

RSSAC Statement on Joining the Empowered Community 14 April 2020

The IANA Stewardship Transition created space for the RSSAC to become a member of the ICANN Empowered Community.¹ During the transition, the RSSAC determined that the very narrow scope of its remit, and its direct relationship to the ICANN Board through its appointment process, precluded it from serving as an Empowered Community member. The RSSAC understands that with the evolution of governance surrounding the Root Server System (RSS) through the implementation of RSSAC037 and RSSAC038 there could be a number of changes that would expand the RSSAC's scope. These changes alter the role of a future RSSAC within ICANN, and thus, the RSSAC believes it is our responsibility to join the ICANN Empowered Community.

While the RSS governance model is still in development, it is important for the Root Server System Governance Working Group (GWG) to note the expectations and needs of the Root Server Operator (RSO) community. As greater accountability of the RSOs from the ICANN community is introduced, it is anticipated that the RSOs would have a more significant role in the overall ICANN community. The RSO community would welcome becoming a member of the Empowered Community.

Recommendation 1: Given the timing and the broad impact of such changes, including ICANN Bylaws that would need amending, and the knowledge that this type of change has not been attempted since the inception of the Empowered Community, RSSAC believes that the best way to pursue this change is through the ICANN Board's implementation of the recommendations in RSSAC038.

¹ See ICANN Bylaws, Article 6, <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/governance/bylaws-en/#article6>