ICANN | ASO

Address Supporting Organization

ICANN 85| Joint Meeting ALAC & ASO

RIR Governance Document Version 2 Update (ICP-2 Review Process Update)

ASO AC

ICANN ASO AC (Address Council)

What is it?	The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) was established by ICANN to advise on Internet number resource policy
How is it organized?	• 15 members (3 from each RIR region) • In each region - two are elected, one is appointed by the RIR
How long do members serve?	Varies by region
What does it do?	• Advises the ICANN Board • Oversees the Global Policy Development Process • Appoints two members to the ICANN Board (seats 9 & 10) • Appoints one member to the ICANN Nominating Committee
When does it meet?	• Monthly virtual meetings • Annual in-person meeting
Focus of work	**• Conduct ICP-2 Review process** **• Conduct election for Seat 9 of the ICANN Board** **• Monitor and support Global Policy Development Process**

2026 AC Members

Saul Stein*
(AFRINIC)

Kevin Blumberg*
(ARIN)

Alyssa Quinn
(ARIN)

Amy Potter
(ARIN)

Akinori
Maemura*
(APNIC)

Nicole Chan
(APNIC)

Devesh Tyagi
(APNIC)

Esteban
Lescano*
(LACNIC)

Jorge Villa
(LACNIC)

Ricardo Patara
(LACNIC)

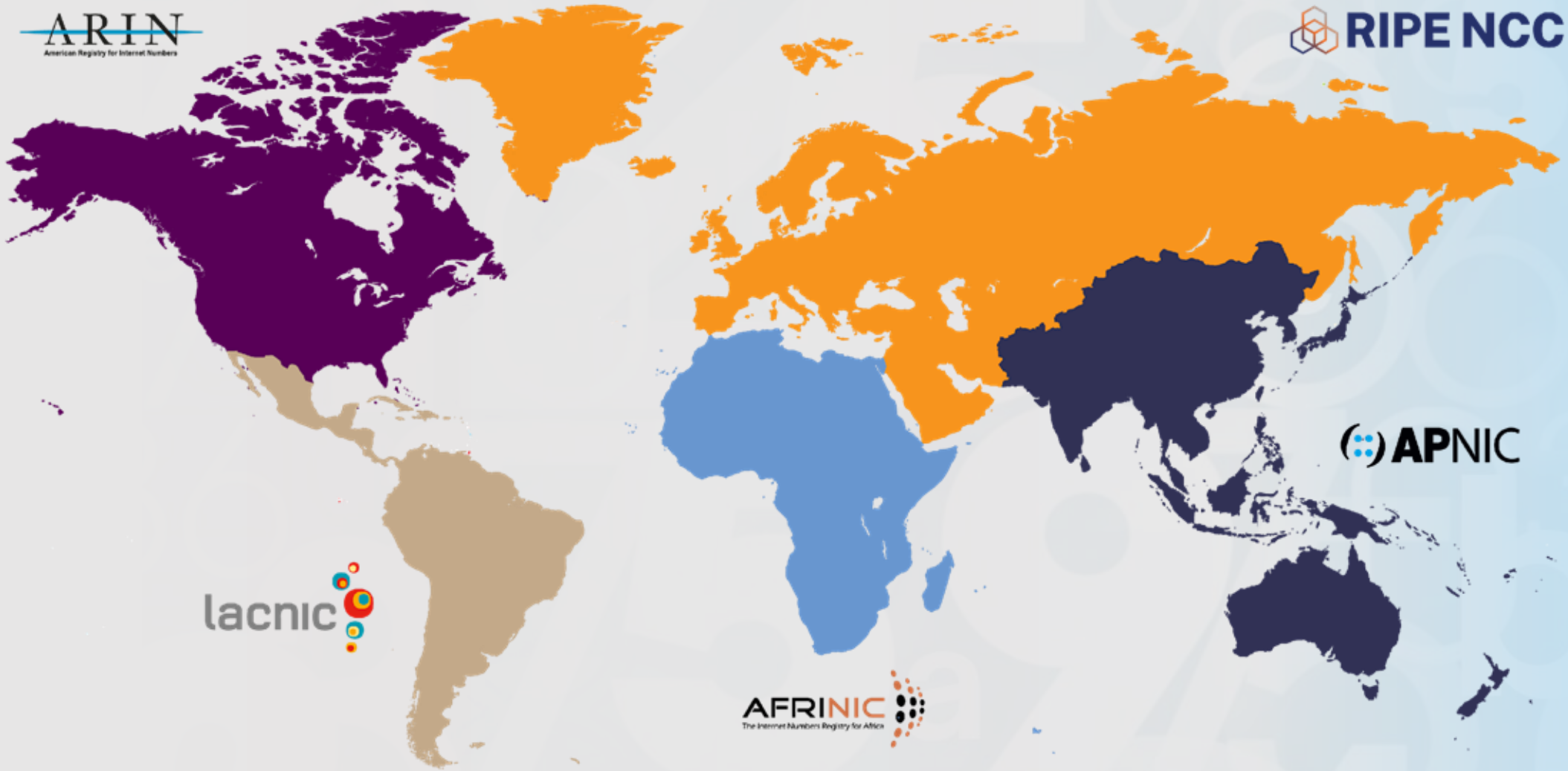
Hervé Clément*
(RIPE NCC)

