January 17, 2021
RE: Request for adjustments from the RSS GWG

Maarten Botterman
Chair
ICANN Board

Dear Maarten,

Thank you for your letter of December 2, 2021. At its meeting that same day, the RSS GWG
accepted RSSAC 058 as an input document to the RSS GWG process. The vote is
documented [in the minutes of the RSS GWG](#). Those minutes also note the beginning of a
discussion of how the GWG can best move forward into a new phase of its work, given these
success criteria. That discussion concluded at the following meeting, on December 16th, with
the following points:

The RSS GWG would like to request that the ICANN Board update the membership of the RSS
GWG to include a representative from each of the current RSOs. We believe this to be in line
with section A2 of RSSAC 058, and especially with this text: "The RSS GS must ensure all
RSOs have a significant say in policies that govern them (in their capacity as RSOs)."

The RSS GWG would also like to request that the ICANN Board adjust the working methods set
out for the RSS GWG to require consensus, which is defined in the operations procedures
(https://community.icann.org/display/soacabout/Charter+and+Operating+Procedures) as
"general agreement without any formal objections". This would require striking the following
text:

> If consensus cannot be achieved, the RSS GWG representatives may make decisions
> and adopt outcomes by vote. A vote passes with a simple majority (half plus one) of RSS
> GWG representatives present in the meeting. Prior to all votes, a quorum must be
> established. A quorum is a simple majority (half plus one) of RSS GWG representatives.

We believe this change is also inline with the RSSAC 058 sections noted above. Further, the
consistent requirement for consensus ensures that other stakeholder communities participating
in this process are assured that their voices will continue to be heard in the process even if the
preponderance of membership now comes from the RSO community.

Lastly, we would like to request that the ICANN Board adjust the work plan so that the timeline
for further work is clear to the broader community. The RSS GWG is already past the time it
was originally intended to dissolve and, whether the ICANN Board approves the requests above
or not, it is clear that this new phase of work based on the full set of input documents will take
additional time to come to a consensus proposal. If we assume that the steps after this current
phase will include the same community consultations and revisions as originally envisioned, it
would not be surprising to see another two years in the full work plan.

Addressing this would also allow the constituent communities to consider whether to refresh their representatives. As you will know, we have had some turnover already; Peter Janssen is the latest, as he resigned his position as ccTLD representative on December 1st. Several others have also indicated that other commitments may not allow them to dedicate another year or more to this process; allowing those changes to take place in an orderly fashion would be beneficial.

Best regards,

Ted Hardie

CC
RSS GWG
MAEMURA Akinori, ICANN Board Alternate Liaison to the GWG
Göran Marby, ICANN President and CEO
David Olive, ICANN Senior Vice President, Policy Development Support
Tripti Sinha, ICANN Board Liaison to the GWG
RSOs via Fred Baker, RSSAC Chair, and Ken Renard, RSSAC Vice Chair