

2023-June-20: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference

FINAL

Date: Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 11:00 UTC

Attendees

Executive Council:

John Curran (JC)	ARIN	Chair
Paul Wilson (PW)	APNIC	Vice-Chair
Oscar Robles (OR)	LACNIC	Treasurer
Hans Petter Holen (HPH)	RIPE NCCC	Member

Observers:

Nirmal Manic (NM)	AFRINIC
Pablo Hinojosa (PH)	APNIC
Richard Jimmerson (RJ)	ARIN
Ernesto Majo (EM)	LACNIC
Migue Ignacio Estrada (ME)	LACNIC
Athina Fragkouli (AF)	RIPE NCC

Secretariat:

German Valdez (GV)	NRO Secretariat
Laureana Pavon	Minutes

New and Updated Action Items

New Action Item 230620-1: GV to check with Arthur what the plans are for the African Peering Forum and the AIS meeting (28 September) and get back to the EC with this information, as well

as with any other events prior to September in which it might be of interest for the NRO to participate.

New Action Item 230620-2: JC to ask John Sweeting to put together a preliminary agenda for the AIS, communications for a normal type of peering forum event.

New Action Item 230620-3: GV to ask Arthur to report on the status of the AFRINIC engagement plan to the NRO during the NRO EC teleconferences when required.

New Action Item 230620-4: Each member of the NRO EC to brief their legal counsel to begin working on coming up with possible risk scenarios and appropriate contingency plans/analysis in relation to the situation at AFRINIC and collaborate with their peers.

New Action Item 230620-5: All to take the time to review the ASO AC Procedures Update document and analyze its approval.

New Action Item 230620-6: GV to send the IGF Donors Quarterly Report to HPH. The NRO EC can discuss this topic at a later teleconference if needed.

New Resolutions

R-20230620-1: The NRO EC agrees to transfer an NRO contribution of US\$ 75,000 to support the IGF Secretariat.

Agenda

1.- Welcome

2.- Agenda Review

3.- NRO Strategy Update

4.- AFRINIC Update

5.- ASO AC Procedures Update

6.- 2023 Expenses Distribution

7.- NRO Contribution to IGF UN Secretariat

8.- RIR CEO Updates

9.- Open Actions Review

10.- Minutes Review

- 2023-May-16: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-April-18: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)

11.- Next Meetings

- a) Tuesday 18 July 2023 Teleconference
- b) Tuesday 15 August 2023 Teleconference
- c) Tuesday 19 September 2023 Teleconference

12.- AOB

13.- Adjourn

=====

Minutes

1.- Welcome

JC welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 11:01 UTC.

2.- Agenda Review

JC went over the agenda. No changes were introduced.

3.- NRO Strategy Update

At JC's request, GV and Richard provided an update.

GV observed that we are making progress in the implementation of the RPKI program. A description of the position has been prepared in coordination with all HR departments and was announced in all regions on 22 May. GV met with RJ at ARIN's offices, they both screened about 700 proposals and shortlisted about 30 applications. An interesting aspect GV highlighted: this is a process to fill a position for first time in collaboration with all HR departments, so he and RJ drafted a process, which includes, e.g., how to prepare an initial interview slate and a description of the interviews, which would be run by GV, RJ, and the HR representative of the candidate's region, and at least two members of the Steering Group. The full details have been shared with the HR departments and a final update will be available to the EC in the coming days.

RJ added that the process is moving along as scheduled, i.e., by June we had imagined that the candidates would be narrowed down, and that we would be ready to start interviewing. He noted that GV has done a great job and he looks forward to having three candidates to present to the EC soon.

PW asked whether there has been any guidance re the question of program management vs technical expertise.

GV replied that we are aiming for program management skills, which would be more important than technical skills, perhaps in a proportion of 70-30.

PW observed that reducing the list to three is a very important judgement call. Perhaps we should have a protocol that if someone feels that a candidate should be interviewed, that candidate should be interviewed. This would be better than the artificial number of three.

For the last round of interviews at the executive level, HPH would personally expect the candidates to be evaluated and only the best be presented to us. Of course, if they come with four candidates, that's one thing, but seven would be too much.

