



Addressing the global Internet

21 April 2010

Rod Beckstrom
CEO and President

Janis Karklins
Chairman of the Governmental Advisory Committee
Ambassador of Latvia to France

Dear Janis,

I wanted to follow-up on my remarks during the joint Board-GAC session at the Nairobi meeting. My intent during the meeting was to ensure that ICANN's governmental stakeholders have a proper level of awareness and attention devoted to the very critical concerns related to Domain Name System (DNS) security, stability and resiliency. I want to assure you that I applaud the current efforts being undertaken by the full range of ICANN's advisory committees and supporting organizations, as well as other community partners; I believe these efforts are crucial in enhancing the security of the DNS; and I do not think that current efforts in this area are failing. I acknowledge that much work has occurred and continues.

However, as I stated in the GAC meeting, it is becoming increasingly clear that the DNS faces threats to its operation. It is my strong belief that as a community, we need to deepen our understanding of these risks and seek to collaborate even more to address our responsibilities to secure the DNS.

In my view, the role of ICANN is to enable the DNS community to provide the wide range of stakeholders, including governments, full confidence that a private-sector-led, multi-stakeholder community is the most effective way to pursue system-wide security.

As you know, ICANN has brought forward two strategic initiatives to further the effectiveness of the DNS community's efforts in this area. The first relates to risk analysis and contingency planning. These efforts are vital to ensure that the risks to the DNS are identified for the community. The GAC could have a vital role to play in assisting with the gathering of information necessary to further our understanding of DNS risks. I would welcome suggestions on how best to enlist the GAC's support for this effort.



The second initiative relates to the potential establishment of a DNS Computer Emergency Response Team (DNS-CERT). In the near term, ICANN plans to work with the CERT community to conduct a survey of national CERTs related to their relationships with DNS operators; the need for a DNS-CERT; and the specific requirements national CERTs may have of a DNS-CERT. We seek to address public comment concerning the sufficiency of this mechanism to address security concerns. I would very much welcome the GAC's involvement in this initiative along with suggestions on how to facilitate the GAC's participation. I have also written to the ccNSO seeking their assistance with this effort as well.

As we move forward with consideration of these initiatives, we would welcome GAC input on the following specific questions:

- 1) What Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTS) exist in GAC member countries?
- 2) Are these CERTS mature and stable in size and function or still under development?
- 3) Are there any new CERTS under consideration in member countries?
- 4) Are there any DNS experts or botnet experts at these CERTS that might be interested in joining a future possible network of experts on the topics. If so, please share any names and contact information as appropriate.

Finally, ICANN would welcome the GAC's support with ICANN's efforts to facilitate the deployment of DNS-SEC. In my view, the GAC can play a very important role in promoting the adoption of DNS-SEC globally.

As we move forward, we will continue the collaborative approach ICANN has used to enhance the security, stability and resiliency of the DNS. We will also seek to enhance networks of trust and cooperation that exist between TLD operators, national governments and organizations, and national CERTs in pursuing ICANN's core mission of security, stability and resiliency of the DNS.

I welcome the GAC's continuing interest in DNS security and I look forward to engaging with the GAC on risk analysis and contingency planning as well as areas relating to DNS CERT.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Beckstrom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rod Beckstrom