ICANN/IANA: Role and Structural Considerations

"To support and enhance the multistakeholder model of Internet policymaking and governance, the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) today announces its **intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community**. As the first step, NTIA is asking the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene global stakeholders to develop a **proposal to transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's domain name system (DNS)**.

NTIA's responsibility **includes the procedural role of administering changes to the authoritative root zone file** – the database containing the lists of names and addresses of all top-level domains – **as well as serving as the historic steward of the DNS**. NTIA currently **contracts with ICANN to carry out the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions and has a Cooperative Agreement with Verisign** under which it performs related root zone management functions. Transitioning NTIA out of its role marks the **final phase of the privatization of the DNS** as outlined by the U.S. Government in 1997."

Overview of functions

OVERSIGHT

Stewardship through top-level principles:
- Multistakeholderism
- Competitive market
- Public accountability
- Security and stability

Contractual oversight:
- Issue and monitor the IANA contract
- Issue and monitor the RZM contract

Specific DNS root operations:
- Authorise changes

POLICY

Common to all areas:
- Monitor IANA SLA

gTLD contracts:
- Authorise, contract and regulate gTLDs
- Authorise, contract and regulate Registrars

gTLD policy:
- Set policy by multistakeholder consensus
- Issue delegation / re-delegations instructions to IANA in line with policy

IP / AS Address
- Set **local** policy by community consensus
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Protocol parameters
- Set policy by community consensus
- Issue change instructions to IANA

IANA FUNCTIONS

Operate all registries:
- Implement changes in line with published policies.
- Measure performance against SLA
- Refer complex / unclear changes.
- Publish all change requests

Specific DNS root operations:
- Implement delegations / re-delegations in line with policies.
- Check changes are technically compliant
- Sign root.

RZM FUNCTIONS

Specific DNS root operations:
- Check changes are technically compliant (second pair of eyes)
- Publish root.

Current overlay of organisational split

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NTIA

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ICANN

RIRs

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VERISIGN

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IETF/IAB

InternetNZ March 2014

Proposed by ICANN to SO/AC chairs

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ICANN

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IGP proposal

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ICANN

Contract

IANA FUNCTIONS

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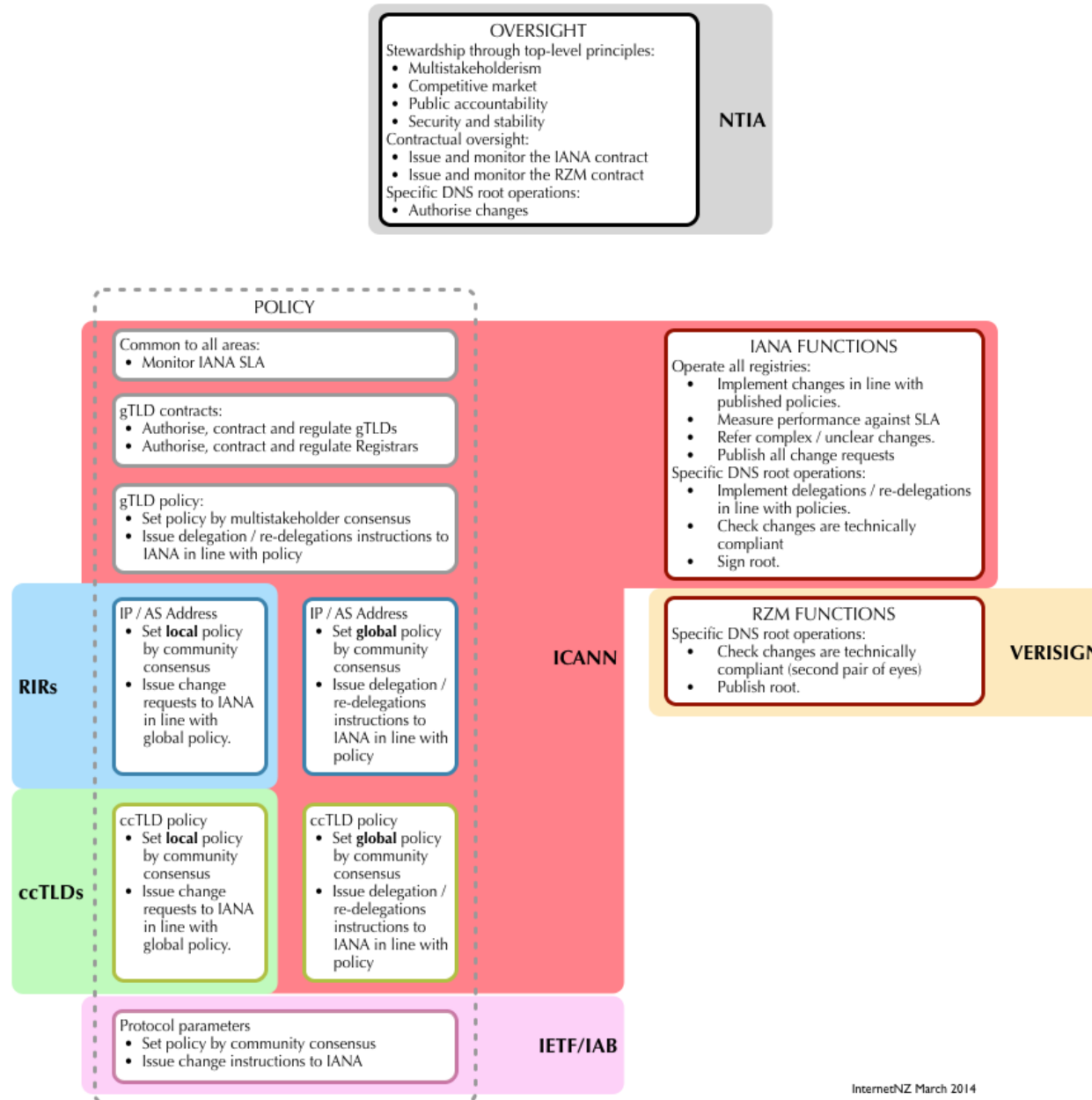- Publish all change requests

