

Root Zone Evolution Review Committee Charter

Version 2

Effective 7 March 2024

I. Purpose

The Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC) is expected to review proposed significant architectural or operational changes to: (i) the content of the DNS root zone, (ii) the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, (iii) and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS root zone. Since it is not possible to formally define “significant”, all parties should err on the side of prudence and raise issues for the consideration of the standing committee when there is any question of it being required. The Committee may decide that it does not need to consider the issue. The Committee shall, as determined necessary by its membership, make recommendations related to those changes for consideration by the ICANN Board.

II. 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 or 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.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

A meeting will require a quorum as defined by the operation procedures.

V. 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. Decisions shall be reached through a comprehensive poll of the membership online with a noticed meeting prior to the poll to support discussion of the topic. The noticed meeting can be removed for matters which require urgency at the discretion of the chair or multiple members of the Committee.

VI. 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.

VII. Conflicts of Interest

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

VIII. 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 by the RZERC or the ICANN Board. All reviews of the Charter must include a review of previous Charters and the circumstances that led to the creation of RZERC in 2016 as part of the review process. All reviews of the Charter shall be in accordance with ICANN's public comment processes.