



The Root Server System Governance Structure

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Agenda

RSSAC Advice

- Impetus
- RSSAC037 model
- RSSAC055 principles
- RSSAC058 success criteria

ICANN Board Consideration in 2019

- Concept Paper
- Consultation
- Direction

The GWG

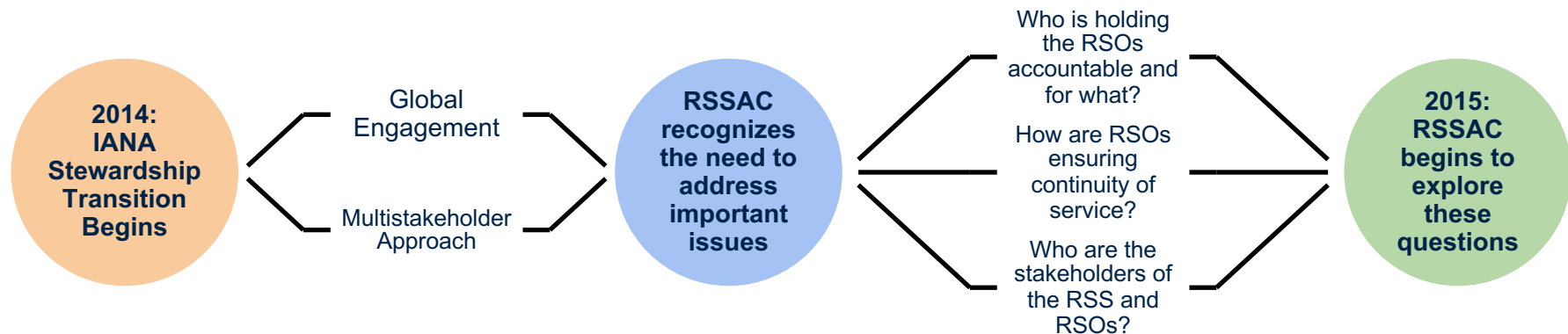
- Composition
- Building blocks

The Functional Model

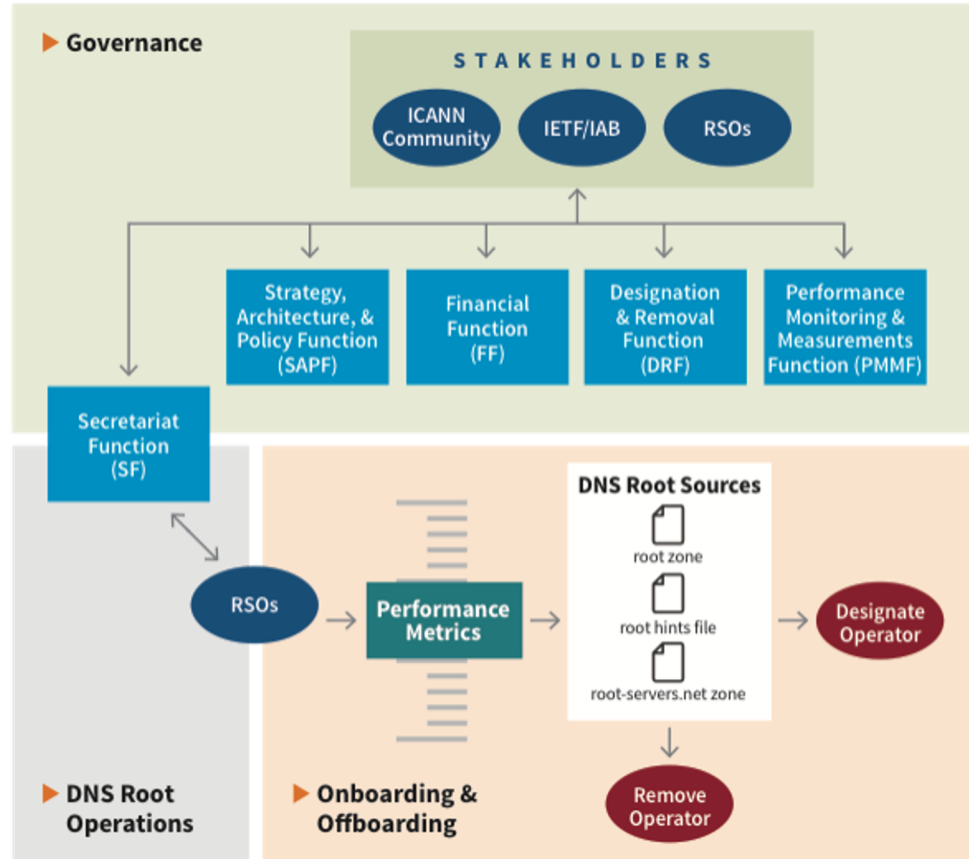
- The Governance Structure
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RSSAC Advice

Impetus



RSSAC037 Model



RSSAC038 Advice

RSSAC recommends that the ICANN Board:

Recommendation 1

Initiate a community process to produce a final version of the Model for implementation.

