

# 2023-September-19: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 September 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 NCC	Member

### Observers:

Pablo Hinojosa (PH)	APNIC
Richard Jimmerson (RJ)	ARIN
Ernesto Majo (EM)	LACNIC
Alejandro Guzman	LACNIC

### Secretariat:

German Valdez (GV)	NRO Secretariat
Laureana Pavon	Minutes

## New and Updated Action Items

**New Action Item 230919-1:** GV to share with the NRO EC an updated written report with what has been going on with the AFRINIC Engagement Plan.

**New Action Item 230919-2:** JC to draft a response to Frediani saying that “The NRO has published a statement. We look forward to AFRINIC having an election and returning to normal governance.”

**New Action Item 230919-3:** PW to email Pierre with the updated program for AIS, including the lead speakers for each session (Kevon Swift and OR from LACNIC).

**New Action Item 230319-4** GV to prepare a report on salary components for the RPKI Manager position normalized among the HR teams.

**New Action Item 230919-5:** GV to set up an initial meeting with the Cybersecurity Steering Group and the CEOs to discuss the Cybersecurity program.

**New Action Item 230919-6:** GV to coordinate with the ARIN comms team to prepare for the JC 5-minute speech for the opening ceremony at ICANN 78 (Hamburg).

**New Action Item 230919-7:** GV to draft a NRO EC agenda so everyone can better organize their other activities during ICANN 78 meeting.

**New Action Item 230919-8:** All to review JC's draft response to SSAC (RIR Comments on SSAC Recommendations on DNSSEC Zone Maintenance) and send in any comments they may have before 22 September 2023, when JC will send it to SSAC.

## **New Resolutions**

### **Agenda**

**1.- Welcome**

**2.- Agenda Review**

**3.- AFRINIC Update**

#### **Outline**

- Update AFRINIC Engagement Plan by GV
- Update from last events in AFRINIC by Nirmal Manic
- Frediani Request

**4.- AFRICA Internet Summit Update**

#### **Outline**

- Review RIR/NRO Agenda and Content for AIS

**5.- NRO Strategy Implementation Update**

#### **Outline**

- Update RPKI Program Implementation
- Government Engagement Program Next Steps
- Cybersecurity Program Next Steps

## **6.- ICANN 78 Preparations**

### **Outline**

- Topics for ASO public session with the ICANN Board
- NRO agenda and activities

## **7.- RIR Comments on SSAC Recommendations on DNSSEC Zone Maintenance**

### **Outline**

- SSAC requested RIRs to provide input to their draft report “Towards an Industry Best Practice for DNSSEC Delegation Signer (DS) Record Automation.”
- Deadline for comment 22 September 2023

## **8.- RIR CEO Updates**

## **9.- Open Actions Review**

## **10.- Minutes Review**

- 2023-August-15: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN, APNIC, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-July-18: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-June-20: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-May-16: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN)

## **11.- Next Meetings**

- a) f2f Meeting during ICANN78 Hamburg Germany 23 - 26 October 2023 Teleconference
- b) Tuesday 21 November 2023 Teleconference
- c) Tuesday 19 December 2023 Teleconference

## **12.- AOB**

## **13.- Adjourn**

# **Minutes**

## **1.- Welcome**

JC welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 11:05 UTC.

## **2.- Agenda Review**

JC went over the agenda, which was approved as written.

## **3.- AFRINIC Update**

GV: The new Official Receiver has ordered AFRINIC staff to stop all travel.

**New Action Item 230919-1:** GV to share with the NRO EC an updated written report with what has been going on with the AFRINIC Engagement Plan.

Nirmal was not present to provide an update.

As to Frediani's request, we've now put out a statement, so the following action item was decided:

**New Action Item 230919-2:** JC to draft a response to Frediani saying that "The NRO has published a statement. We look forward to AFRINIC having an election and returning to normal governance."

## **4.- AFRICA Internet Summit Update**

JC: I'm in favor of repurposing the sessions. IPv6 is always a good topic, then RIRs in general (services, what the NRO is doing more recently, and so on). If the topic of AFRINIC comes up, redirect the questions to the receiver.

HPH: This day is traditionally the AFRINIC day at AIS. I will not be there in person, but may participate remotely, PW and OR will be present on site.

JC: The good thing is that there's a way forward, a receiver has been appointed and one of his duties includes calling for an election.

After some further discussion, the following action item was decided:

**New Action Item 230919-3:** PW to email Pierre with the updated program for AIS, including the lead speakers for each session (Kevon Swift and OR from LACNIC).

## **5.- NRO Strategy Implementation Update**

**RPKI Program:**

GV: We have agreed with the RIR HR directors about the rest of the process for hiring the RPKI PM.

Tomorrow we will start with the second round of interviews with some of the remaining candidates. All HR directors and I will be present at all the interviews. As part of this process, we will assess the candidates according to an agreed ranking system. For the next phase we will organize a meet-the-team session with the RPKI Steering Group and a new assessment before submitting a final slate of candidates to the NRO EC for a for a final interview (aiming for the week that the EC will be meeting f2f at ICANN 78).

