

# DNS Abuse Mitigation

## GAC Topic Leads:

Martina Barbero (European Commission)

Tomonori Miyamoto (Japan)

Gabriel Andrews (United States, PSWG Co-Chair)

Susan Chalmers (United States)

## Guest Speakers:

Shri Devesh Tyagi (NIXI, .IN ccTLD Manager)

Manju Chen (Trusted Notifier Network)

9 March 2026 - ICANN85

# Agenda

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- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Managing DNS Abuse: Perspective from .IN Registry**
- 3. Report on DNS Abuse Policy Discussions**
- 4. Trusted Notifier Network Presentation**
- 5. GAC Mumbai Communiqué Consideration**

# Introduction

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- DNS Abuse mitigation is a priority issue for the GAC
- Expected Outcomes in the [GAC 2025/2026 Annual Plan](#) regarding DNS Abuse:
  - Advancing ICANN policy work on DNS Abuse before further delegation of new gTLDs
  - Building the subject matter capacity of GAC Members on DNS Abuse
- *DNS Abuse* means malware, botnets, phishing, pharming, and spam (when spam is used as a delivery mechanism for any of the other four types of DNS Abuse)
- **gTLD Registries and Registrars** are contractually required to *respond* to reports of DNS Abuse; **ICANN Compliance** audits and enforces these contract requirements.

# Introduction

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- ICANN83 (June 2025): GAC issues Consensus Advice to ICANN Board in the [GAC Prague Communiqué](#)

*To urge the GNSO Council to undertake all necessary preparations prior to ICANN84 towards starting **targeted and narrowly scoped Policy Development Processes (PDPs)** on DNS Abuse issues, prioritizing **bulk registration of malicious domain names***

*and*

*the responsibility of **registrars to investigate domains associated with** registrant accounts that are the subject of actionable **reports of DNS Abuse.***

- Jan 2026: GNSO adopts [PDP Charter](#) for an “Associated Domain Check”
  - PDP 1: Associated Domain Checks
  - PDP 2: Safeguards for Application Programming Interface (API) access to new customers

# Host Country Presentation - Managing DNS Abuse: Perspective from .IN

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Presentation by: **Shri Devesh Tyagi, Chief Executive Officer**  
**National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**

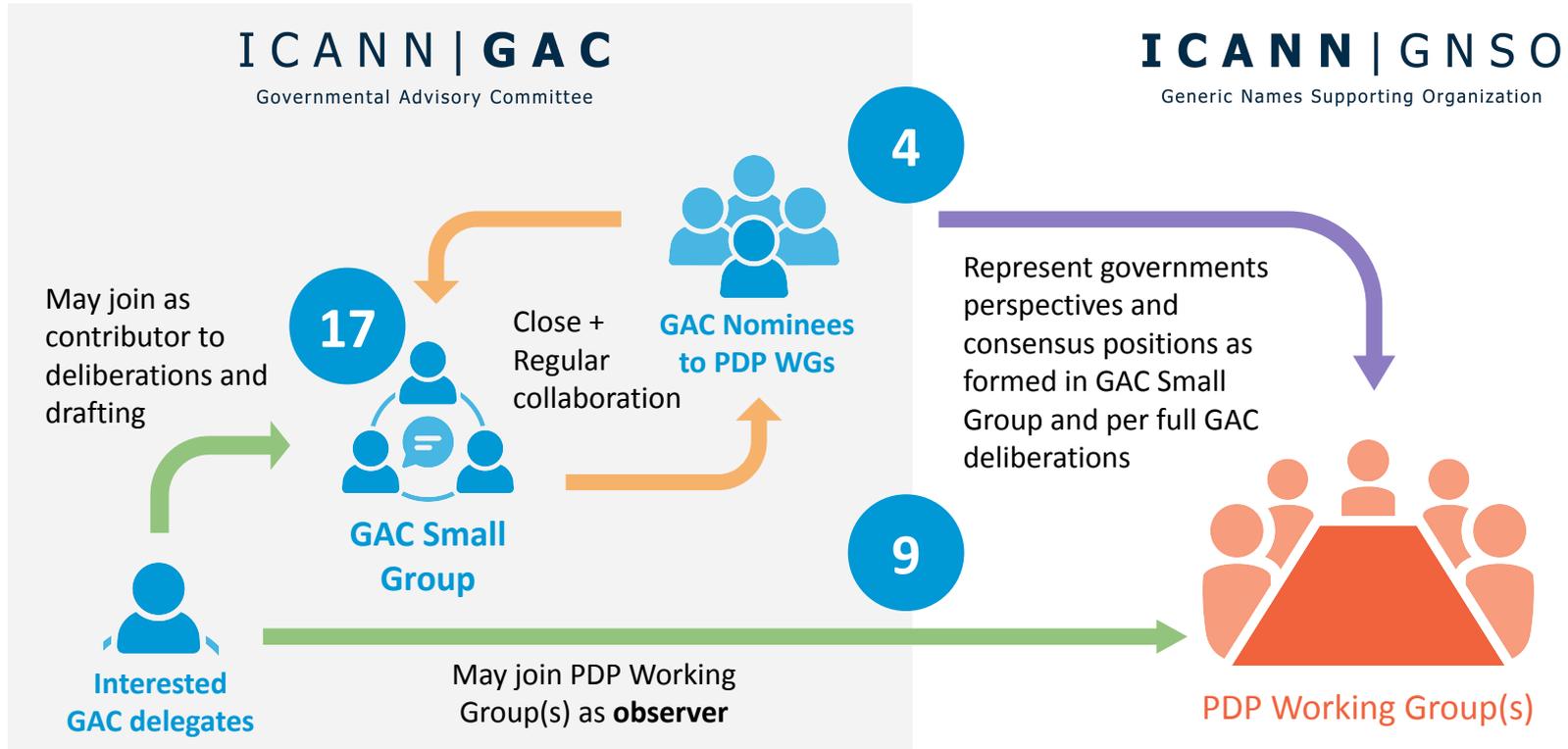
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# GAC DNS Abuse Small Group + Participation in PDP Working Groups