Recommendation 2

Use the provided methodology (or a similar one) to cost out the implementation and operations of the Model.

Recommendation 3

Implement the Model based upon the principles of accountability, transparency, sustainability, and service integrity.

RSSAC055 Principles

In this publication, RSSAC provides further clarification and information on each of the 11 principles for the Root Server System identified in RSSAC037.

To remain a global network, the Internet requires a globally unique public namespace.

Principle 1

IANA is the source of DNS root data.

Principle 2

The RSS must be a stable, reliable, and resilient platform for the DNS service to all users.

Principle 3

Diversity of root server operations is a strength of the overall system.

Principle 4

Architectural changes should result from technical evolution and demonstrated technical need.

Principle 5

The IETF defines technical operation of the DNS protocol.

Principle 6

RSOs must operate with integrity and an ethos demonstrating a commitment to the common good of the Internet.

Principle 7

RSOs must be transparent.

Principle 8

RSOs must collaborate and engage with the stakeholder community.

Principle 9

RSOs must be autonomous and independent.

Principle 10

RSOs must be neutral and impartial

Principle 11

RSSAC058 Success Criteria

These success criteria form a framework to assess the degree to which any proposed model conforms with previous RSSAC statements concerning RSS governance.

They also serve as a framework to compare and contrast different proposals for an RSS GS.

65 criteria in three sections:

- 52 substantive criteria
- 5 transition criteria
- 8 functional description criteria



ICANN Board Consideration in 2019

ICANN Board Consideration in 2019

Concept Paper

The Board Technical Committee (BTC) oversaw the development of a Concept Paper, which outlined an ICANN community-driven process to develop a functional model of the RSSAC037 advice.

Consultation

The BTC also directed ICANN org to develop a draft charter, operating procedures, and work plan for the project to evolve the governance of the Root Server System.

The BTC reviewed the submissions and proposed convening the GWG.

Direction

The ICANN Board directed the publication of the final charter, operating procedures, and work plan.

The GWG “shall develop a final model to inform the discussions and deliberations of the ICANN Board in responding to RSSAC037 and determining next steps in the evolution of RSS governance in conjunction with the RSSAC and RSS stakeholders.”

The GWG

Composition

The GWG comprises members from the

- Root Server Operators
- ccTLD registries (through the ccNSO)
- gTLD registries (through the RySG)
- SSAC
- IETF (through the IAB)