Constanze
Bürger
(RIPE NCC)

Andrei
Robachevsky
(RIPE NCC)

*** Appointed by RIR Board**

Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)



Functions of an RIR

Manage and distribute Internet Number Resources:

- IPv4 and IPv6 addresses
- Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs)

Maintain directory services including:

- Whois, Whowas, and routing registries
- Provide reverse DNS

Support Internet infrastructure through:

- Technical coordination
- Community-driven policy process
- Training and capacity building

The Number Resource Organization

- The Number Resource Organization (NRO) is the coordinating body for the five **Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)**
- It serves as the Address Supporting Organization at ICANN
- Part of the Supporting Organizations (SO) since 1999
- Charged with reviewing and developing recommendations on Internet Protocol (IP) address policy and advises the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the operation, assignment, and management of IP addresses

ICP-2 Review: Background Information, Process and Timeline

Why revisit ICP-2?

1992	RIPE NCC established
1993	APNIC established
1997	ARIN established
1998	ICANN established
2001	**ICANN adopted ICP-2**
2002	LACNIC established
2005	AfriNIC established

- ICP-2 is nearly 25 years old
  - The Internet has changed over the last quarter century
  - The relationships between RIRs and ICANN and between each other have changed
- Need to more explicitly provide for:
  - An RIR's ongoing responsibilities
  - Potential derecognition of an RIR that can no longer adequately provide for the needs of its numbering community

