



CCSA
Cyber Conflict Studies Association

11 October 2007

Dr. Paul Twomey
President, ICANN

SUBJ: Cyber Conflict Studies Association Comments on Issues for ICANN Strategic Plan

Dear Dr. Twomey,

The Cyber Conflict Studies Association (CCSA) is a U.S.-based non-profit organization focused on understanding and establishing dialogue regarding emerging issues of conflict in cyberspace, particularly the Internet. We understand the role ICANN has played in ensuring the unique identifier system for the Internet. We are glad to see ICANN put issues of security and stability at the core of its strategic planning agenda. The recent events regarding cyber attacks in Estonia and the continuing attacks on the Domain Name System infrastructure demand greater attention. ICANN can and should play a central role.

All governments, organizations and individuals who care about the Internet as a global commons need to better orchestrate their efforts to ensure the future Internet continues to be a global environment for economic vitality and political dialogue. CCSA believes that ICANN must continue its efforts to deal with inappropriate uses of domain names and foster a dialogue on security and stability across its broad stakeholder base. Our explorations regarding cyber conflict suggest that ICANN could usefully be joined by many others in efforts to understand and manage a wide range of emerging malicious uses of the Internet. Both governments and the private organizations need to find a way to more effectively support and fund efforts to find technological solutions to limiting malicious activity, building cyber security capacity in less advantaged regions, and develop policy and legal frameworks to manage and limit conflict on the Internet. The ICANN strategic plan can usefully explore how it could become a thought leader in forming a foundation or other structures for bringing together key organizations and their combined resources in such an effort. The Cyber Conflict Studies Association appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the ICANN strategic planning process. We hope to be a more active participant in the dialogue in Internet security, stability and conflict resolution and see ICANN as a future partner.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Mulvenon
Chairman, Board of Directors
Cyber Conflict Studies Association