



# RZERC Charter Review Information Session Wednesday, 15 March 2023



# Agenda

- Introduction to RZERC
- RZERC Membership
- Charter Review Process
- General Findings
- Proposed Charter Amendments
- Q&A

# Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC)

## Purpose

The Committee is expected to review proposed architectural changes to the content of the DNS root zone, the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS root zone. The Committee shall, as determined necessary by its membership, make recommendations related to those changes for consideration by the ICANN Board.

## Scope of Responsibilities

The Committee will consider issues raised to the Committee by any of its members, Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) staff, or by the Customer Standing Committee (CSC) to identify any potential evolutionary improvements and/or security, stability or resiliency risks to the architecture and operation of the DNS root zone



## Background

Post IANA transition, the CWG-Stewardship recommended that approval of routine content changes to the DNS root zone would no longer be required, however due to the critical nature of the root of the DNS, major architectural changes would require formal approvals. The CWG-Stewardship recommended that the ICANN Board seek recommendations from a standing committee regarding the advisability of moving forward with such architectural changes.

# RZERC Membership

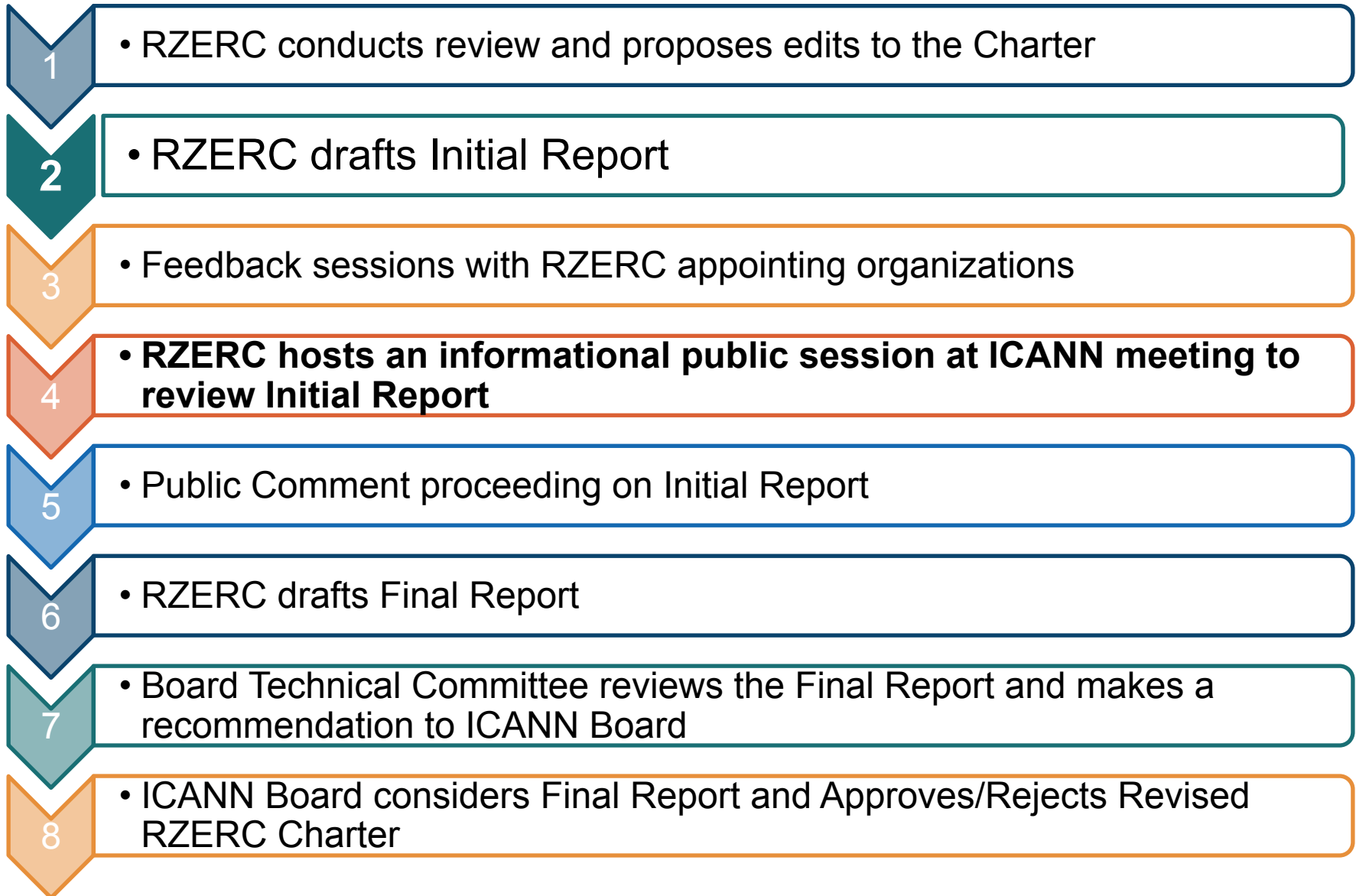
|                                                                        |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ICANN Board                                                            | Wes Hardaker      |
| IANA                                                                   | Kim Davies        |
| Security and Stability Advisory Committee                              | Geoff Huston      |
| Root Server System Advisory Committee                                  | Daniel Migault    |
| Address Supporting Organization                                        | Carlos Martinez   |
| Internet Engineering Task Force                                        | Tim April (Chair) |
| Registries Stakeholder Group,<br>Generic Names Supporting Organization | Kalina Ostalska   |
| Country Code Names Supporting Organization                             | Peter Koch        |
| Verisign, as the Root Zone Maintainer                                  | Duane Wessels     |