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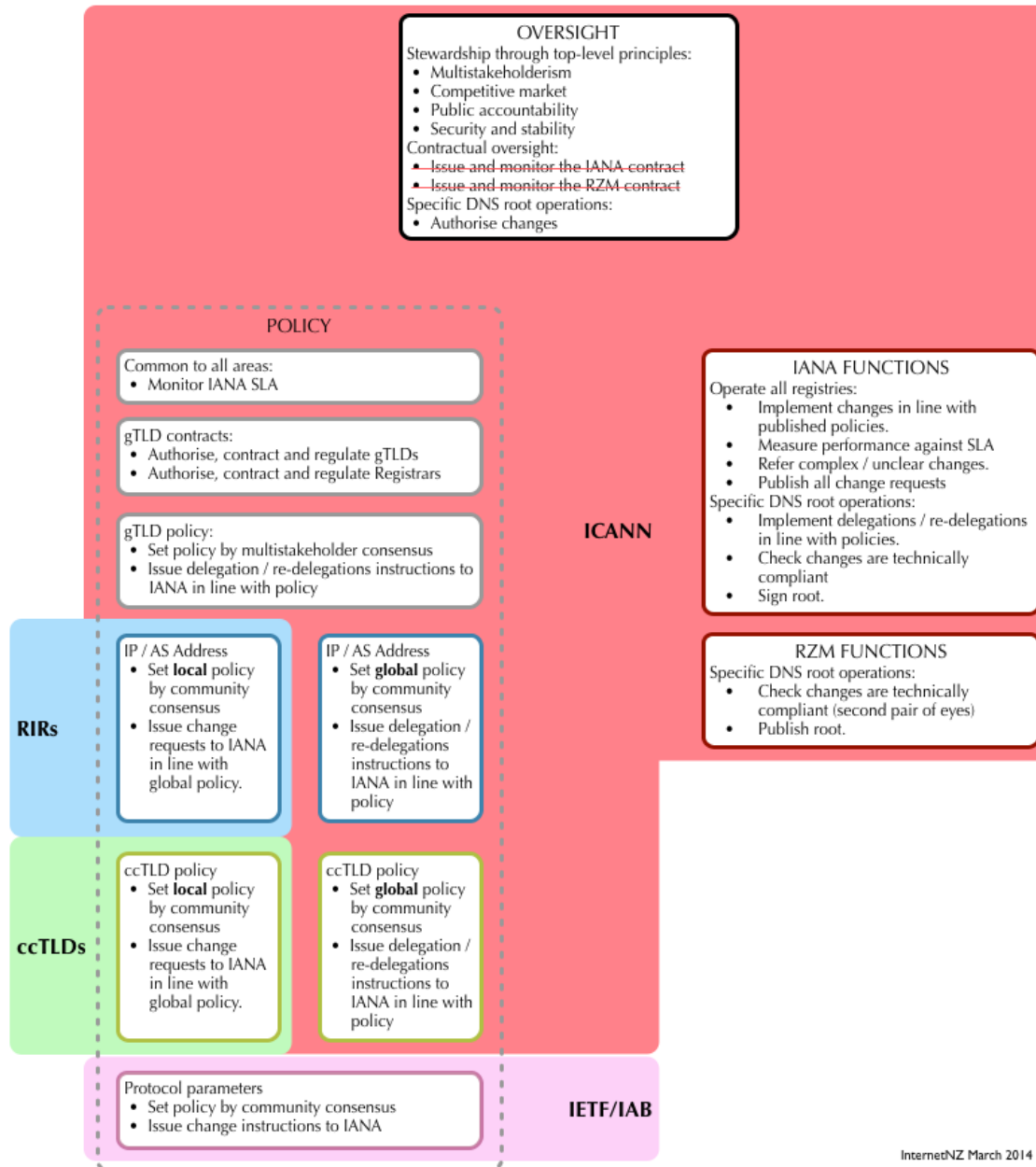- Sign root.

