

Motion - DNS Abuse Mitigation - PDP 1 and PDP 2

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WHEREAS,

1. The GNSO Council recognizes that DNS Abuse is a longstanding topic^[1] that the GNSO has devoted two Small Teams to in 2022 and 2025;
2. In April 2025, the GNSO Council tasked a Small Team consisting of Council members to consider what policy efforts, if any, the GNSO Council should consider undertaking after considering new data that has been received, since the last DNS Abuse Small Team [Recommendations](#) in 2022;
3. The Small Team delivered its [Report](#), containing 4 recommendations, to the GNSO Council on 4 August;
4. The GNSO Council [requested](#) an Issue Report on DNS Abuse in August 2025 and in doing so, suggested three (3) priority topics that should be included in the Policy Development Process (PDP) on DNS Abuse that is expected to follow the completion of the Final Issue Report;
5. The Preliminary Issue Report was published for [Public Comment](#) on 8 September and received 27 submissions;
6. During [ICANN84](#), the GNSO organised a working session on DNS Abuse to further inform the Final Issue Report and Draft Charter;
7. On 13 November, the Council discussed the proposed updates to the Final Issue Report based on community input and provided further feedback on PDP structure, the WG Model, and Charter Questions/Scope;
8. On 1 December 2025, the [Final Issue Report on a PDP on DNS Abuse Mitigation](#) was delivered to the GNSO Council, which accounted for the Public Comment review process summarized through a [Public Comment Summary Report](#);
9. Informed by the DNS Abuse Small Team's recommendations, the Public Comment on the Preliminary Issue Report, the ICANN84 DNS Abuse working sessions, and the clear preference for narrowly scoped Policy Development Processes (PDP), the Final Issue Report recommends two separate PDPs on:
 - a. **Associated Domain Checks:** A framework requiring registrars to proactively investigate domains linked to malicious actors, particularly in cases of high-volume domain registrations used for DNS Abuse campaigns; and,
 - b. **Safeguards for Application Programming Interface (API) access to new customers:** A proactive approach that seeks to introduce friction for new customer accounts, prior to gaining access to high volume registration tools until trust is established; and,
10. The Final Issue Report further recommends that the PDP on Associated Domain Check be started first, hereafter DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1. The PDP on Safeguards for unrestricted Application Programming Interface (API) access, hereafter DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 2, second, will follow when the Council decides it is an appropriate time taking into consideration the progress and resources needed for DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1.

RESOLVED,

1. The GNSO Council adopts the recommendation for two (2) PDPs on DNS Abuse Mitigation and initiates DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1 and DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 2;

2. The GNSO Council requests the formation of a Charter drafting team on PDP 1 to further update the Charter where relevant and present it for a vote by the Council at its next meeting;
3. The GNSO Council requests that the DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 1 Working Group be convened as soon as possible after the adoption of the Charter in order to fulfill the requirements of this PDP;
4. The GNSO Council will revisit the draft Charter and timing for the commencement of DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 2 when deemed appropriate based upon the progress and resources needed for PDP 1. The Council asks staff to find efficiencies where sensible and appropriate in managing the two separate PDPs.
5. The GNSO Council requests that DNS Abuse Mitigation PDP 2 be convened after the Charter is adopted.
6. The GNSO Council thanks the DNS Abuse Small Team, the ICANN Community and everybody who contributed to it for their efforts in moving this important topic forward, with the aim to improve the security and stability of the Internet.

[1] Some past work includes:

- Registration Abuse Policies WG Final Report from 2010: <https://gnso.icann.org/issues/rap/rap-wg-final-report-29may10-en.pdf> (some, but not all recommendations adopted)
- Staff best practices discussion paper from 2011: https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/filefield_26745/discussion-paper-rap-best-practices-28sep11-en.pdf
- Uniformity of Contracts to Address Registration Abuse Final Issue Report 2012: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/registration-abuse/uofc-final-issue-report-20sep12-en.pdf> (Final Issue Report, but not sufficient support to initiate a PDP at the time)
- DNS Abuse Small Team Report 2022: <https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/policy/2022/correspondence/dns-abuse-small-team-to-gnso-council-07oct22-en.pdf>
- ICANN Contract Amendments 2024: <https://www.icann.org/en/contracted-parties/registry-operators/global-amendments/2024-global-amendments>
- DNS Abuse Small Team Report 2025:
 - <https://gnso.icann.org/sites/default/files/policy/2025/draft/dns-abuse-small-team-report-04aug25-en.pdf>