ICP-2 Review Project

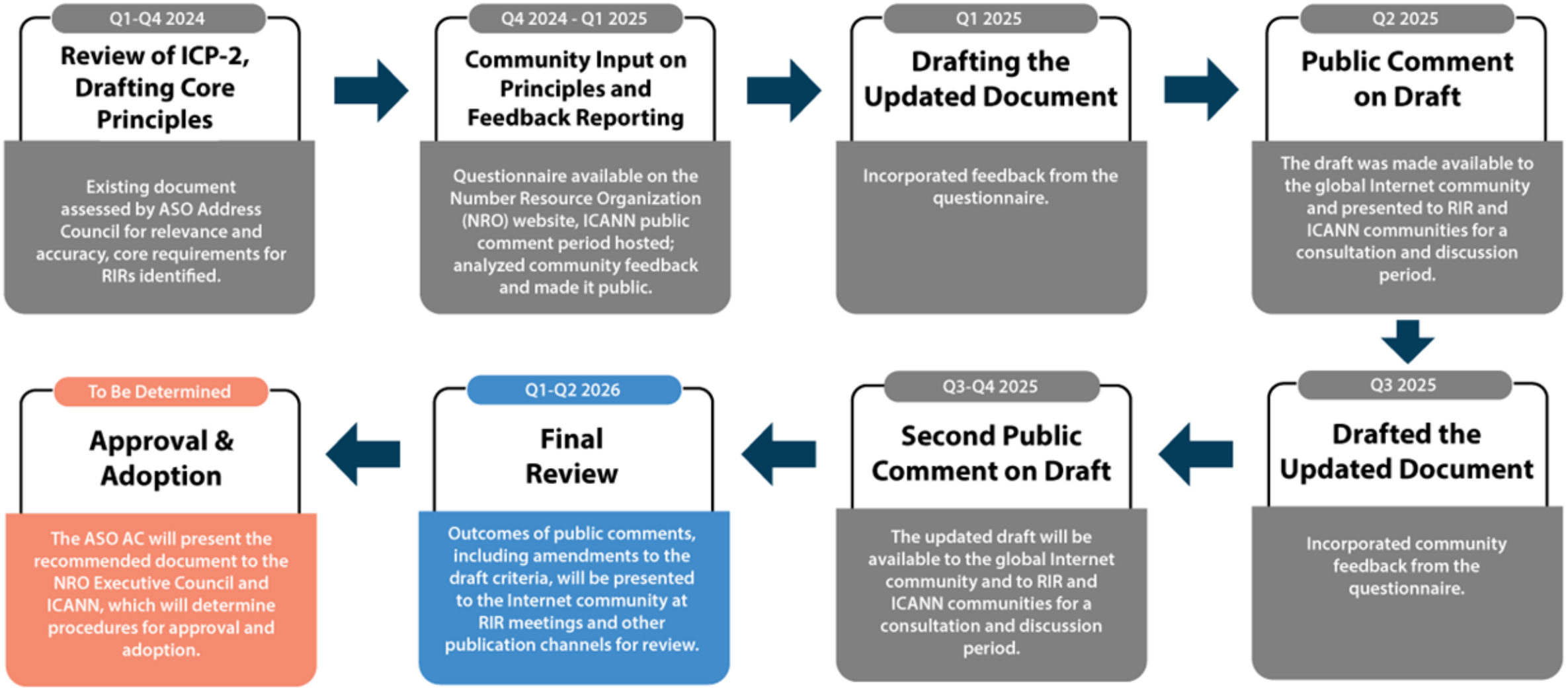
On 25 October 2023, the NRO EC* asked the ASO AC to help with two tasks aimed at strengthening the RIR System:

1. ICP-2 Implementation Procedures: Review and advise the NRO EC on its draft procedures for validating and addressing ongoing RIR compliance with ICP-2 ('Implementation Procedures')
2. Strengthen ICP-2: Revise ICP-2 to make the RIR system more accountable to the Internet community

Read more about the NRO EC at: https://www.nro.net/about/executive-council/

The ICP-2 Review Process Explained

In 2023, the ASO Address Council began reviewing Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2), which was developed in 2001 to set criteria for the establishment of new Regional Internet Registries. The review is needed to ensure the criteria remains relevant, accurate, and aligned with today's Internet landscape. Review of ICP-2 is an open and transparent consultation process, allowing participation from across the global Internet community.



ICP-2 Review Timeline

8 Oct 2024	ASO AC published a proposed set of 24 'core principles' to be included in the next version of ICP-2 ('**Principles Document**')
8 Oct – 6 Dec 2024	Public consultation on the ICP-2 Principles Document
Dec 2024 – Feb 2025	ASO AC reviewed community feedback on ICP-2 Principles Document received during public consultation
24 Feb 2025	ASO AC published ICP-2 Questionnaire Summary Report ('**ICP-2 Principles Consultation Report**')
14 Apr – 27 May 2025	ASO AC published '**RIR Governance Document**' (**Version 1**) and launched community consultations
30 July 2025	ASO AC published '**RIR Governance Document' First Consultation Summary Report**
28 Aug - 7 Nov 2025	ASO AC published **'RIR Governance Document' (Version 2)** and launched community consultations
2 Feb 2026	ASO AC published '**RIR Governance Document' Second Consultation Summary Report**
6 Feb 2026	ASO AC published **Q1 Status Report of issues 'In progress' and 'In drafting'**

