

Tucows public comment: Functional Model for Root Server System Governance

22 September 2025

Tucows welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Functional Model for Root Server System Governance (“Root Server Governance Model”) and appreciates the Root Server System Advisory Committee’s, the Governance Working Group’s, and the ICANN Board’s work throughout this process. The proposed Root Server Governance Model promotes multistakeholderism as well as transparency and technical stability.

Good principles!

The governance principles identified as necessary in a Root Server Governance Model—that it be structured, transparent, and accountable to its stakeholders—are the correct ones and Tucows agrees that these principles support trust and operational integrity in both the root servers themselves and in the governance thereof. Tucows concurs that the proposed Root Server Governance Model adheres to the governance principles.

A Root Council

Tucows supports the multistakeholder model that has made ICANN so successful and is pleased to see a thought-out and well-considered Council—similar in intention to that of the GNSO Council—to provide definitive governance for the root server system and to effectively engage the broader community of stakeholders.

Relationship to current structures

The proposed Root Server System Council would necessarily intersect with ICANN and IANA structures; this relationship should be further considered and defined early on in the process instead of as a final step.

Conclusion

Tucows again thanks the Root Server System Advisory Committee, the Governance Working Group, and the ICANN Board for their work on this important model and looks forward to its implementation and review of its effects and effectiveness.

Thank you,

Sarah Wyld

Head, Policy & Privacy, Tucows