RJ clarified the following: we have screened about 750 resumes, narrowed it down to 30, by the time we have the Zoom interviews they will be about 20. This means that way more than three people will be interviewed before we get to you with the three that we are targeting. However, the number may be larger (4-5) if there are strong candidates.

PW said he just wanted to make sure that we don't have an artificial limit.

As for the Cybersecurity and Public Affairs programs, GV said he and RJ would like to start, but some names are still missing but any pending appointment could be done later. Ideally, we can have a call with both groups before the next EC teleconference. We would like to create a mailing list for the people assigned to the steering groups and find a date for the initial meeting.

No objections were heard.

4.- AFRINIC Update

JC asked NM whether he had any updates.

NM replied that AFRINIC is in the same situation. One of the directors made an application to the court to have elections, the court had one month to decide but requested an additional month, which ends this week. If there are no objections, the court will decide whether we have elections.

JC asked NM how AFRINIC is doing operationally, to which NM replied that, operationally, AFRINIC staff is doing everything that is required, but not incurring in expenses that are not considered critical.

HPH said he had seen some emails to the list from some directors which were difficult to understand, but in a follow-up email from SM he referred to the obligation to post a financial report. He asked NM if he could shed some light on what is happening.

NM said that basically, we have to file expenses and accounts by 30 June, this is normal, but we do not have a board or auditors. The staff have the accounts ready, so once AFRINIC has the board the accounts can be audited.

OR asked if there is any event where the RIRs need to be involved, if there is an event, he would like to know the details asap to plan for travel and expenses.

HPH asked two questions regarding the outreach plan: 1) Is there anything planned at the African Peering Forum? and 2) What is the plan for the African Internet Summit (28 September)?

New Action Item 230620-1: GV to check with Arthur what the plans are for the African Peering Forum and the AIS meeting (28 September) and get back to the EC with this information, as well as with any other events prior to September in which it might be of interest for the NRO to participate.

PW said that things may change a lot in the coming months, so we might want to keep the slot open.

PW suggested putting together an agenda for half a day now, which might be updated prior to the event.

HPH said he has a team working on engagement and communications, so if we are going to do this, he would like to keep this team involved. But we should have some message about why we would be there.

OR mentioned that, in any case, whether for the AIS or for the African Peering Forum, we should plan in advance the goals of our participation so we can defend them before our board and members. The AIS will be a well attended event, we should take advantage of this participation, but we should make a decision asap so we can plan.

With respect to being invited to AIS, JC observed that it is customary for us to attend and that we can put together a tentative agenda. He asked who can put together a preliminary agenda presuming that we will get an invitation in the coming days.

HPH said that John Sweeting would be a good start.

All agreed.

New Action Item 230620-2: JC to ask John Sweeting to put together a preliminary agenda for the AIS, communications for a normal type of peering forum event.

Regarding the AFRINIC engagement plan, JC said that GV had suggested inviting Arthur to be present on the monthly calls to provide an update when this joint activity is discussed.

All agreed.

New Action Item 230620-3: GV to ask Arthur to report on the status of the AFRINIC engagement plan to the NRO during the NRO EC teleconferences when required.

JC said that HPH had mentioned that Athena had suggested an analysis of things that might go wrong and asked HPH if he could elaborate on that.

HPH said he had sent an email yesterday, from which he then proceeded to read: “We should, as you suggested in a private email, add an NRO internal activity in the legal team to come up with possible risk scenarios and appropriate contingency plans/analysis as part of the second pillar for a further discussion among the CEOs on what other steps we should take.”

All then proceeded to discuss HPH’s email, after which the following was agreed:

New Action Item 230620-4: Each member of the NRO EC to brief their legal counsel to begin working on coming up with possible risk scenarios and appropriate contingency plans/analysis in relation to the situation at AFRINIC and collaborate with their peers.

5.- ASO AC Procedures Update | Document.

JC said the NRO EC is supposed to approve the update to the ASO AC procedures, but he is not prepared to do this until we’ve all reviewed them.

New Action Item 230620-5: All to take the time to review the ASO AC Procedures Update document and analyze its approval.

