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## GAC Meeting with the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

### Session 12

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#### Session Agenda

Members of the SSAC will share information with GAC representatives on the latest developments in areas where they have common or overlapping interests with GAC member governments. Attendees will explore opportunities for future collaboration with the GAC on key topics.

The topics identified for bilateral discussion between the GAC and SSAC during this ICANN82 session include:

- Impact of emerging technologies on DNS Abuse and the DNS in general
- Quantum computing and impacts on existing encryption technologies

The technology topics above were proposed by the GAC in consideration of GAC Strategic Objective #7 “Impact of New Technology on Unique Identifiers Systems” in the [GAC Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#) and the Expected Outcome for which include consideration of these technologies (see relevant section in the [GAC Annual Plan 2024/2025](#)).

#### Background on SSAC

The SSAC advises the ICANN community and the ICANN Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the naming and address allocation systems of the Internet. These include operational matters such as those pertaining to the correct and reliable operation of the Root Server System; administrative matters such as those pertaining to address allocation and Internet number assignment; and registration matters such as those pertaining to registry and registrar services like WHOIS. The SSAC also engages in ongoing threat assessment and risk analysis of the Internet naming and address allocation services to assess where the principal threats to stability and security lie, and advises the ICANN community accordingly.

[SSAC members](#) are technical security professionals who volunteer their time and expertise to improve the security and integrity of the Internet’s addressing system. The SSAC produces [reports, correspondence, and comments](#) on a range of topics for the ICANN Board, the ICANN community, and the broader Internet community. The SSAC documents how the SSAC carries out its own work and the accumulated rationale in the [SSAC Operational Procedures](#).

## Recent SSAC/GAC Developments

The GAC and SSAC have ongoing contacts and discussions, and most recently:

- A [Pre-ICANN81 GAC Webinar on DNS Abuse mitigation](#) (4 October 2024) which provided status on the implementation of SSAC's proposed Interoperable Approach to DNS Abuse as laid out in [SAC115](#) (19 March 2021) which served to prepare for the ICANN81 GAC plenary session on DNS Abuse (12 November 2024)<sup>1</sup>
- A [bilateral meeting between the GAC and the SSAC during ICANN81](#) (10 November 2024) which discussed<sup>2</sup>:
  - SSAC's Five Steady-State Topics
  - DNS Abuse and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - Blockchain and the DNS
  - SSAC and the GAC

The GAC Public Safety Working Group (PSWG) and SSAC also hold regular informal bilateral meetings before or during ICANN meetings, as was the case before ICANN81 (24 October 2024) and before ICANN82 (18 February 2025). The two groups generally discuss current issues pertaining to both groups' mandates (see [PSWG Work Plan 2023/2024](#)) in particular WHOIS Registration Data issues and DNS Abuse mitigation.

During their Pre-ICANN82 Bilateral meeting, the PSWG and SSAC discussed the following topics:

- Perspectives on the INFERMAL Final Report (see below for more details).
- Impact of DNS Abuse Amendments on levels of DNS Abuse
- Registration Data Accuracy
- Registration Data Request Service

A new project to be supervised by ICANN OCTO, [Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains \(INFERMAL\)](#) was announced with the aim to **systematically analyze the preferences of cyberattackers, including the use of domain names of certain registrars over others**, and possible measures to mitigate malicious activities across top-level domains (TLDs). This project is stemming in part from evidence gathered in the [Statistical Analysis of DNS Abuse in gTLDs](#) (9 August 2017)<sup>3</sup>, suggesting that malicious actors may prefer registrars that provide low registration prices, accept specific payment methods, offer free application programming interfaces (APIs) for bulk registrations or avoid registrars that require certain information in the purchasing process. In a [pre-ICANN78 update](#) (25 October 2023), it was indicated that the research team was planning *"to perform an analysis of identified security measures that help mitigate DNS abuse"* and intended to *"summarize a study on how quickly abusive domain names are suspended after operators are*

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<sup>1</sup> See [material](#) shared during the ICANN81 GAC plenary session on DNS Abuse (GAC Website), as well as [recording and transcript](#) (ICANN81 Schedule)

<sup>2</sup> See [material](#) shared during the ICANN81 bilateral meeting between the GAC and the SSAC (GAC Website), as well as [recording and transcript](#) (ICANN81 Schedule)

<sup>3</sup> This study was conducted as part of the CCT Review and a [GAC Comment](#) (19 Sept. 2017) was submitted on this report.

*notified about the abuse*". It was expected that a final report "*in the form of a research paper*" would be shared by September 2024 and that "*best practices to effectively mitigate abuse*" would be proposed. An update on this project was provided by ICANN org during ICANN81 in a [DNS Abuse Updates session](#) (on 13 November 2024). The INFERMAL project's [Final Report](#) (8 November 2024) was presented to the ICANN Community in a [Pre-ICANN82 webinar](#) (19 February 2025). During ICANN82, the GAC is expected to discuss the findings of this report with several community groups, as well as in GAC plenary during the GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse.

## Key Reference Documents

- General information about SSAC: <https://www.icann.org/en/ssac>
- SSAC Membership: <https://www.icann.org/en/ssac/members>
- SSAC Publications: <https://www.icann.org/en/ssac/publications>
- [Security and Stability Advisory Committee: A Year of Progress and Openness](#) (9 October 2024)

## Document Administration

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