13 October 2021

RE: ME Space Draft Statement on DNS Abuse

Tijani Ben Jemaa
Executive Director Mediterranean Federation of Internet Associations

Dear Tijani,

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for the Middle East (ME) Space statement, sent to the Board on 6 June 2021 and to express our appreciation for the input provided by the Middle East Space community.

We welcome the ME Space community's willingness to collaborate and share ideas about the role of ICANN org and the ICANN community regarding such an important subject - DNS abuse mitigation.

As you indicated, DNS abuse represents one of the most important concerns today for the Internet community. The ICANN Board is encouraged by the ICANN community's discussions related to DNS abuse. As the community works toward a commonly-accepted definition of DNS abuse, ICANN org has launched the DNS Security Threat Mitigation Program (Program) focused on coordinating ICANN's many efforts to support the mitigation of DNS security threats.

The Board has also arranged for a discussion with a panel of senior Internet security professionals. The discussion will take place on 22 October 2021 as part of the ICANN Board's workshop prior to the ICANN72 Annual General Meeting. The discussion will be live broadcast for the community, and we invite the ME Space to attend. A formal announcement with participation details is coming soon.

DNS security threats are defined as five broad categories of harmful activity: botnets, malware, phishing, pharming, and spam as it is used to propagate other DNS security threats. You may observe that this Program highlights synergy with the Middle East Space community's vision for ICANN's role in mitigating DNS abuse by describing the actions we are currently taking and explaining the limits of our remit (e.g., with regard to content regulation and domain name take-downs) as provided by our contracts and Bylaws. You can find more about this Program by listening to our community webinar from 22 July. The webinar recording is available in the DNS Security Threat Mitigation Program webpage.

The ICANN Board thanks the Middle East Space for its commitment and work as an important contributor to the global ICANN community.

Sincerely,

Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors