DNS ABUSE SMALL TEAM

GNSO Council Meeting

11 June 2025

Objective:
Evaluate DNS Abuse mitigation efforts and determine whether further policy work is need.
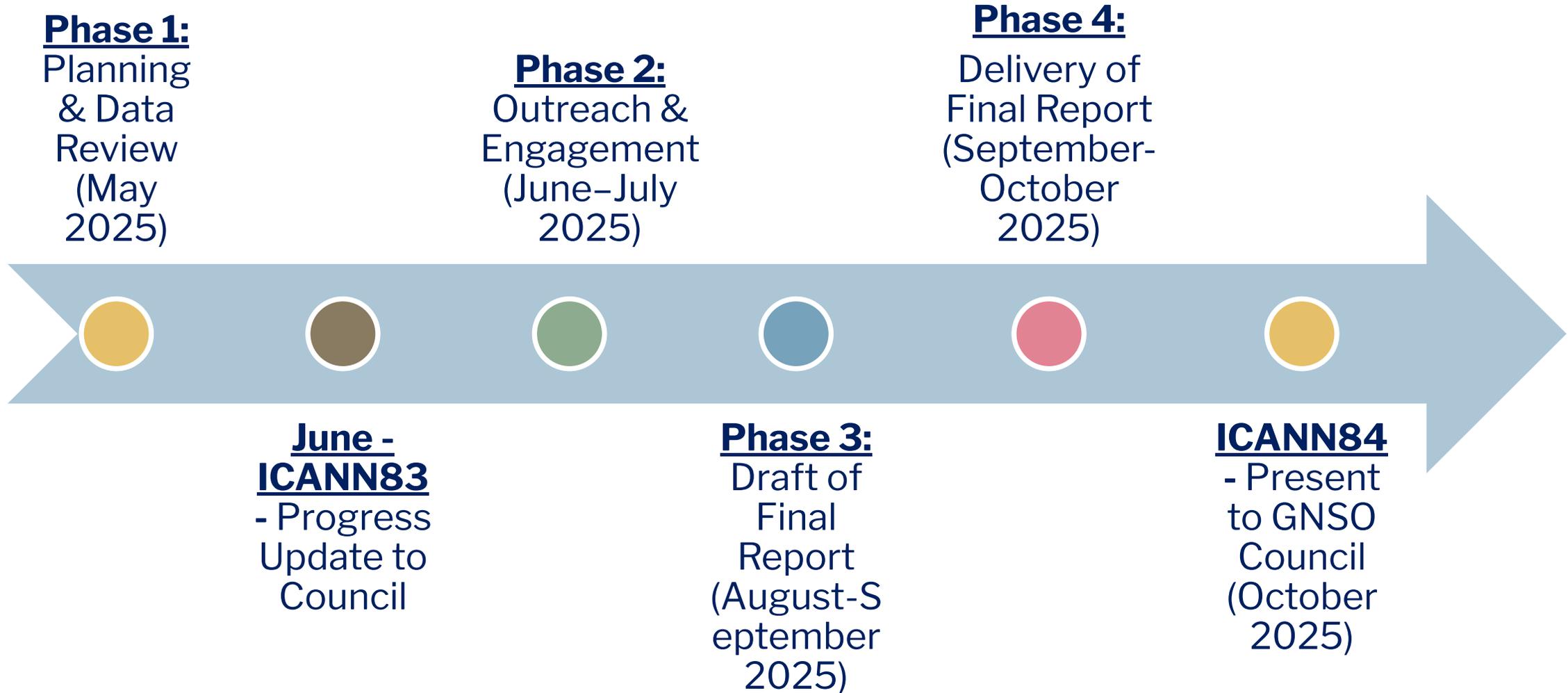
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Tasks:
- *Review 2022 Small Team Recommendations*
- *Assess impact of ICANN contract amendments*
- *Conduct outreach to ICANN Community.*
- *Analyse INFERMAL study findings.*
- *Identify gaps in mitigation efforts.*

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Deliverable:
Report to GNSO Council with findings, identified gaps, and recommendations for next steps.

CURRENT DELIVERY PLAN

Phase 1:
Planning & Data Review (May 2025)

Phase 2:
Outreach & Engagement (June–July 2025)

Phase 4:
Delivery of Final Report (September-October 2025)

June - ICANN83
- Progress Update to Council

Phase 3:
Draft of Final Report (August-September 2025)

ICANN84
- Present to GNSO Council (October 2025)

DNS ABUSE SMALL TEAM PROGRESS

Agreed on Delivery plan:
- Ongoing review of delivery plan

Gaps/Issues in DNS Abuse Mitigation:
- Listed the gaps named in the reviewed source documents.
- Sent Qs to ICANN Org

Next Steps:
- Small Team is discussing list of gaps with ICANN Community

Reviewed key sources:
- INFERMAL study
- ICANN Compliance data from 1 year Contract Amendments
- NetBeacon White Paper
- DNS Abuse Small Team Report (Nov2022)

Clustering of Gaps/Issues:
- Clustered the gaps named in the reviewed source documents into overarching themes.

Feedback needed:
- Whether the categorization/clustering aligns with your understanding of each gap
- Any gaps you feel are missing or misclassified
- Opportunities to clarify where further analysis is needed

DNS ABUSE SMALL TEAM LIST OF GAPS AND CLUSTERING- PREVIEW

Gap ID	Theme	Not In Scope For Policy-Making	Aready addressed (maybe partially)?	Gap Description	Document/Source	Why is it a gap? (according to source document)
G1	Associated domain check			No requirement to investigate associated domains	NetBeacon PDP Whitepaper	Registrars are not required to check for other domains linked to malicious activity, allowing abuse to persist across multiple domains.
G10	Associated domain check			Limited Use of Abuse Data for Preventive Action	INFERMAL	Abuse feeds data is not consistently used to inform domain-level restrictions or validation rules.
G17	Complainant reports			25% of unactionable abuse complaints	ICANN Org Report on DNS Abuse mitigation requirements (Nov 2024)	Lack of proper complaint data or understanding results in ICANN closing complaints without action. Many complaints are closed due to missing or inadequate evidence, like lack of URLs in screenshots or failure to respond to follow-up requests.
G27	Complainant reports		- NetBeacon Reporter - RA/RAA amendments	Victims unsure where or how to report abuse	DNS Abuse Small Team Report (2022)	Lack of clarity in reporting channels delays response and reduces effectiveness of mitigation.
					NetBeacon Blog Analysis	

Gaps related to:

- Associated domain check – 2
- Complaint reports – 2
- Compromised vs Maliciously registered domains – 2
- Contractual Gap/Improvement – 1
- Dispute Resolution – 1
- Enforcement challenges – 4
- Friction – 4
- Practices that are prone to abuse – 3
- Industry coordination – 2
- Lack of data/research – 2
- Mitigation information from CP – 2
- Pass down requirements to registrants – 2
- Proactive vs Reactive Measures - 3

Tasks:

✅ *Review 2022 Small Team Recommendations*

✅ *Assess impact of ICANN contract amendments*

✅ *Conduct outreach to ICANN Community*

✅ *Analyse INFERMAL study findings and other relevant sources*

✅ *Identify gaps in mitigation efforts*

Timeline: Assignment Form says within 6 months but due to the importance of the topic, the Small Team aims to deliver its assignment earlier than the expected.

The question is which gaps can/should be addressed through policy development.