The GAC formed a DNS Abuse Small Group with 17 GAC and PSWG participants



# Report on DNS Abuse Policy Discussions

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## Updates since ICANN84

- The GNSO Council [resolved](#) (11 Dec. 2025) to launch two PDPs
  - PDP 1: Associated Domain Checks - The [PDP1 Working Group Charter](#) was adopted (15 Jan. 2026)
  - PDP 2: Safeguards for API access to new customers - Expected to be launched at a later time
- 4 GAC representatives from the GAC Small Group were nominated in the PDP1 WG:
  - Members: **Martina Barbero** (European Commission); **Gabriel Andrews** (US FBI, PSWG Co-Chair)
  - Participant: **Wolfgang Holzapfel** (Germany, PSWG)
  - Alternate: **Naoum Mengoudis** (Hellenic Police/Europol EMPACT, PSWG)
- 9 GAC Small Group participants will observe the PDP (AU, CA, CN, EG, ES, IN, JP, US, Europol)
- PDP1 WG was formed and has started meeting during ICANN85

# Report on DNS Abuse Policy Discussions

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## Associated Domain Checks (PDP1) - Working Group Sessions

- During the initial four sessions during ICANN85, the PDP Working Group:
  - received information on the timeline of the work
    - Initial report expected in Feb 2027
    - Final report expected in Sep 2027
    - GNSO Council consideration Oct/Nov 2027
  - received a briefing on current ADC practices by subject matter experts
- Each stakeholder group will be expected to share its “early input” on the charter questions by **20 March 2026**.
- The GAC Small group has started developing possible GAC positions which will be circulated for GAC endorsement before sharing with the PDP WG

# Report on DNS Abuse Policy Discussions

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## Associated Domain Checks (PDP1) - GAC “early input” expected on the PDP1 charter questions

- What triggers the requirement to investigate ADC
- What criteria should be used to define “association” between domains? What elements can be considered to establish such “association”?
- What constitutes a reasonable investigation and what could be the impact on registrants?
- What data access and privacy safeguards are necessary to protect both registrants and registrars during associated domain checks?
- What are remedies for registrants in case of negative impact?
- What are appropriate timelines and thresholds for initiating and concluding the associated domain check?
- What specific requirements are necessary to implement this policy and what parts can be subject to best practices, or potentially left to the discretion of the contracted party?
- What metrics to be used to measure effectiveness of this policy and how to prove compliance?