RZM FUNCTIONS

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DNSA

Protocol parameters
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IETF/IAB

Option: New oversight entity and structural separation

OVERSIGHT
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Contractual oversight:
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IETF/IAB

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NEW ENTITY 2

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Option: New policy entity (1) and structural separation

ICANN

OVERSIGHT
Stewardship through top-level principles:
- Multistakeholderism
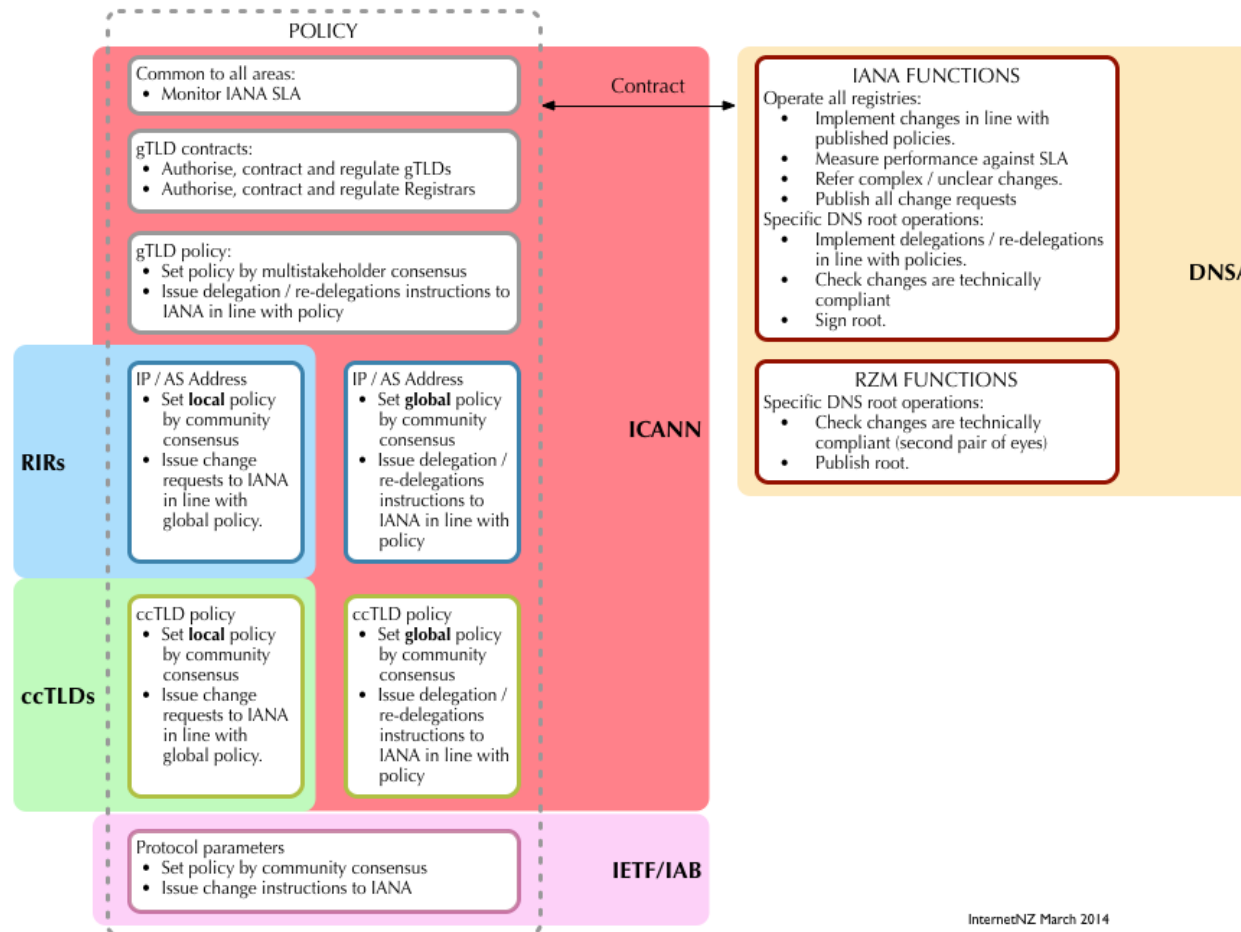- Competitive market
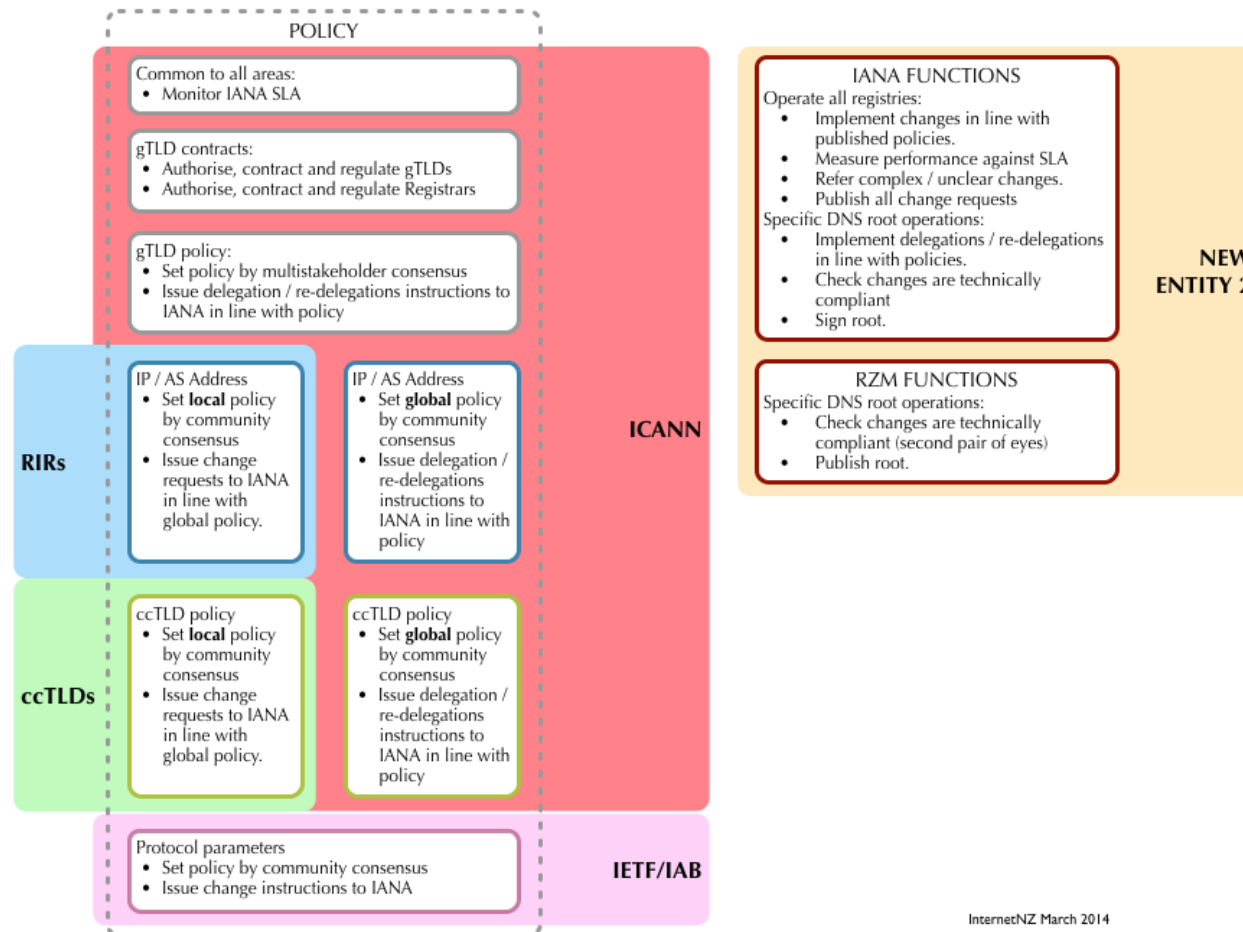- Public accountability
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NEW ENTITY 1

