

RSO Comment to the Proposed Changes to the RZERC Charter

The RSOs listed below would like to submit the following comments to the proposed changes to the RZERC charter. We follow the numbering used in the initial report from the review team (RT).

Comments Regarding the Removal of the Background Section

The updated proposal from RZERC removed the background section from the current charter. We believe that the background, as it reads in the current charter, provides an important description of the role that the RZERC was put in place to fulfill. The references to the "old" model, where the NTIA fulfilled a number of tasks, and the "new" model, where the NTIA tasks have been distributed over several different organizations, highlight the fact that the RZERC is a small piece in a much larger machinery. The description of this background gives the motivation for the very narrow scope of the RZERC, and helps the reader to understand that other parts of the system are in place to deal with issues that are outside the scope of the RZERC, for example in the wider top-level domain, root zone, and root server system.

The goal of all ICANN committees should be to keep their focus and to avoid mission creep now or in the future. We see the potential risk that the committee could start to define its own scope by taking on new types of issues that it finds interesting. When future issues arise, they should primarily be dealt with by the appropriate committee whose charter covers it. If none can be found, a broader ICANN discussion should be held to find the appropriate home for it. Keeping the history that clearly describes the original intent of the standing committee helps in achieving clarity around this issue.

We therefore suggest that **the text be left intact as it stands.**

Comments Regarding Significant Architectural or Operational Change

The RT suggests that an operational aspect be added to the charter. We believe that the RZERC was created specifically to address architectural issues, and that operational aspects of the root server systems are well covered by the RSSAC and other organizations. Adding a general operational aspect to the RZERC charter risks creating uncertainty of which committee is expected to deal with such issues. If operational aspects are to be added, they need to be detailed and carefully hammered out in a broad discussion including other committees with responsibilities covering nearby areas. We see no need to add a general operational aspect to the RZERC

May 9, 2023

charter, and we suggest that **the words "and operational" be removed.** from the proposal. In addition, on the same basis, we suggest that "and operation" be removed from the "Scope of Responsibilities" section of the current RZERC Charter.

We have no objection to adding the word "significant" to qualify the word "architectural".

Comments Regarding Other Parts

In all other parts we support the proposed changes.

Submitted on behalf of the following root server operators

Cogent

Internet Systems Consortium

Netnod

Réseaux IP Européens (RIPE) Network Coordination Centre

University of Maryland

University of Southern California – Information Sciences Institute

Verisign, Inc.

Widely Integrated Distributed Environment (WIDE) Project