

From: Brad Verd
Date: February 20, 2026
To: Tripti Sinha; Roman Danyliw; Jeff Osborn
Cc: RSSGWG; IAB
Subject: Root Server System Governance Working Group (GWG) Deliverables

Dear Tripti, Roman, and Jeff,

The GWG charter provides that the GWG will present its deliverables to the ICANN community, ICANN Board, IETF/IAB, RSSAC, and RSOs. As such, on behalf of the GWG, I am pleased to present, “[The Root Server System Governance Structure](#),” which outlines a functional model for Root Server System governance. The GWG approved this report by consensus on 18 February 2026. I am also pleased to present, “[Governance Principles for the Root Server System](#),” which introduces governance principles to guide the Governance Structure and ensure consistency in execution and decision-making.

The functional model builds on RSSAC work, namely, the proposed [model \[itp.cdn.icann.org\]](#) from 2018 and the [success criteria \[itp.cdn.icann.org\]](#) from 2021. The final report also documents our consideration of input from the [Public Comment proceeding](#) held in 2025.

The GWG worked openly and transparently. All teleconferences, work sessions during ICANN Public Meetings, and workshops permitted observers. Our mailing list archive and records of our proceedings are [publicly available \[icann-community.atlassian.net\]](#). The final report reflects nearly four years of work across 59 teleconferences, ten ICANN Public Meetings, and four workshops since the reconstitution of the GWG in 2022.

I appreciate the dedication of GWG members and liaisons—from the ICANN Board, IETF/IAB, ccNSO, RySG, SSAC, IANA, RZM, and the twelve RSOs—and the support from ICANN throughout this effort. It was an honor to contribute to the evolution of Root Server System governance.

Cheers,

Brad Verd
GWG Chair, 2022–2026