IETF/IAB

Protocol parameters
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NEW ENTITY 2

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Option: New policy entity (2) and structural separation

ICANN

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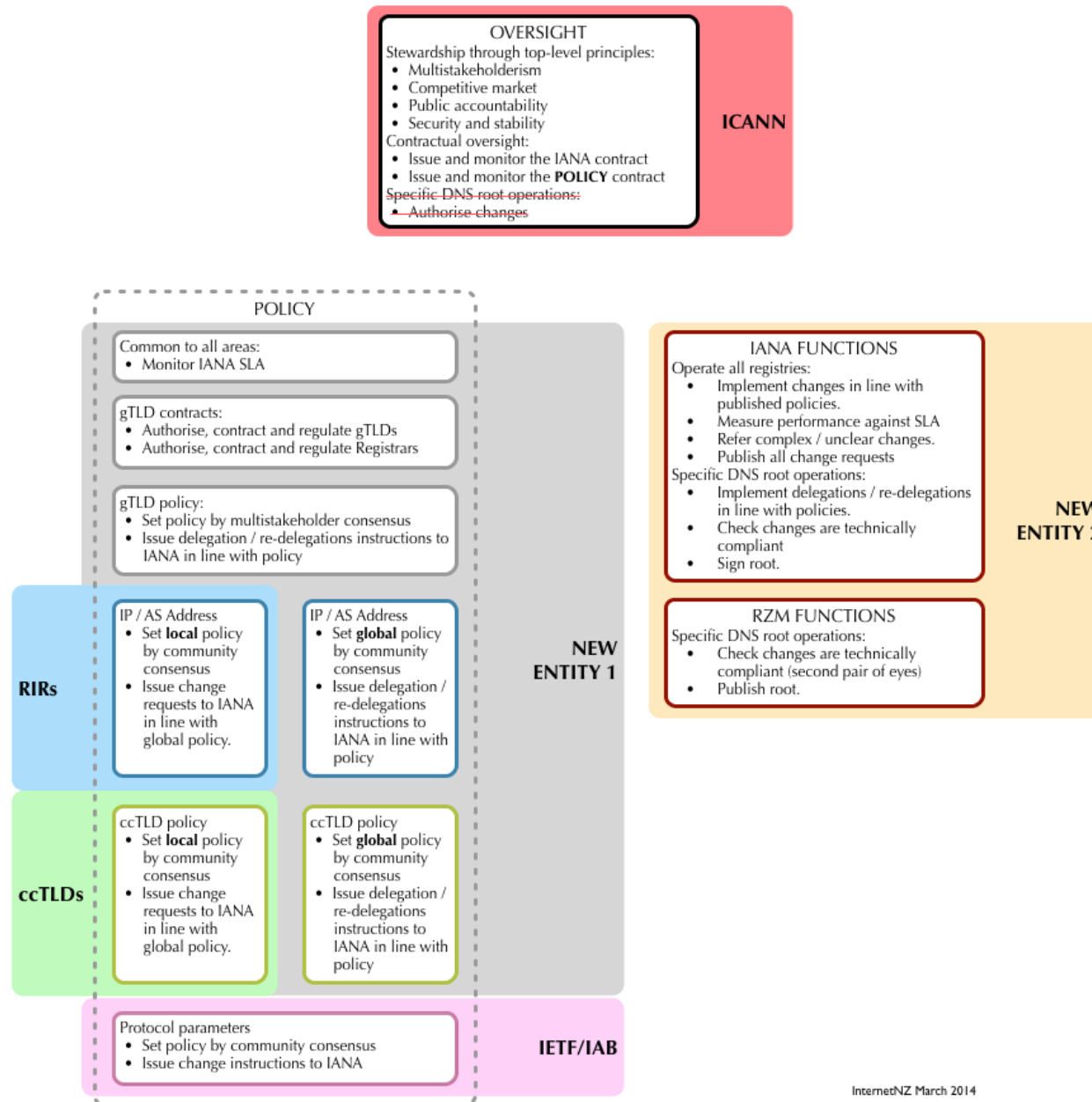- Issue and monitor the **POLICY** contract