## Additional Policy Development and Policy Gaps

- GAC will be watching the timeline for launching PDP2 on Safeguards for API access to new customers
- Among the policy gaps identified in the Issue Report, the GAC signaled several priority issues for additional work, including:
  - Proactive monitoring as part of preventative measures
  - Addressing registration data accuracy
  - Increased transparency in the reporting obligations
  - Consensus policy on subdomain abuse
  - Centralized coordination mechanism for DGA Botnet attacks

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# GAC Annual Plan and Communique Reminder

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[GAC Annual Plan 2025/2026](#) – Endorsed by the GAC on 3 November 2025

## ***Expected Outcomes regarding capacity building***

- 4.5. Increase the availability of training and briefing material on the fundamentals of DNS Abuse, for GAC newcomers, as well as any interested GAC Members, including ICANN briefings, GAC webinars, studies, and other relevant content.
- 4.6. Tailor training and briefing material according to GAC Member knowledge needs.
- 4.7. Provide GAC members with examples of best practices, guidelines, or trusted notifier programs that may assist DNS Abuse policy development within their respective jurisdictions

[GAC Communiqué](#) – Dublin, Ireland (ICANN84)

## **IV. Issues of Importance to the GAC / 4. DNS Abuse**

*The GAC recognizes the importance of stakeholder collaboration to address DNS abuse activity that is both within and outside of ICANN's remit and considers voluntary initiatives such as trusted notifier programs to be promising in this regard*

# Trusted Notifier Programs - Overview

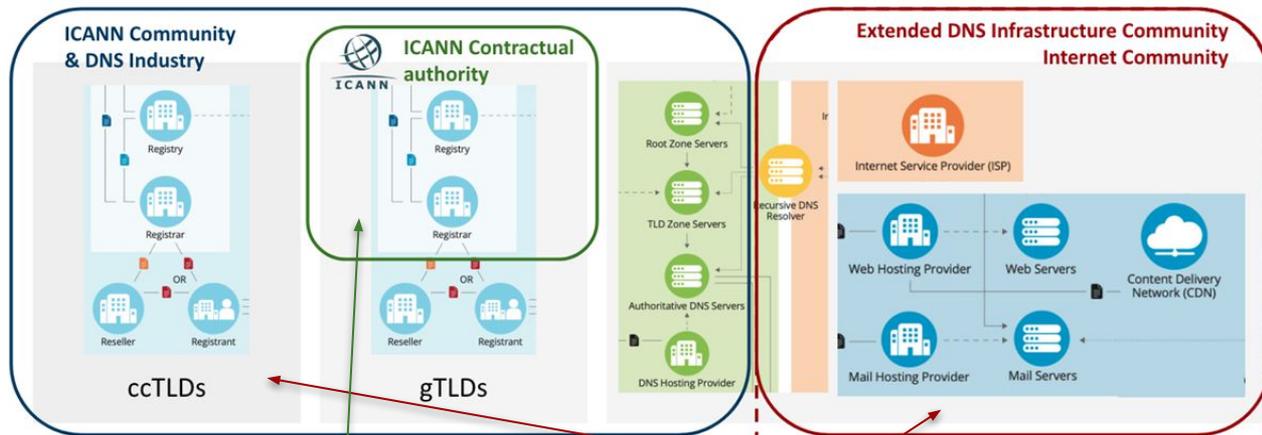
End Users



The scope of ICANN contractual authority is limited.

A lot is being done and can be done beyond the remit of ICANN's contracts.

Domain Names Services



Internet Infrastructure Services (incl. DNS, Routing, Content Hosting and distribution)

Providers of content and services

Sharing good practices – Trusted Notifiers, etc.

ICANN policy work – RA/RAA, PDPs, etc.

# The Trusted Notifier Network

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Presentation by: **Manju Chen**, Director of Policy  
Trusted Notifier Network

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# GAC Mumbai Communiqué Consideration

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- Issues of Importance (as shared during the Communiqué Préparation phase)
  - Associated Domain Check Policy Development
  - Future DNS Abuse Policy Development
  - Possibilities for future efforts and collaborations