

RSSAC Public Comment Submission on the Draft Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC) Charter

RSSAC proposes to add clarity to the scope of the RZERC as currently articulated in its draft charter¹. Namely, we recommend that the scope of RZERC be clearly stated as limited to providing recommendations specific to architectural and other evolutions of *the root zone and its management*. While the RSSAC realizes that such architectural and evolution of the root zone and its management may impact the root server system, the root server system is not and should not be the focus of the RZERC as that is the role of the RSSAC as reflected in the RSSAC charter. In addition to this broader scope issue, the RSSAC recommends:

- Rephrase the first paragraph under “purpose” to read as follows: “The Committee is expected to review and provide input regarding proposed architectural changes to the root zone and its management, and as determined necessary by the Committee, potentially make recommendations for consideration by the ICANN Board.”
 - The purpose of this change is to clarify that the purpose of this committee is to make recommendations for potential change not to originate proposals.
- In the first paragraph of the “scope and responsibilities” section, the RSSAC recommends adding a clarifying sentence that articulates where issues are expected to originate. The language from the ICG proposal would be good for this purpose. Specifically, “Issues may be brought to the standing committee’s attention by any of its members, by PTI staff, or by the CSC.”
- In the first paragraph of the “scope and responsibilities” section, the RSSAC recommends modifying this sentence to read as, “The Committee will consider issues raised to the Committee to identify any potential security, stability or resiliency risks to the DNS as associated with the architecture and management of the root zone.”

¹ <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/draft-rzerc-charter-10jun16-en.pdf>

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- The purpose of this edit is to maintain consistency with the scope as clarified by the RSSAC in these comments.
- In the second paragraph of the “scope and responsibilities” section, the RSSAC recommends replacing it with, “The Committee will coordinate with the committee’s respective organizations and communities, and if appropriate, external experts, to ensure that relevant bodies are involved in discussion and recommendation development to ensure that relevant expertise is available.”
 - This revision makes clear that the appropriate expertise is available at the early stages and not afterwards.
- In the third paragraph of the “scope and responsibilities” section, the RSSAC recommends replacing it with, “For architectural changes to the root zone and its management that impose potential risk to the security, stability, or resiliency of the DNS (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 purpose of this edit is to more clearly articulate that the scope of RZERC is limited to the root zone and root zone management, not the root server system.

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