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ECOSOC High-level Segment

**Statement submitted by the Internet Corporation for Assigned
Names and Numbers in consultative status with the Economic
and Social Council ***

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statements are issued without formal editing.

Statement

The Internet is an important tool for achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda. Preserving the security, safety, stability, and resiliency of the world-wide network is vital to sustaining and fortifying the overall trust that users around the world have in Internet services. Many technical organizations around the world work together to ensure such stability with a growing reliance on the domain name system (DNS) as a trustworthy underlying infrastructure. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), whose mission is to coordinate the stable operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems (including the DNS), dedicates an important part of its work to ensuring a strong foundation for this activity globally. It does so in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, by monitoring security trends and potential threats to the stability of the DNS and keeping the global community informed about the latest developments touching on ICANN's mission. This allows for a cooperative and multistakeholder approach in identifying and mitigating risks.

The Domain Name System is a centerpiece of the Internet infrastructure, providing the ability for anyone globally to access services and applications online by name instead of by numbers. The continued resilience and security of the DNS is critical regardless of the situation, location, and contingencies.

Several factors, introduced by different measures and imposed by the pandemic, have forced people around the world to work and live differently: lockdowns have increased remote working, decreased travel has transferred many face-to-face interactions and events to online video calls, and (in countries with the existing infrastructure) have boosted online shopping habits of consumers. Inevitably all these changes created additional demand on the DNS. To assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the DNS, ICANN has conducted tests and analyzed traffic data to measure and test the resilience built into the DNS. These measurements and studies, completed during the pandemic, have demonstrated that the DNS has handled the increase in traffic and lived up to the expectations for resiliency by responding to the new challenges.

ICANN will continue to encourage and work with all relevant stakeholders around the world, who are actively engaged in delivering on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, paying particular attention to ensure provisions are always made to deliver these goals, on top of a strong and resilient Internet infrastructure.

For more information, please see:

- Analysis of the Effects of COVID-19-Related Lockdowns on ICANN Manged Root Server Traffic - <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/octo-008-15apr20-en.pdf>

- Reporting Potential Pandemic-Related Domains -

<https://www.icann.org/en/blogs/details/reporting-potential-pandemic-related-domains-1-5-2020-en>

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