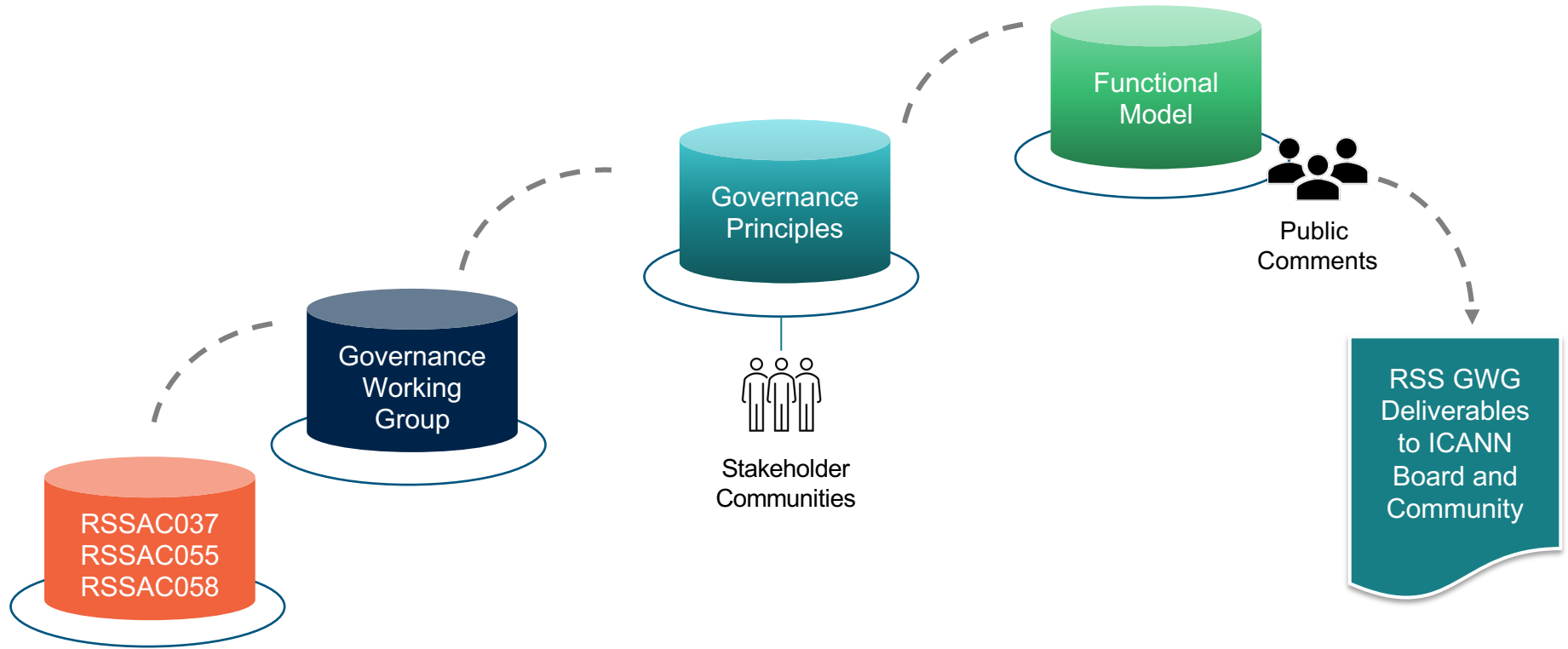
and liaisons from the

- Board
- IANA
- Root Zone Maintainer

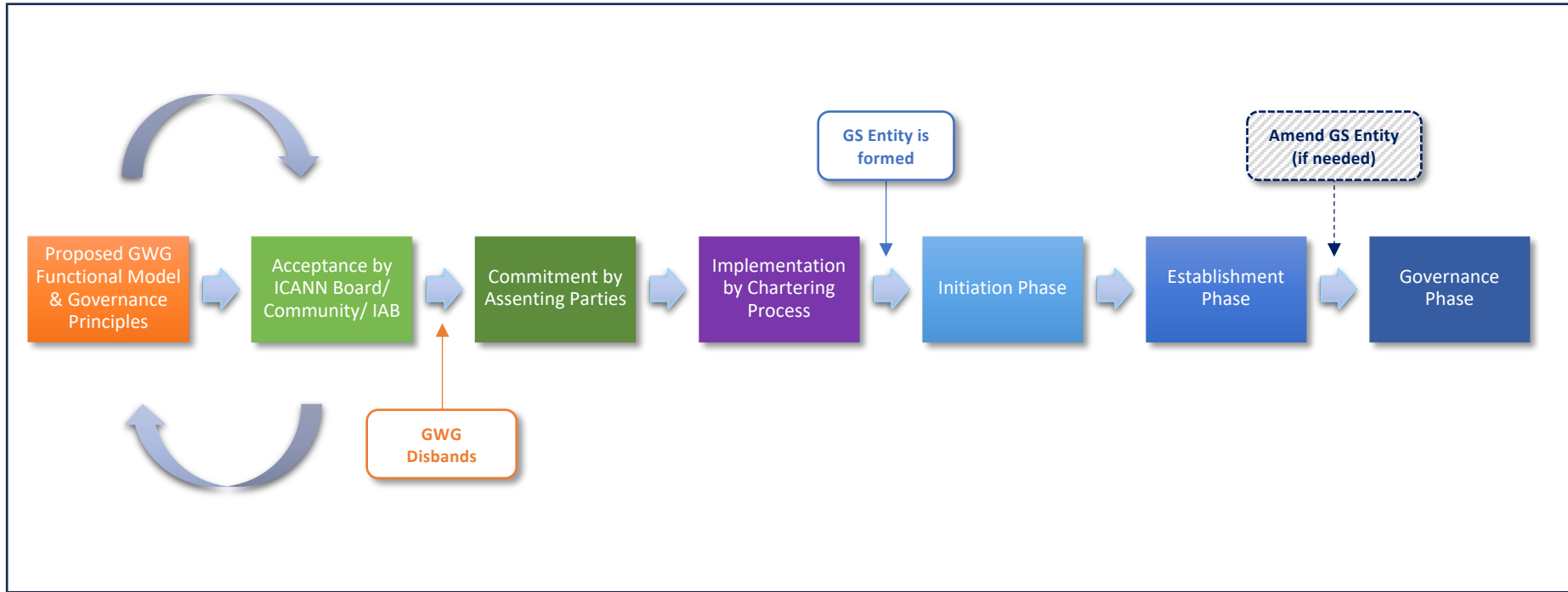
This collection of stakeholders had never worked together before.