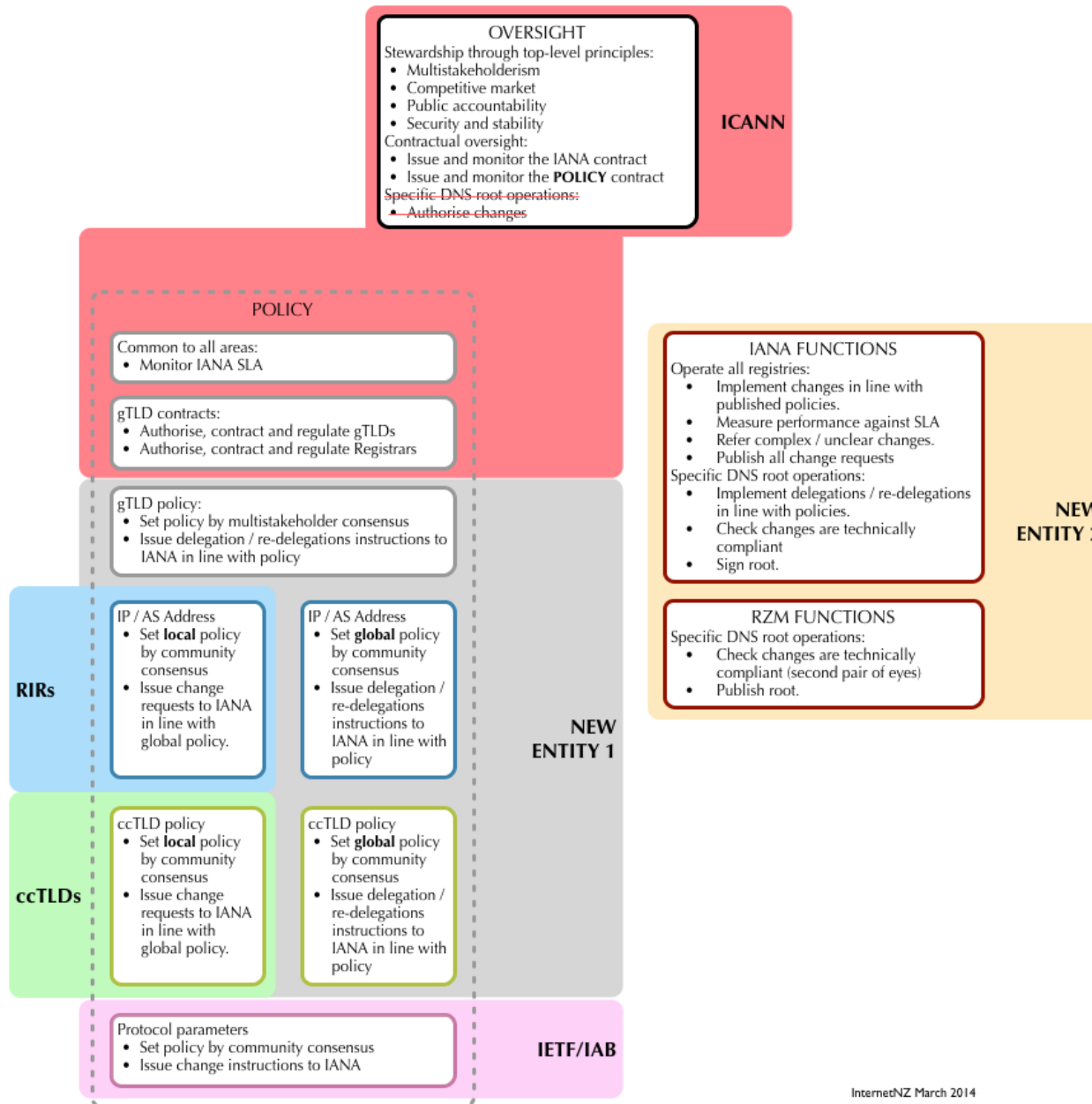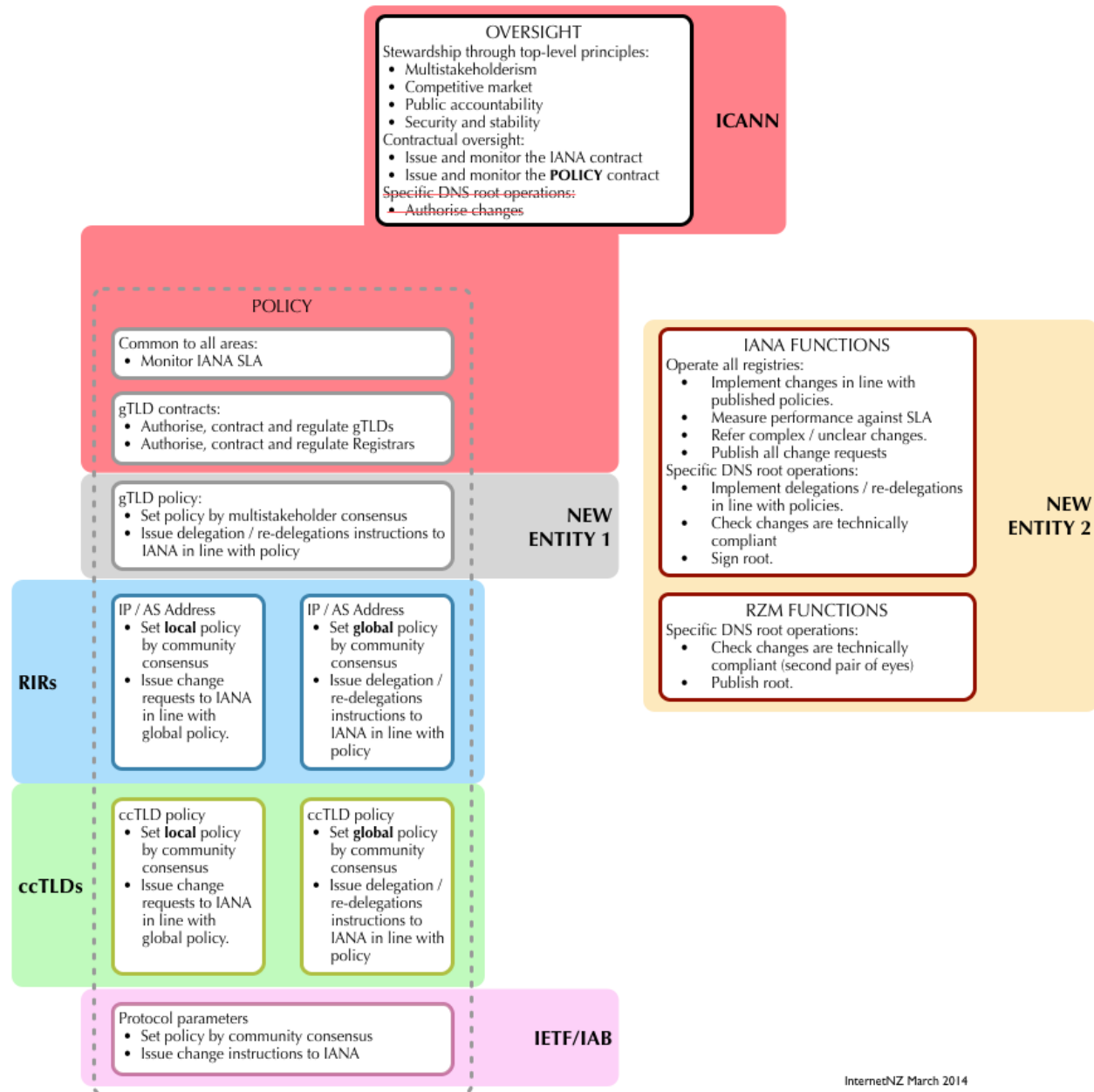~~Specific DNS root operations:~~
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