15 January 2023

RE: Base gTLD Registry Agreement Negotiation Notice

Samantha Demetriou
Chair, Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG)

Dear Samantha,

Thank you for the 16 December letter regarding the Registries Stakeholder Group's (RySG) desire to formally initiate discussions for an amendment to the Base gTLD Registry Agreement (RA) to improve the existing obligations related to Domain Name System (DNS) abuse.

We appreciate and are grateful to the RySG for providing an official notice to begin discussions to improve sections of the RA. The goal of these discussions is to establish an obligation for Registry Operators to take reasonable and appropriate action to mitigate or disrupt registrations engaged in DNS abuse.

As you know, ICANN leadership is committed to the concept of improving the contractual obligations to mitigate DNS abuse, and I want to reiterate this commitment and that this collaboration remains a priority for the ICANN organization (org). We look forward to engaging in good-faith negotiations with the RySG to reach an agreement on revisions to the RA. As stated in our letter from 30 November 2022, ICANN org affirms its alignment with the Contracted Party House's proposed guideposts for the discussions outlined in the 4 November letter. Furthermore, ICANN org is committed to expediting discussions to make meaningful progress on this matter.

Since receiving your official notice, a member of the ICANN Global Domains and Strategy function has been in contact with the RySG, and as of this week negotiations are underway between a cross-functional team from ICANN org and the RySG.

We look forward to working together to develop meaningful and enforceable improvements to the DNS abuse obligations in the RA. Thank you again for your continued engagement and commitment to advancing work that is beneficial to Internet security and the ICANN community.

Sincerely,

Sally Costerton
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)