6.- 2023 Expenses Distribution

HPH was the first to express his opinion: we wish that we could split the budget and the costs according to the original five RIRs, but as long as AFRINIC does not have a CEO on the NRO EC, we cannot expect AFRINIC to cover their part. He hopes that they will do so when things are back to normal, but in the meantime he is prepared to cover a four-way split rather than the 5 way split. We know that we may never come back and claim it, but perhaps, in their interest, they will offer to do so if the new board and CEO wishes to do so.

JC’s opinion is a bit different: AFRINIC is part of the NRO and has agreed to pay for the expenses. JC believes that AFRINIC should be invoiced, but realistically AFRINIC may be a non-receivable and we need to be able to manage that. AFRINIC can appoint anyone they want, but meanwhile we continue to make decisions.

HPH agreed.

JC summarized the message for the CFOs: the NRO will use the regular distribution formula and, if the time comes, we will see how to deal with the cash.

7.- NRO Contribution to IGF UN Secretariat

JC noted that the NRO has budgeted USD 75,000 for IGF UN Secretariat in 2023.

HPH asked what other institutions are contributing, to which GV replied that he IGF Secretariat has reported about this but will need to look through his email.

HPH said that the NRO EC funding to the IGF appears to be on autopilot, but he is receiving questions about why this is important to us, and he can't really give a good explanation, so I think we should carefully review going forward what we get out of this contribution.

OR shared his opinion that the contribution is not about what we get from the IGF but about the risks if we don't contribute.

JC suggested that GV can send the IGF donors report to HPH and they can bring the topic up at a later meeting if needed.

New Action Item 230620-6: GV to send the IGF Donors Quarterly Report to the mailing list. The NRO EC can discuss this topic at a later teleconference if needed.

JC moved to approve the NRO Contribution to the IGF UN Secretariat, no objections were heard, and the motion carried.

R-20220620-1: The NRO EC agrees to transfer an NRO contribution of US\$ 75,000 to support the IGF Secretariat.

8.- RIR CEO Updates

HPH presented a brief update on the financial situation at RIPE NCC. He is going to Geneva to meet with the top management of ITU to discuss joint engagement capacity building on IPv6 and RPKI.

OR provided a quick LACNIC update: During the recent meeting in Mérida we had the conversation about the fees, but the LACNIC board identified some sensitivities and decided not to vote at this time. The feeling was very good after the discussion, the problem is that we will be facing the same financial challenges in the budget preparation for 2024, so we will see if we can vote this in May 2024.

PW said he did not have much to update. APNIC is in the middle of strategic planning for 2024 and planning for APNIC 56 in Kyoto, which is APNIC's 30th anniversary.

JC shared that ARIN is preparing for the August strategy board workshop as usual, mostly a risk management and strategy setting exercise.

9.- Open Actions Review

-

10.- Minutes Review

- 2023-May-16: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-April-18: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)

JC observed that there are a couple of minutes that are yet to be reviewed, adding that it would be good to get at least review the April minutes.

11.- Next Meetings

- a) Tuesday 18 July 2023 Teleconference
- b) Tuesday 15 August 2023 Teleconference
- c) Tuesday 19 September 2023 Teleconference

The 15 August meeting overlaps with JC's Board meeting, but the time seems to pose no problem.

No issues were raised for the upcoming meeting dates, which were not modified at this time.

12.- AOB

HPH asked whether they should plan to meet at an upcoming physical event.

JC said he would be happy to do so, but would like to plan it now.

The possibility of meeting at APNIC 56 in Kyoto was discussed.

PW noted that APNIC 56 has a very full program, so it would need to be outside the meeting week. He can look at the program and get back to the others.

JC said it would be prudent to have a f2f meeting.

OR shared that he just cancelled his trip to APNIC. He was trying to attend APNIC's 30th anniversary, but it is becoming very expensive for people in the LACNIC region to travel to Asia. He suggested meeting at LACNIC in Fortaleza, Brazil, in October, where some of the coordination groups will also be meeting.

HPH has a conflict for Fortaleza as well as budget concerns.

Other options were discussed.

JC concluded by saying that they should all think about it some more and, worst case, we can set aside a day and meet via Zoom. We can have a successful meeting if we have enough breaks

PW said that, due to time zone issues, daily sessions might be a better option.

JC agreed. Let's ponder and if we cannot meet f2f we can do a week of zoom meetings.

13.- Adjourn

All agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 UTC.