

## Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) Input on "Draft Proposal, Based on Initial Community Feedback, of the Principles and Mechanisms and the Process to Develop a Proposal to Transition NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions"

8 May, 2014

RSSAC welcomes the opportunity to comment on ICANN's convening of a process for a proposal for the transition of stewardship over the IANA functions from the US government to a broader Internet community.

We have reviewed the "Draft Proposal, Based on Initial Community Feedback, of the Principles and Mechanisms and the Process to Develop a Proposal to Transition NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions," posted at <http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/iana/transition/draft-proposal-08apr14-en.htm>, the NTIA announcement it refers to, and the "Scoping Document" that defines the scope of the transition discussion, posted at <http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/iana/iana-transition-scoping-08apr14-en.pdf>.

Our scope as an Advisory Committee to ICANN is limited to operational matters regarding the system for generating and publishing the contents of the root zone of the Internet DNS. We provide our advice as input to the policy processes undertaken by other parts of the community. Accordingly, we offer the following comments.

1. We are committed to participation in the community processes for planning and implementing the proposed change in IANA stewardship, including both this kickoff process and other processes that will be necessary in order to accomplish the IANA stewardship change with the extremely high reliability, accountability, and transparency that all stakeholders deserve.
2. Our particular scope leads us to a simple primary concern: the most important feature of any accountability mechanism is that there is one globally agreed public DNS root zone [RFC 2826] that is reliably communicated to all root server operators.
3. We also support the IAB, the ccNSO, and others in their remarks where they focus on the primary importance of clarity regarding IANA operations for their separate areas of responsibility, and their participation in defining the requirements for any changes to these operations. The engagement and

- approval of the groups that have operational relationships with IANA are critical to security and stability in planning and implementing any transition.
4. Each root server operator must be consulted on any operational changes that affect them. In this sense, root server operators should be treated as “affected parties” and RSSAC cannot speak for those organizations. RSSAC involvement in the process will provide a conduit from ICANN to the root server operators, and help to assure an outcome that supports the principles set out by NTIA for an acceptable proposal and the operational requirements for the IANA root zone management function.