

## Root Server System Governance Working Group

Teleconference 59 | Thursday, 29 June 2023 | 22:00 UTC

### ATTENDANCE

#### RSS GWG

John Augenstein	RSOs
Edmon Chung	Liaison from the ICANN Board (Alternate)
Kim Davies	Liaison from the IANA
Wes Hardaker	RSOs
Hiro Hotta	RSOs
Geoff Huston	IAB
Christian Kaufmann	Liaison from the ICANN Board
Peter Koch	ccTLD registries
Lars-Johan Liman	RSOs
Ashwin Rangan	RSOs
Jim Reid	IAB
Ken Renard	RSOs
Karl Reuss	RSOs
Brad Verd	RSOs
Paul Vixie	RSOs
Duane Wessels	Liaison from the RZM

#### Excused

Suzanne Woolf	SSAC
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#### Absent

Luis Diego Espinoza	ccTLD registries
Hans Petter Holen	RSOs
Jeff Osborn	RSOs
Kurt Pritz	gTLD registries
Barbara Schleckser	RSOs
Hanyu Yang	gTLD registries

#### Observers

Robert Carolina	RSOs
Erum Welling	RSOs

#### ICANN staff support

Samantha Eisner  
Paul Hoffman  
Carlos Reyes

## 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 58 on 1 June 2023. There were no objections to publishing the draft minutes.

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

### **Schedule through October 2023**

Brad Verd shared the proposed schedule of GWG teleconferences through October 2023 when ICANN78 will take place. The first set of teleconferences will focus on finishing the review of candidate principles in the areas of designation and removal of root server operators (RSOs) and separation and balance of powers the root server system (RSS) governance. The remaining teleconferences leading up to ICANN78 will focus on the interpretation notes. The goal is to have a stable principles document by the end of ICANN78. A potential workshop would then take place in December 2023 or January 2024.

Robert Carolina supported the approach and also cautioned that the identification of stakeholder communities topic from ICANN77 may take more time. Jim Reid suggested adopting the approach now.

### **Designation and Removal of RSOs**

Brad Verd noted that candidate principle 2.10 to maintain and enhance trust in the RSS received unanimous approval and reviewed the comments. Interpreting comments from Jeff Osborn, Robert Carolina noted that there have been numerous conversations about the number of RSOs, including who should define that, when, and how. Peter Koch and Brad Verd stated that it could be a range rather than a single number. Erum Welling observed that external audiences may question current identities. Geoff Huston commented that a minimum reflects a historical view of the world and a maximum should reflect an engineering reality. Lars-Johan Liman explained that the outcome is less important than ensuring the process for arriving at that number is balanced and transparent. Wes Hardaker commented that the description does not really match the principle. Jim Reid agreed that any changes need to be grounded in engineering and operational realities. Robert Carolina explained that candidate principle 2.60 discusses technical necessity; moreover, candidate principle 2.10 and the interpretation notes may be trying to capture too much. Ashwin Rangan reminded the GWG that everyone agreed on this candidate principle. Brad Verd read comments from Suzanne Woolf and Kurt Pritz. Peter Koch and Ken Renard noted that their comments had been addressed.

Brad Verd stated that candidate principle 2.20, “move cautiously,” received unanimous approval. Geoff Huston, interpreting comments from Suzanne Woolf, noted the precondition of requiring a supermajority of RSOs is problematic because there must be more stakeholders involved. Jim Reid agreed. Wes Hardaker explained that previous RSO discussions have focused on the rate of change. Geoff Huston reiterated that the candidate principle itself is fine as long as the interpretation notes do not benefit the incumbents. Brad Verd reminded the GWG that the RSOs began the process to evolve RSS governance.

Brad Verd explained that three GWG members asked to discuss candidate principle 2.29 about the balance of service coverage. Jim Reid noted that there is no clear understanding of what balance means. Robert Carolina suggested removing this candidate principle because of confusion about the definition of balance and also suggested a future conversation about how the RSS governance structure would enforce this concept.

Geoff Huston commented that the term “user” in principle 2.30 about the global and universal mission of the RSS does not have a clear technical interpretation. Jim Reid suggested avoiding the complication of users by referencing a non-discriminatory service. Robert Carolina stressed that principle is a statement about providing service without regard to the affiliation or location of the user. Geoff Huston agreed with Jim Reid. Robert Carolina agreed to work with the proposed language from Jim Reid.

Building on the proposed language for principle 2.30, Geoff Huston suggested framing principle 2.31 for each RSO. Robert Carolina explained the background for the term “globally available”. Geoff Huston asserted that “globally available” raises more questions and invites creative interpretation. Robert Carolina suggested adopting the approach of principle 2.30 for principle 2.31 and providing more context in the interpretation notes. Geoff Huston agreed.

### **Any Other Business**

Brad Verd asked GWG members if they preferred to continue with designation and removal of RSOs or switch to separation and balance of powers in the RSS governance structure. The GWG agreed to continue with designation and removal of RSOs.

There were no additional agenda items.

### **Adjournment**

Brad Verd adjourned the teleconference at 23:01 UTC.