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

**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.