

# RSSAC2 Organizational Review Implementation Progress Report

*Submitted on 24 June 2020*

## Background

- On 28 September 2017, ICANN appointed [Interisle Consulting Group, LLC](#) to conduct an independent review of the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC).
- The independent examiner published its [final report of the second RSSAC review](#) on 2 July 2018.
- On 2 October 2018, RSSAC Review Work Party published the [Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan](#) (FAIIP).
- The ICANN Board accepted the final report from the independent examiner, and the FAIIP on 3 May 2019. The ICANN Board also directed the RSSAC to convene an RSSAC review implementation working group that drafts a detailed implementation plan of the recommendations, as detailed in the FAIIP, including appropriate implementation costing.
- The RSSAC approved the RSSAC2 Review Detailed Implementation Plan in its meeting on 7 January 2020.
- On 12 March 2020, the ICANN Board accepted the [RSSAC2 Review Detailed Implementation Plan](#) and directed the RSSAC2 Review Implementation Work Party to continue implementation, and to provide updates to the Organizational Effectiveness Committee of the ICANN Board (OEC) through written implementation reports on progress every six months. The first report will be submitted by 30 June 2020.

# Overview of the Implementation Progress

RSSAC Review Implementation Work Party (RWP) notes that the RSSAC accepted and provided a detailed implementation plan for six recommendations that came out of the second organizational review of the RSSAC.

The RWP determined that the following two recommendations have been implemented:

- **Recommendation 3:** Formalize the responsibilities of the RSSAC to the ICANN Board and Community in a work plan that is periodically reviewed and published; and hold the RSSAC accountable for work plan deliverables.
- **Recommendation 4:** Develop and implement a leadership training and succession plan.

The RWP determined that the implementation of the following two recommendations is ongoing:

- **Recommendation 3a:** Engage in ongoing threat assessment and risk analysis of the Root Server System and recommend any necessary audit activities to assess the current status of root servers and root zone.
- **Recommendation 5:** Engage more actively with the rest of ICANN and its Community.

The RWP determined that the implementation of the following two recommendations is dependent on the progress of Root Server System Governance Working Group:

- **Recommendation 1a:** Extend RSSAC membership by invitation to any qualified person.
- **Recommendation 6a:** Develop a more effective and transparent process for defining RSSAC Caucus projects, engaging its members and managing its membership, managing its work, and promoting its output.

# Detailed Implementation Progress

Recommendation 1a	
Recommendation	Extend RSSAC membership by invitation to any qualified person.
Activities, if any, on which implementation is dependent, or that are dependent on implementation of this recommendation	Whatever governance model the Root Server System Governance Working Group develops will likely contain a new membership model for the RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus. Therefore, this work will determine how RSSAC implements this recommendation.
Implementation timeline	Per the work plan of the Root Server System Governance Working Group, it will take roughly a year (2020) to develop the final governance model for the Root Server System and then another year of review and approval (2021). Therefore the implementation of a new membership model for the RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus (of their successor structures) could take place in 2022.
Detailed implementation steps	<p>Root Server System Governance Working Group (RSS GWG) develops a final governance model, which includes a new membership model for the RSSAC and the RSSAC Caucus.</p> <p>Root Server System Stakeholders approve the final governance model.</p> <p>New membership model takes effect.</p>
Implementation progress to date	The RWP understands that RSS GWG has had eight bi-weekly meetings since February 2020, and implementation is underway. As such, the RWP considers 15% of the implementation complete.
Implementation costing	Costs for supporting a new membership model for the RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus are already assumed in standard community support from the ICANN org Policy Development Support function. ICANN org has committed to support the work of the RSS GWG.

## Recommendation 3

Recommendation	Formalize the responsibilities of the RSSAC to the ICANN Board and Community in a work plan that is periodically reviewed and published; and hold the RSSAC accountable for work plan deliverables.
Activities, if any, on which implementation is dependent, or that are dependent on implementation of this recommendation	The RSSAC reviewed the work plans of the SSAC and various other community groups including policy development process working groups for models of what to adopt.
Implementation timeline	The RSSAC first published its annual work plan in March 2019 and reviewed it in December 2019. The implementation effort was roughly three months (January - March 2019).
Detailed implementation steps	<p>The RSSAC would develop a work plan template and share with the ICANN Board/community for feedback.</p> <p>The RSSAC would publish its work plan and regularly update it.</p>
Implementation progress to date	The recommendation has been implemented.
Implementation costing	N/A

## Recommendation 3a

Recommendation	Engage in ongoing threat assessment and risk analysis of the Root Server System and recommend any necessary audit activities to assess the current status of root servers and root zone.
Activities, if any, on which implementation is dependent, or that are dependent on implementation of this recommendation	Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.
Implementation timeline	Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.
Detailed implementation steps	Upon realizing the need for focused efforts on specific issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The RSSAC would develop a statement of work and launch a work party.</li><li>2. The RSSAC would review the outcomes of the threat assessment and develop a document.</li><li>3. The RSSAC would publish the document.</li></ol>
Implementation progress to date	The RSSAC continues to engage in threat assessment and risk analysis and looks forward to receiving potential work items where the ICANN Board and community believe increased focus is needed. For example, in December 2019, the RSSAC published "RSSAC045: RSSAC Statement on Threat Mitigation for the Root Server System", endorsing the work of the Root Server Operators which outlines security risks for the Root Server System and general methods for mitigation. This was a request from the ICANN Board in March 2018. Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.
Implementation costing	Costs for supporting ongoing RSSAC threat assessment and risk analysis are already assumed in standard community support from the ICANN org Policy Development Support function.

