

## Root Server System Governance Working Group

Teleconference #42 | Thursday, 7 April 2022 | 22:00 UTC

### ATTENDANCE

#### **RSS GWG**

Fred Baker	RSOs
Kim Davies	Liaison from the IANA
Luis Diego Espinoza	ccTLD Registries
Wes Hardaker	RSOs
Ted Hardie	IAB
Hiro Hotta	RSOs
Geoff Huston	IAB
Peter Koch	ccTLD Registries
Lars-Johan Liman	RSOs
Akinori Maemura	Alternate Liaison from the ICANN Board
Kurt Pritz	gTLD Registries
Ashwin Rangan	RSOs
Ken Renard	RSOs
Karl Reuss	RSOs
Tripti Sinha	Liaison from the ICANN Board
Brad Verd	RSOs
Paul Vixie	RSOs
Duane Wessels	Liaison from the RZM
Suzanne Woolf	SSAC

#### **Absent**

Kaveh Ranjbar	RSOs
Barbara Schleckser	RSOs
Ryan Stephenson	RSOs
Hanyu Yang	gTLD Registries

#### **Observing**

Robert Carolina  
Jeff Osborn

## **ICANN org**

Adiel Akplogan

Sam Eisner

Paul Hoffman

David Olive

Wendy Profit

Carlos Reyes

Mary Wong

## MINUTES

### **Call to Order**

Ted Hardie called the teleconference to order at 22:12 UTC and reviewed the proposed agenda. There were no objections to the agenda.

### **Review Draft Minutes of Teleconference 41**

Carlos Reyes reviewed the draft minutes for teleconference 41 on 24 March 2022. There were no objections to publishing the draft minutes.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to publish the approved minutes on the workspace.

### **Welcome New Members and Introductions**

Ted Hardie welcomed two new members. Peter Koch and Paul Vixie introduced themselves.

### **Discuss Proposal for Onboarding Session**

Carlos Reyes explained that there will be an onboarding session for the ten new members to review the work of the GWG since early 2020. All GWG members are welcome.

### **Review GWG Chair Election Process and Timeline**

Carlos Reyes reminded the GWG of the ongoing GWG chair election process. Once the nomination period closes, GWG voting members will receive secret electronic ballots.

Luis Diego Espinoza asked Ted Hardie if he would be willing to run for another term. Ted Hardie explained that he will be departing the GWG in May 2022. The Internet Architecture Board is in the process of selecting a replacement.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to conduct the election process.

## **Review Past GWG Discussions**

Ted Hardie summarized past GWG discussions, noting the GWG considered several models for root server system governance. The Affiliate Organization model—i.e., Public Root Services (PRS) or New Organization (NewOrg)—is based on the Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) relationship to ICANN and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). In the NewOrg model, PRS is a subsidiary of ICANN. The Supporting Organization model is based on the structures of the ICANN Address, Country Code Names, and Generic Names Supporting Organizations. The GWG briefly discussed the Independent Organization model but did not develop it.

Ashwin Rangan asked about oversight of PRS. Ted Hardie explained that the Affiliate Organization model seemed to be the best approach for integrating root server operators (RSOs) into ICANN while balancing their independence. PRS would have its own board of directors and budget and would focus on a specific aspect of the ICANN mission. Other GWG discussions explored the relationship between PRS and ICANN for funding flows. This type of function is different from any role in the existing ICANN Supporting Organizations. Ashwin Rangan noted that PTI is tightly coupled to ICANN, so perhaps the Affiliate Organization is not appropriate.

Kurt Pritz asked Carlos Reyes to display the graphic illustration of the NewOrg model. Ted Hardie explained the different functions and proposed groups within the NewOrg model. In particular, the financial function would make grants available to each RSO in an agreement with PRS. Ted Hardie also noted that the NewOrg model did not consider the specific success criteria related to financial management. Ashwin Rangan asked if the NewOrg model had been legally vetted. Ted Hardie explained that the GWG chose to first develop its proposal before seeking legal input.

Ken Renard asked if any features of the NewOrg model are not available in other models. Ted Hardie responded that features would be very different, especially financing and ability to sign agreements. Suzanne Woolf stated that there is a certain degree of contracting autonomy with an Independent Organization versus a Supporting Organization. Ken Renard asked if this applied to the ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS). Ashwin Rangan clarified that IMRS is an operation of ICANN and does not have any independence. Suzanne Woolf noted the tension of having funds flowing between ICANN and the RSOs while having overall oversight. Ted Hardie commented that the NewOrg model tried to find a way for subject matter expertise (in the

Strategy, Architecture, and Policy Council) to consider operational matters (in PRS) and for both to allow for onboarding and offboarding of RSOs.

As the GWG begins its next phase of work, it will have to consider required functions, tasks, and activities of governance. Lars-Johan Liman stated that the eventual governance model needs flexibility and adaptability if requirements change, specifically in regard to funding. Wes Hardaker said that the type of decisions vary across the different functions and require unique skills. Ted Hardie highlighted the tensions and challenges for populating the groups in any governance model. Ashwin Rangan asked that the next GWG teleconference focus on the RSO concerns with the NewOrg proposal. Ted Hardie noted that the entirety of the NewOrg model does not meet the entirety of the success criteria. There is some overlap, but it is up to the GWG to decide how to move forward with its work.

### **Any Other Business**

Carlos Reyes informed the GWG that there will be sessions during the upcoming ICANN74 Policy Forum in The Hague, Netherlands.

Carlos Reyes thanked Ted Hardie for his service as GWG chair.

There were no additional agenda items. The next teleconference will be Thursday, 7 April 2022 at 22:00 UTC.

### **Adjournment**

Ted Hardie adjourned the teleconference at 23:00 UTC.