GV: I have comments from JC and HPH regarding some candidates whose salary expectations may be higher than the amount considered in the cost of the program but pending from PW and OR

PW and OR mentioned their opinion that the candidates could be kept in the process and then check the salary expectations later.

PW: I also agree that we should not reject good candidates now but cross the salary bridge afterwards.

HPH: I might be able to go higher, but not much higher. Also, we should go for quality over quantity, I would rather hire two very good program managers than three average ones. We can discuss this later, but maybe a PM is not the solution to everything. For RPKI a PM is definitely the right solution, but for Government Engagement there may be different ways to achieve our goals.

JC: Re the RPKI PM, I agree quality over quantity, but we need to be careful about how we compare these numbers (salaries and benefits) between the different RIRs.

HPH: Having full transparency about what we are comparing would be very helpful.

**New Action Item 230319-4** GV to prepare a report on salary components for the RPKI Manager position normalized among the HR teams.

### **Government Engagement Program:**

At PW's request, PH provided his opinion: From our point of view, this is a useful and valuable resource that can contribute to a lot of things that we need. I also think that the scope of work is still open for some shaping. We all have agreed that the representational aspect is sensitive. I don't think there is an expectation that the PM will represent and speak on behalf of the NRO. I think this resource can definitely help the PACG to work much better. This said, it would be really good to have some clarity and try to move forward if possible.

PW: I think our government engagement as a set of RIRs has been minimally sufficient for the past few years. We are the other voices in the room, but we are not seen by governments as the place to get their problems solved. I'm a little concerned that we won't get cohesive messaging

that is attractive for governments to work with us. I'm actually concerned that strategically this might be one of our most important things, but I'm happy to go along if we decide to put this program on pause.

HPH: I'm also concerned about moving forward with all three programs in parallel without knowing whether we will be successful. My HR director has made it very clear to me that we will not start the next process before we've seen this one through. Proposal: hire the first PM and get that person up and running and see if we're able to empower that person to do things. Also, we need to discuss sometime soon what this Joint Registry really means and what resources we can assign to that.

PW: We've spoken that there is at some level an abstract global Internet number registry, and we've agreed that that's what we're all working on. The problem I have is that it needs to be made concrete as a set of coherent services, or on top of RIR services. Getting our RPKI in order is probably going to reveal a lot of the issues that we need to deal with commonly. Under the circumstances, and considering what everyone has said, I think getting started with RPKI and getting that up and running is the right thing to do.

JC: If we are going to ask the current team, we have to charge them with a clear problem to solve, a paragraph or two so they know what the target is. Suggestion: if we're going to task them instead of hiring a PM, then we need to spend some time describing what it is we want them to solve. I'm not against deferring hiring as long as we keep open the possibility that we might revisit that decision if we see a need.

OR: The Government Engagement program was a very detailed area that we wanted to put in place. We launched this program listening to the PACG concerns and we choose it over twenty other initiatives. If we agree that this may not be the time to launch this program, then we need to cancel our expectations for the government area, not task the PACG to do these things, because this is not what we had had in mind 18 months ago. Let's take this opportunity and focus on the RPKI and the Cybersecurity programs. Let's commit to a strategy defined by us before making more changes.

HPH: I fully agree that the game may be changing. But I'm not really sure that this that we made 18 months ago is actually the solution. So yes, let's pull the brakes, regroup, and see what's needed. I think that's the best.

OR: A 20-minute conversation on one of our regular calls is not the place to review and change our strategy.

JC: Proposal: We keep our NRO strategy, but we recognize that the government engagement area might need additional definition, that we may have a resourcing problem if we do this as described in the plan, and that maybe we need to refresh it. I ask that we take the Government Engagement program and make it a second phase of our strategy, officially put it on hold, probably for a six-month period. Then we can pick up the Government Engagement program and try to define it more tightly or change our strategy based on what we've learned with the RPKI program.

All agreed with making the Government Engagement program part of a second phase of our strategy implementation.

## **Cybersecurity Program**

GV: I realized that each RIR has a very different portfolio and scope in their own region, so it was going to be very difficult to do something productive without participation and input of the CEOs in a first meeting with this particular group. Would you be available for such a meeting?

JC: I don't want to lose the Cybersecurity program. I do think we should try to set common goals and define the program better. My goal is that when someone asks "Is the Internet number registry system securely managed and operated?" I can reply affirmatively. But as GV says, I don't think we have a lot of commonalities, and we probably need to review at this level what we're each doing and try to at least set goals. Also, we talked about a two-for-one PM, i.e., it's possible that the RPKI and the Cybersecurity program manager could actually be the same person.

PW: I think you are right.

HPH: I tend to agree, I don't want to give up the Cybersecurity program either. I also agree that we need to demonstrate that we're compliant both on our own and together. To me, the first goal is coordination and see how we strive for compliance on the same levels that the multinationals or the governments require for this system to function jointly.

GV: For Cybersecurity, my idea was that we could follow something similar to what we did with RPKI: have an initial meeting with the whole team along with the CEOs and provide the first feel of the program structure.

JC: I'm in favor of that, I think having an initial session, letting our people meet each other and say we need to answer this question globally for the registry system is a good idea.

