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Government of India

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Dear Mr. Lindqvist,

Subject: Strengthening ICANN's Processes for facilitating timely progress on issues of Public Interest, User Safety and Trust

I wish to draw your attention to a few issues which are pending for some time. Timely resolution of these issues would significantly contribute to strengthening the security, trust and resilience of the Domain Name System (DNS).

2. India has consistently engaged constructively in ICANN's multistakeholder processes through the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), bilateral engagements with the ICANN Board, public consultations and policy development processes to promote a more secure and trusted Internet. However, several issues of significant public interest remain entangled in prolonged deliberations without a clear pathway to implementation. As ICANN continues to build consensus across its diverse stakeholder community, it is equally important that discussions translate into timely, practical and meaningful outcomes.

3. I wish to particularly draw attention to certain issues that have been repeatedly raised over successive ICANN meetings where tangible progress remain limited:

i. Eliminating the 15-Day Window for verification of Domain Name Registration Data:

Despite the growing evidence gathered from various ICANN commissioned reports regarding the role of recently registered domains in phishing, malware distribution and other forms of DNS abuse, the existing provision permitting up to 15(fifteen days) for verification/ validation of Registrant's/ Registered Domain Holder's contact details after domain activation continues to remain unchanged. India has consistently advocated that validation of email address and contact number should be carried out prior to domain activation. This can be achieved through minor contractual amendments. While the issue is acknowledged in previous ICANN meetings, the future discourse on this matter continues to be deferred.

ii. Mandatory reporting of DNS Abuse by Registrars and Registries and development of Centralised DNS Abuse reporting mechanism by ICANN:

There exists no mandatory requirement on registrars and registries at present to report/ publish periodic statistics on the DNS abuse complaints and corrective actions taken. Consequently, comprehensive data on the number of complaints

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received, nature of abuse involved, mitigation action and response timeline, etc is not available. The absence of comprehensive data limits evidence-based policy making for internet governance. Therefore, it is important that DNS abuse reporting be made mandatory for all registrars in interest of transparency and accountability and evidence-based policymaking. It would also be desirable to have a centralized reporting mechanism to provide the community with a comprehensive view of DNS Abuse trends and the effectiveness of mitigation efforts.

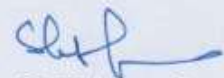
iii. **Operationalization of the Urgent Request and Law Enforcement Authentication Mechanism:** Although, the Registration Data Policy now incorporates a twenty-four-hour response timeline for urgent requests following more than three years of deliberations within ICANN, its operationalisation continues to remain dependent upon the development of a law enforcement authentication mechanism for which no definitive timeline exists at present. For Governments and law enforcement agencies responding to cybercrime, fraud and other urgent public safety situations, the absence of an operational mechanism is delaying timely access to registration data, resulting in the loss of critical response time against malicious actors and undermining the intended value of the 24-hour commitment in practice. Hence, governments want expeditious operationalization of the Urgent Request and Law Enforcement Authentication Mechanism.

4. Given the direct implications of above issues on the trust and security of Internet, I believe that these issues merit immediate priority within ICANN's ongoing policy work.

5. Accordingly, we would welcome the continued leadership of the ICANN Board in strengthening the effectiveness of ICANN's governance processes, so that issues of significant public interest are addressed through timely and predictable policy. The multistakeholder model derives its legitimacy not only from inclusive participation but also from its ability to deliver effective and meaningful outcomes for the global internet community. Continued progress on these issues would further reinforce confidence in the multistakeholder model and support ICANN's long-term mission of ensuring a stable, secure and unified global Internet. India looks forward to continuing its constructive engagement with ICANN and the broader community to advance these important issues in a manner that promotes a safer, more trusted and resilient Internet for all.

w. a personal regards

Yours sincerely,


(S. Krishnan)

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