# RZERC Charter Review

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- Board approved the first RZERC Charter in August 2016
- Section IX of the RZERC Charter states:
  - *The Charter of the Committee shall be reviewed at least every 5 years, and a review may be initiated more frequently if determined necessary. All reviews of the Charter shall be subject to ICANN public comment processes.*
- RZERC began working on the process for reviewing the RZERC Charter on 2021 and initiated the RZERC Charter Review in April 2022

# Charter Review Process



# Scope of Review

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- The Charter will be reviewed to determine whether:
  - the Charter enables the RZERC to fulfill its role and responsibilities as envisioned
  - there are any aspects of the Charter that are ambiguous that require amendment
  - there are any typographical errors in the Charter that require amendment
  - there are any elements of the work of the RZERC that should be captured in the Charter that were not captured at the time the Charter was originally drafted

# General Findings

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- The charter enables the RZERC to fulfill its responsibilities as envisioned and fills a critical role in advising the ICANN Board
- Charter contains minor inconsistencies and omissions
- The committee also did not believe that
- Charter does not trigger excess work outside the RZERC's intended scope of responsibilities

# Proposed Amendments: Background

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- **Proposed Change:** Removal of the Background section of the charter, section 1.
- **Justification:**
  - Section 1 of the charter is not necessary or appropriate for a charter document as the RZERC is an established committee and it does not need to explain the reasoning to create the committee again.
  - Anyone seeking background information found in that section after revision may review the CWG-Stewardship transition report for more information.

# Proposed Amendments: Purpose and Scope of Responsibilities

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- **Original Text:** The Committee is expected to review proposed architectural changes to the content of the DNS root zone, the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS root zone.
- **Proposed Text:** The Committee is expected to review proposed ***significant*** architectural ***or operational*** changes to: ***(i)*** the content of the DNS root zone, ***(ii)*** the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, ***(iii)*** and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS root zone.
- **Justification:**
  - Charter is currently inconsistent when discussing the topics in the committee scope in the Purpose and Scope of Responsibilities sections
  - This proposal modifies the purpose section to match the terminology with the Scope of Responsibilities section as well as the text from the CWG-Stewardship recommendation
  - With this text being present in one section of the current charter but not the other, the committee does not anticipate that the interpretation of the charter will be impacted.
  - The committee still interprets routine operational changes to remain out of its scope.

# Proposed Amendments: Membership

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- There were no proposed changes to the membership of the committee during its review.

# Proposed Amendments: Meetings

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- **Proposed Change:** The committee recommends the addition of the following text:
  - *A meeting will require a quorum as defined by the operation procedures.*
- **Justification:**
  - Set the expectation for the committee members to be present whenever possible for scheduled committee meetings.
  - Establish a method for the committee, through its operational procedures, to set quorum rules for its meetings.

# Proposed Amendments: Decisions

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- **Proposed Change:** The following text would be added to the Decisions section
  - *Decisions shall be reached through a comprehensive poll of the membership online with a noticed meeting prior to the poll to support discussion of the topic. The noticed meeting can be removed for matters which require urgency at the discretion of the chair or multiple members of the committee.*
- **Justification:**
  - Clarify how the committee currently makes its decisions
  - Ensure transparency is maintained in the future
  - This proposed text is intended to support further diverse geographic involvement in the RZERC membership

# Proposed Amendments: Records of Proceedings

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- There were no proposed changes to the records of proceedings for the committee during its review.

# Proposed Amendments: Conflicts of Interest

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- There were no proposed changes to the conflicts of interest for the committee during its review.

# Proposed Amendments: Review

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- **Original Text:** The Committee is expected to review proposed architectural changes to the content of the DNS root zone, the systems including both hardware and software components used in executing changes to the DNS root zone, and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS root zone.
- **Proposed Text:** The Charter of the Committee shall be reviewed at least every 5 years, and a review may be initiated more frequently if determined necessary: **by the RZERC or the ICANN Board**. All reviews of the Charter shall be ~~subject to ICANN~~ **in accordance with ICANN's** public comment processes.
- **Justification:**
  - Current charter is vague as to who is eligible to call for a new charter review.
  - RZERC proposes limiting who can call for a charter review to the committee itself or the ICANN board.
  - The second change is intended to indicate that all reviews would follow the ICANN Public Comment process to solicit community feedback where the previous text was not as clear as the committee desired.

# Questions?