Root Server System Governance Working Group
Teleconference 49 | Thursday, 8 September 2022 | 22:00 UTC

ATTENDANCE

RSS GWG
Fred Baker	RSOs
Wes Hardaker	RSOs
Hiro Hotta	RSOs
Geoff Huston	IAB
Peter Koch	ccTLD Registries
Kurt Pritz	gTLD Registries
Ashwin Rangan	RSOs
Ken Renard	RSOs
Karl Reuss	RSOs
Tripti Sinha	Liaison from the ICANN Board
Ryan Stephenson	RSOs
Brad Verd	RSOs
Paul Vixie	RSOs
Duane Wessels	Liaison from the RZM
Suzanne Woolf	SSAC

Excused
Jim Reid	IAB
Kim Davies	Liaison from the IANA
Lars-Johan Liman	RSOs

Absent
Luis Diego Espinoza	ccTLD Registries
Akinori Maemura	Alternate Liaison from the ICANN Board
Kaveh Ranjbar	RSOs
Barbara Schleckser	RSOs
Hanyu Yang	gTLD Registries

Observers
John Augenstein	RSOs
Robert Carolina	RSOs
Erum Welling	RSOs
Paul Hoffman	ICANN org
David Olive	ICANN org
Wendy Profit	ICANN org
Carlos Reyes	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 of teleconference 48 on 25 August 2022. There were no objections to publishing the draft minutes.

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

Carlos Reyes reviewed the schedule for the planned GWG sessions during ICANN75. Kurt Pritz asked to swap the topics of two sessions. Carlos Reyes also provided an update on planning for the GWG workshop in late November/early December 2022. Ashwin Rangan noted the late November dates may be impacted by IETF115. Fred Baker asked if remote participation would be available for the GWG workshop.

Separability of RSS Governance

Carlos Reyes provided a summary of the discussions by the small team, which consisted of Kim Davies, Ashwin Rangan, Duane Wessels, and Suzanne Woolf. The small team started its discussions trying to understand if there is currently an unstated requirement that the RSS governance structure should be operated on the assumption that it could, if needed, be easily transferred away from ICANN to another governing framework. The GWG previously developed the Public Root Services/affiliate organization model partly in response to that perceived requirement. This approach was too complex, however, and prompted negative responses from the RSOs. The small team also discussed the example of IANA and ICANN. The small team noted that separation would likely be a rare and extraordinary event, which would require activating a multistakeholder process. As such, there is no value in developing a separation mechanism for RSS governance at this point. Moreover, no current ICANN community has a separability requirement.

Suzanne Woolf explained that the small team considered the circumstances of the IANA stewardship transition and concluded that the reasons for separability then do not exist for RSS governance today. The small team explored the multiple types of relationships between the RSOs and ICANN. Geoff Huston cautioned that any governance model is not immune from catastrophic failure. Root service must continue regardless of what happens to the governance model in an emergency scenario. The GWG should consider how to preserve root service. Fred Baker reminded the GWG about RSSAC expectations of RSS governance in the Empowered Community. Jeff Osborn stated that the inability to separate RSS governance from ICANN would constitute capture. Ashwin Rangan asked if separability applies to individual RSOs or to all RSOs. The GWG confirmed that its work focuses on the collective of RSOs. Jim Reid asked about non-compliance with potential SLAs. Paul Vixie suggested distinguishing between functional concerns now while designing RSS governance and functional concerns for RSS governance once the new model is in place. The RSOs have stated their commitment to maintaining root service. Brad Verd noted past statements of linking RSS governance to the IANA functions.

Suzanne Woolf reframed the discussion about requirements for RSS governance. Rather than a principle about separation, there could be a requirement for risk management. Brad Verd agreed with a risk analysis exercise. Kim Davies suggested that the Public Root Services/affiliate organization model may make the RSOs more of a target. Kurt Pritz agreed that the circumstances for separation cannot be anticipated, and not including a separation mechanism does not prohibit separation if it is necessary. Ashwin Rangan noted that threats to ICANN would not emerge without notice. Paul Vixie encouraged the GWG to consider what would happen to the dependency on ICANN if ICANN were to go away. Robert Carolina suggested the principle is about survivability and not separability. Geoff Huston expanded on

this and added functional robustness as a principle. Duane Wessels noted that separability could be a check on ICANN. Wes Hardaker noted the complexity of the topic, and thanked the small team for fostering a fruitful discussion.

Any Other Business
There were no additional agenda items. The GWG will convene for six work sessions during ICANN75 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The next teleconference will be Thursday, 6 October 2022 at 22:00 UTC.

Adjournment
Brad Verd adjourned the teleconference at 22:59 UTC.