## Recommendation 4

Recommendation	Develop and implement a leadership training and succession plan.
Activities, if any, on which implementation is dependent, or that are dependent on implementation of this recommendation	Amending ICANN Bylaws
Implementation timeline	After the ICANN Board and Empowered Community processes concluded, implementation took less than two months and concluded in December 2019.
Detailed implementation steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The RSSAC would discuss its leadership structure and agree on revisions to current model or on a new model.</li><li>2. If the RSSAC revises current model, the RSSAC would implement it.</li><li>3. If the RSSAC approves a new model, the ICANN Board would adopt Bylaw changes, then the RSSAC would implement the new model.</li></ol>
Implementation progress to date	The recommendation has been implemented.
Implementation costing	N/A

## Recommendation 5

Recommendation	Engage more actively with the rest of ICANN and its Community.
Activities, if any, on which implementation is dependent, or that are dependent on implementation of this recommendation	N/A
Implementation timeline	Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.
Detailed implementation steps	The RSSAC will continue to engage with the ICANN community via its established liaison relationships, open work sessions and meetings, publications, and tutorials about the Root Server System. The RSSAC leadership will also continue to work with ICANN community leaders as necessary.
Implementation progress to date	<p>The RSSAC leadership attended the SO/AC Chairs meeting on 27-28 January 2020 and planning calls for the virtual ICANN67 and ICANN68 meetings. In addition to two “How it works: Root Server Operations” sessions, RSSAC had planned and submitted session requests for presentations on its work to At-Large and GAC, and joint sessions with the SSAC and the ICANN Board at ICANN67. However, due to the pandemic and related global travel bans, ICANN67 and ICANN68 transitioned to virtual meetings. This situation brought some challenges on the implementation of this recommendation through this reporting period.</p> <p>In addition, RSSAC is in the process of getting some of its publications translated into UN languages and publishing the translations on RSSAC web page in order to engage further with the ICANN community. These documents include RSSAC020, RSSAC037 (executive summary), RSSAC038, RSSAC050, and RSSAC FAQ.</p> <p>Implementation of this recommendation is ongoing.</p>
Implementation costing	Costs for supporting ongoing RSSAC engagement with the ICANN community are already assumed in standard community support from the ICANN org Policy Development Support function.

## Recommendation 6a

<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Develop a more effective and transparent process for defining RSSAC Caucus projects, engaging its members and managing its membership, managing its work, and promoting its output.</p>
<p>Activities, if any, on which implementation is dependent, or that are dependent on implementation of this recommendation</p>	<p>Rather than modifying the membership model and work processes of the RSSAC Caucus now, the RSSAC will closely follow the work and output of the Root Server System Governance Work Group. Any changes to the RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus as a result of this work will be reviewed by the RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus.</p>
<p>Implementation timeline</p>	<p>Per the work plan of the Root Server System Governance Working Group, it will take roughly a year (2020) to develop the final governance model for the Root Server System and then another year of review and approval (2021). Therefore the implementation of a new membership model for the RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus (of their successor structures) could take place in 2022.</p>
<p>Detailed implementation steps</p>	<p>In early 2019, the RSSAC modified how RSSAC Caucus work is conducted. All substantive work party discussions, including draft and final report reviews, occur on the RSSAC Caucus mailing list rather than on individual work party mailing lists. This promotes broader engagement of the RSSAC Caucus members. The RSSAC continues to involve the RSSAC Caucus in determining its work projects and priorities.</p> <p>The RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee is assessing the individual engagement of RSSAC Caucus members. The output of this effort will provide the RSSAC with a better understanding of the levels of participation and contributions in the RSSAC Caucus.</p> <p>These two developments are incremental steps to improve RSSAC Caucus operations as the RSSAC marks six years since the establishment of the RSSAC Caucus.</p> <p>Any changes to the membership model of the RSSAC</p>



	<p>and RSSAC Caucus and the structural relationship between them as a result of Root Server System governance evolution will be reviewed and carefully considered before modifications to charters and operational procedures.</p>
<p>Implementation progress to date</p>	<p>The RWP understands that the full implementation of this recommendation is dependent on the progress of the RSS GWG. The RSS GWG has had eight meetings since February 2020, and implementation is underway. On another track, there has been progress related to the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee's assessment of individual engagement of RSSAC Caucus members. To streamline the committee's task, RSSAC support staff have started moving RSSAC Caucus membership data over to a CRM platform. As per the assessment from the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee, inactive RSSAC Caucus members have been contacted since September 2019 and 14 inactive RSSAC Caucus members were removed in February 2020. As such, the RWP considers 20% of the implementation complete.</p>
<p>Implementation costing</p>	<p>Costs for supporting ongoing RSSAC engagement with the ICANN community are already assumed in standard community support from the ICANN org Policy Development Support function.</p>