18	Regular updates to Council			
19	Develop Work Plan			
20	Implementation Work plan			