The others agreed.

**New Action Item 230919-5:** GV to set up an initial meeting with the Cybersecurity Steering Group and the CEOs to discuss the Cybersecurity program.

## **6.- ICANN 78 Preparations**

JC: I will be there. They usually ask us for topics. The three main topics to be discussed will likely be what we see happening with AFRINIC, the ICP-2 update, and our input for the ICANN Update of the Five-year Plan.

PW: What's our timetable for discussions amongst ourselves before we talk to ICANN?

JC: We haven't received the request yet, but if the request for topics comes, we'll see what ICANN sends and I'll add AFRINIC status and the ICP-2 update. Also, we need to make sure that we have a meeting before we get in the room with the ASO public session in Hamburg.

GV noted that a room has been secured for the NRO EC in Hamburg.

All discussed and decided that the best day for the NRO EC to meet in Hamburg to prepare would be Monday, so they will reserve the whole day to meet and prepare for the ASO public session.

GV then reminded everyone of the activities planned for the NRO EC during ICANN 78 (five minutes during the opening ceremony, a meeting with the ICANN board chair, likely a meeting with John Crain and Kim Davies probably a meeting with the ASO AC, and potentially an interview with some candidates for the RPKI candidate position).

JC: Is somebody going to work on any slides or talking points for the 5-minute opening?

GV: Normally we coordinate something with the RIR comms team.

**New Action Item 230919-6:** GV to coordinate with the ARIN comms team to prepare for the JC 5-minute speech for the opening ceremony at ICANN 78 (Hamburg).

**New Action Item 230919-7:** GV to draft a NRO EC agenda so everyone can better organize their other activities during ICANN 78 meeting.

## **7.- RIR Comments on SSAC Recommendations on DNSSEC Zone Maintenance**

JC: I sent this around, a request for comments on their report about the use of RFC 7344 to allow someone to automatically hand their Delegation Signer records. In that report they also suggest that the RIRs implement it (RIPE already has implemented zone maintenance via automated methods; in the case of ARIN, it's a problem on domain records, so it may not be universally of interest).

JC drafted some text which he has shared with Mark and asked him to share this with the other Engineering leads. JC then cut and pasted this text in the chat.

**New Action Item 230919-8:** All to review JC's draft response to SSAC (RIR Comments on SSAC Recommendations on DNSSEC Zone Maintenance) and send in any comments they may have before 22 September 2023, when JC will send it to SSAC.

## **8.- RIR CEO Updates**

PW for APNIC:

- Last week we had a very successful meeting in Kyoto, 500+ people, our 30th anniversary.



- We voted on five amendments to the APNIC Bylaws, all were passed with strong support. We'll now implement a few new provisions, including an electoral committee to oversee the code of conduct, complaints for elections, and so on.
- The EC finally announced a set of fee changes for the coming years beginning in (about 10% a year for three years followed by an indefinite 4.75% a year for inflation after that). We're supposed to be back in the black after a couple of years, and then apply ongoing inflationary adjustments.

HPH for RIPE:

- We had our second Central Asia Peering and Interconnection Forum in Uzbekistan. Since 2017 we've engaged more in this area. There were good messages and questions there. I got the feeling of a young and vibrant environment. Also, good attendance.
- As part of our engagement in this region, we are having a MENOG meeting later this year in Saudi Arabia.
- We are also planning a round table in the Middle East the week before the RIPE meeting.
- We continue to work on our budget (e.g., consolidation in the technical department, limiting travel, cost efficiency of RIPE meetings).

OR for LACNIC:

- We are organizing LACNIC 40 in Fortaleza meeting. We have 850 registrations but only 550 on site. We are shifting to a model of sponsor exhibit booths.
- We are also in the middle of the LACNIC Board election. We introduced an objective mechanism to filter candidates based on their competencies and knowledge. The first call has concluded, and we have reduced the typical 15 candidates to 4 by applying this mechanism.

JC for ARIN:

- We just completed our strategic planning in August, minor changes to our strategic direction statement.
- Our upcoming meeting in October will be in San Diego jointly with NANOG.

## **9.- Open Actions Review**

Because the meeting had already extended over two hours, this action item was deferred.

## 10.- Minutes Review

- 2023-August-15: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN, APNIC, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-July-18: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-June-20: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN, RIPE NCC)
- 2023-May-16: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending: ARIN)

**JC encouraged everyone to review the pending minutes.**

## **11.- Next Meetings**

- a) f2f Meeting during ICANN78 Hamburg Germany 23 - 26 October 2023 Teleconference
- b) Tuesday 21 November 2023 Teleconference
- c) Tuesday 19 December 2023 Teleconference

The f2f EC meeting during ICANN 78 in Hamburg was already discussed earlier.

The 21 November was pushed back a week to Tuesday, 14 November.

No issues were raised with regard to the 19 December meeting.

## **12.- AOB**

OR suggested that ICANN (Peg Rettino) send their meeting invitation requests to GV so he can share them with the EC.

No other business was brought up for discussion.

## **13.- Adjourn**

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 13:25 UTC.