

Root Server System Governance Working Group

Teleconference 47 | Thursday, 11 August 2022 | 22:00 UTC

ATTENDANCE

RSS GWG

Fred Baker	RSOs
Luis Diego Espinoza	ccTLD Registries
Wes Hardaker	RSOs
Hiro Hotta	RSOs
Peter Koch	ccTLD Registries
Lars-Johan Liman	RSOs
Akinori Maemura	Alternate Liaison from the ICANN Board
Kurt Pritz	gTLD Registries
Ashwin Rangan	RSOs
Jim Reid	IAB
Ken Renard	RSOs
Karl Reuss	RSOs
Barbara Schleckser	RSOs
Tripti Sinha	Liaison from the ICANN Board
Ryan Stephenson	RSOs
Brad Verd	RSOs
Duane Wessels	Liaison from the RZM
Suzanne Woolf	SSAC

Excused

Kim Davies	Liaison from the IANA
Geoff Huston	IAB
Paul Vixie	RSOs

Absent

Kaveh Ranjbar	RSOs
Hanyu Yang	gTLD Registries

Observers

Robert Carolina	RSOs
Erum Welling	RSOs
Paul Hoffman	ICANN org
David Olive	ICANN org
Carlos Reyes	ICANN org
Mary Wong	ICANN org

MINUTES

Call to Order

Brad Verd called the teleconference to order at 22:03 UTC and reviewed the proposed agenda. There were no objections to the agenda.

Administration

Carlos Reyes reviewed the draft minutes for teleconference 46 on 14 July 2022. There were no objections to publishing the draft minutes.

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

Carlos Reyes informed the GWG about the six work sessions planned for ICANN75 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17–22 September 2022, and a potential workshop in October 2022.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to conduct a poll to identify dates for a GWG workshop.

RSO Yields and RSS Gains

Carlos Reyes provided a summary of the discussions of the small team consisting of Fred Baker, Wes Hardaker, Kurt Pritz, and Ken Renard.

- RSOs should not be profiting from root service.
- Each RSO has different goals and therefore different budgets and incentives.
- The financial function must maintain the financial diversity of RSOs.
- RSOs that receive financing must be accountable for the financial support.
- Financing could come from a pilot program to help ICANN better understand the need.

Wes Hardaker explained that financing could support ongoing operations, infrastructure investment to improve capacity, and emergency response. Ashwin Rangan noted that financing was also an accountability and transparency mechanism. Moreover, contractual commitments drive certain types of behavior so any financial package would have to be developed with that consideration.

Wes Hardaker reviewed the questions that the small team identified for ongoing discussion. This includes whether different Service Level Agreements (SLAs) would exist depending on the amount and purpose of financial support. Wes Hardaker noted that a lightweight approach to financial controls would maintain RSO independence.

Ryan Stephenson asked about the SLAs and whether other options would be available for RSOs who do not receive funding. Brad Verd explained that the SLA term was for discussion purposes only. Jim Reid suggested keeping the funding mechanism simple and separate from the level of service an RSO provides. Tripti Sinha agreed with Ashwin Rangan and Jim Reid. Tripti Sinha asked Brad Verd to clarify the metaphor about explaining what funders would gain.

Brad Verd clarified that there is a need for messaging to explain the benefits of financial support for the RSS to potential funders. Erum Welling observed that there should be provisions for self-sustainment.

Fred Baker asked what problems or questions currently exist about RSO transparency. Brad Verd emphasized the need to convey the stability of the RSS to the Internet community while also striving for more accountability of RSOs to the Internet community. Suzanne Woolf stated that “accountability” means “accountability to whom and for what”. Ashwin Rangan provided a summary of the discussion.

Ken Renard asked if there are other things that RSOs are yielding besides the ability to get “fired”. Jim Reid identified financial independence if an RSO accepts funding. Brad Verd stated that there has to be a balance between governance and independence. Jim Reid suggested reframing the topic around autonomy rather than independence. Ken Renard asked about the scale of financial support. Jim Reid noted that an RSO could be in jeopardy if its budget depends on funding. Wes Hardaker said that total operational independence would also be lost. Robert Carolina challenged the GWG to think about fairness.

Ryan Stephenson asked when the discussion would continue. Brad Verd explained that the next teleconference will focus on another topic, but that this topic will be a subject of a work session during ICANN75. Brad Verd reminded the GWG that these scoping discussions would continue and inform the drafting of the eventual GWG report. Brad Verd encouraged the GWG to continue contributing to the working documents.

Any Other Business

There were no additional agenda items. The next teleconference will be Thursday, 11 August 2022 at 22:00 UTC.

Adjournment

Brad Verd adjourned the teleconference at 23:01 UTC.