

Registries Stakeholder Group Statement



Issue: Evolving the Governance of the Root Server System

Date statement submitted: **9 Aug 2019**

Reference url: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/rss-governance-2019-05-23-en>

Background¹

The proposed model for Governance of the Root Server System establishes 3 new groups:

- **Root Server System Governance Board**
- **Root Server System Standing Committee**
- **Root Server Operator Review Panel**

In addition to these groups the ICANN Org will provide the **Financial and Secretariat Function**.

-> Concept paper: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/rss-governance-model-concept-paper-23apr19-en.pdf>

In addition to the Concept paper, also posted for public comments are:

-> Draft Charter Root Server System Governance Working Group

<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/draft-rss-gwg-charter-op-procedures-23may19-en.pdf>

-> Draft Work Plan of the RSS GWG and ICANN Org

<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/draft-rss-gwg-charter-work-plan-23may19-en.pdf>

Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) comment:

The Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the topic of evolving the governance of the Root Server System (RSS), as detailed in RSSAC037, ICANN's Concept Paper on developing a final model based on RSSAC037, and the associated work plan and draft charter.

The RSS is of critical importance to Registry Operators (ROs) because resolution for the Domain Name System (DNS) begins at root servers. While we as ROs are responsible for enabling the resolution of second-level and lower-level domain names within our individual top-level domains (TLDs), it is the RSS that enables the resolution of those TLDs. So in addition to recognizing the essential role the RSS has in the infrastructure of the DNS, ROs have a vested interest in supporting the long-term sustainability of the RSS as a fundamental aspect of ensuring our own business operations.

For this reason, the RySG commends the efforts that RSSAC and ICANN Org have engaged in to develop a comprehensive proposal to evolve the governance of the RSS. While the RSS has functioned well up to this point, largely thanks to the commitment and integrity of the Root Server Operators (RSOs), we agree with the RSSAC's assertions that a more formalized

¹ *Background: intended to give a brief context for the comment and to highlight what is most relevant for RO's in the subject document – it is not a summary of the subject document.*

system of governance that supports innovation while providing oversight and ensuring accountability of individual RSOs is necessary to keep up with the increasing complexity of the Internet as a whole.

The RySG supports the Proposed Governance Model articulated in RSSAC037, as well as the guiding principles that informed that model. Similarly, we agree with the RSSAC's assessment of the stakeholders who should be involved in this new governance structure. In particular, we were encouraged to see the RSSAC's proposal to involve members of the ICANN community in the different functions, and look forward to appointing representative(s) to the future Root Server System Standing Committee to help fulfill the Performance Monitoring and Measurement Function detailed in RSSAC037.

We suggest that before this group and other groups are constituted, RSSAC and ICANN Org work together to develop clear criteria for the volunteers who will staff the different function areas and consider whether a vetting process and a conflict of interest policy would be appropriate. This will help the RySG and other ICANN community groups recruit the most effective volunteers for these important functions, and ensure that they are staffed with the requisite expertise.

Finally, the RySG would like to note that it would be willing to identify qualified representatives to serve on the Root Server System Governance Working Group (GWG) in order to develop the final RSS governance model.
