

# Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC) Charter

## I. Background

Per the NTIA IANA Functions Contract that existed prior to the IANA stewardship transition, NTIA approval was required for the implementation of all changes to the DNS root zone environment such as the DNSSEC-signing of the root zone, many classes of changes to IANA processes, as well as edits that would be applied by the Root Zone Maintainer to the DNS root zone. Post transition, the CWG-Stewardship recommended that approval of routine content changes to the DNS root zone would no longer be required, however due to the critical nature of the root of the DNS, major architectural changes would require formal approvals. The CWG-Stewardship recommended that the ICANN Board seek recommendations from a standing committee regarding the advisability of moving forward with such architectural changes. As part of implementation planning, ICANN named this Committee Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC).

## II. Purpose

The Committee is expected to review proposed architectural changes to the content of the DNS root zone, the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS root zone. The Committee shall, as determined necessary by its membership, make recommendations related to those changes for consideration by the ICANN Board.

## III. Scope of Responsibilities

The Committee will consider issues raised to the Committee by any of its members, PTI staff, or by the Customer Standing Committee (CSC) to identify any potential evolutionary improvements and/or security, stability or resiliency risks to the architecture and operation of the DNS root zone.

The Committee will not necessarily be the group that considers the details of the issue(s) raised, but will be responsible for ensuring that those involved in the recommendation(s) to the ICANN Board include all relevant and impacted

bodies and will have access to necessary expertise to provide the best possible recommendation(s). The Committee will coordinate with the committee's respective organizations and communities, and as appropriate, external experts, to ensure that relevant bodies and impacted parties were involved in discussion and recommendation development.

For architectural changes that impose potential risk to the security, stability, or resiliency of the content of the DNS root zone, the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, or the mechanisms used for the distribution of the DNS root zone (as identified by one or more committee members and agreed by a simple majority of members), the Committee will coordinate a public consultation process via the ICANN public comment forum regarding the proposed changes, including the identified risks.

The Committee will coordinate with the CSC as needed.

#### **IV. Composition**

The Committee shall be comprised of 9 committee members as follows:

- One ICANN Board member
- One senior IANA Function Operator administrator or their delegate
- The Chair or delegate of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee
- The Chair or delegate of the Root Server System Advisory Committee
- The Chair or delegate of the Address Supporting Organization
- The Chair or delegate of the Internet Engineering Task Force
- A representative selected by the Registries Stakeholder Group of the Generic Names Supporting Organization
- A representative selected by the Country Code Names Supporting Organization
- A representative of the organization identified to serve as the Root Zone Maintainer

The Committee will select its chair. Appointment of members shall follow each organization/group's internal process.

#### **V. Meetings**

The Committee will meet as frequently as necessary, with at least one meeting per calendar year. Regular meetings may be called upon no less than fourteen (14) days notice by either (i) the Chair or (ii) any two members of the Committee acting together. Meetings to address urgent issues may be called in a manner calculated to provide as much notice as possible to the members of the Committee.

Meetings may take place with remote participation (using appropriate technology) or in-person. Email discussions do not constitute meetings.

## **VI. Decisions**

Decisions and actions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus. Such consensus shall be documented and may be determined via Internet-based discussions without the need for a meeting.

## **VII. Records of Proceedings**

The Committee shall operate openly and transparently. Committee meetings shall be recorded. Any minutes or other records of the meetings shall be publicly posted as soon as possible following approval by the committee.

In the event that making certain deliberations public would create a risk to the security or stability of the DNS, the Committee shall specifically identify that as a reason for withholding parts of their meeting records.

## **VIII. Conflicts of Interest**

Committee members must provide statements of interest that identify potential conflicts of interest in their committee service.

## **IX. Review**

The Charter of the Committee shall be reviewed at least every 5 years, and a review may be initiated more frequently if determined necessary. All reviews of the Charter shall be subject to ICANN public comment processes.