Building Blocks



Role of GWG and Proposed Process



Governance Principles and the Functional Model

Governance Principles of the RSS

Guiding principles for the RSS intended to be used as the primary tool to create and modify the future Governance Structure.

**Separation
and Balance
of Powers**

**Designation
and Removal
of RSOs**

Finances

A **Council** composed of participant stakeholder communities:

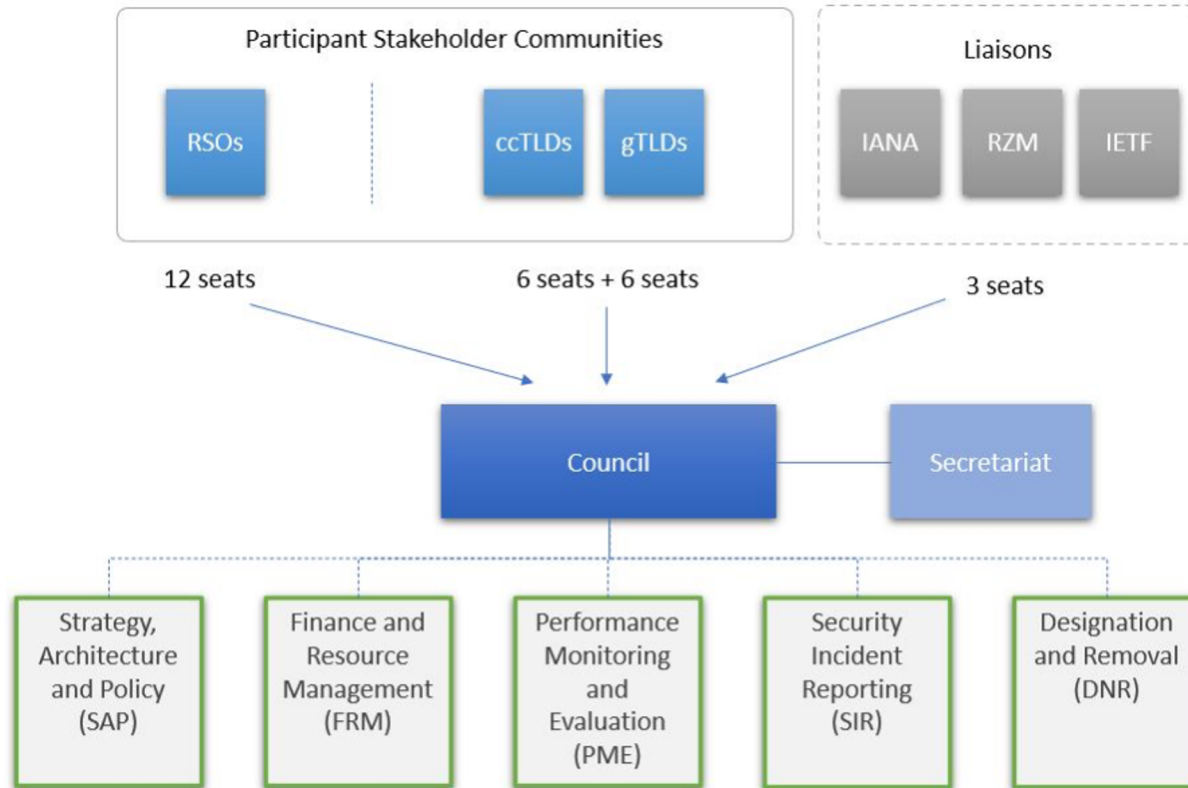
- Root Server Operators (RSOs)
- ccTLD registries
- gTLD registries
- Liaisons (IANA, IETF, RZM)

Functions:

- Strategy, architecture, and policy
- Designation and removal
- Performance monitoring and evaluation
- Security incident reporting
- Finance and resource management

Secretariat providing support

The Council



Implementation Phases

1. **Initiation Phase** – Establishes the foundational GS, including the formation of the Council and the Secretariat, while fostering voluntary participation among stakeholders.
2. **Establishment Phase** – Formalizes governance mechanisms, including the creation of core functions, stakeholder engagement processes, and financial governance necessary to support long-term governance.
3. **Governance Phase** – Activates the full decision-making and operational authority of the GS, ensuring long-term sustainability and adaptability.

Implementation Phases