Proposed Principles to Update ICP-2 (Completed)

Core principles and consultation

- The ASO AC drafted proposed principles that would form the basis of updating ICP-2
- Principles were shared with RIR and ICANN communities for feedback from 8 October to 6 December 2024
  - ICANN Public Comment: 14 responses
  - RIR Questionnaire: 298 responses
- Responses were analysed, and a summary report of the RIR Questionnaire was published in February 2025
  - Input from both processes was used to inform the drafting of the 'Governance Document for the Recognition, Maintenance, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries' (RIR Governance Document)

https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/ICP-2-Questionnaire-Summary-Report.pdf

ICP-2 Principles Consultation Report

Impact of Community Feedback on Version 1

- **Clarified** the role of the community – *an RIR decision implies a corresponding process that is necessary according to the RIR governance model*
- **Addressed** concerns about the recognition and derecognition procedures – *added a provision for appeal and ICANN's review process respectively*
- **Aligned** the requirements with common privacy and corporate governance requirements
- **Elaborated** where necessary to address questions about the principles

Input focused on implementation of the principles will be considered when developing implementation procedures.

RIR Governance Document Version 1 (Completed)

Version 1

- A comprehensive update to ICP-2, introducing detailed governance structures, operational requirements, and procedures for the full lifecycle management of RIRs, all developed through extensive community consultation. The draft document:
  - Clarifies scope and lifecycle management
  - Formalizes governance structures
  - Strengthens operational requirements
  - Clarifies roles, responsibilities, and procedures

https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/rir-governance-document/

'**Governance Document for the Recognition, Operation, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries**' (RIR Governance Document Version 1)

Community Consultation (Version 1): 14 April – 27 May 2025

- RIR communities
- Archived discussions: Community Engagement webpage

https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/community-engagement/

- ICANN Public Comment

https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/governance-document-for-the-recognition-maintenance-and-derecognition-of-rirs-14-04-2025/submissions

- RIR Governance Document (Version 1) First Consultation Summary Report

https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/RIR-Governance-Document-Consultation-Summary-Report.pdf

RIR Governance Document Version 2 (Completed)

Version 2: Key Changes

- **Title**: Small change to the title of the document
- **Preamble**: Expanded, explaining the goals of the document
- **Implementation Procedures**: Reference to separate 'Implementation Procedures' document that may provide further implementation details on any obligation
- **Recognition/Derecognition**: Additional protections in Recognition and Derecognition procedures for affected RIRs, including the possibility for a candidate RIR to be recognized on less that the unanimous approval of existing RIRs
- **Audits/Proposals**: New criteria for RIR members or ICANN to request ad hoc audits or propose derecognition
- **Emergency Continuity**: New 'Emergency Continuity' procedure to temporarily transfer an RIR's responsibility to an "Emergency Operator"

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https://www.nro.net/icp-2-rir-governance-document-v2

‘Governance Document for the Recognition, Operation, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries’

(RIR Governance Document Version 2)

Resource: Redline of Changes

~~(h)~~(i) **Policy Compliance:** An RIR must comply with all ~~policies adopted through its policy development process~~ Number Resource Policies applicable to it, so long as those ~~policies~~ Number Resource Policies do not obligate the RIR to violate any applicable law ~~of the RIR's jurisdiction~~.

~~(i)~~(j) **Impartiality:** An RIR must operate and apply its ~~policies~~ Number Resource Policies in a manner that is impartial and consistent.

~~(j)~~(k) **Transparency:** An RIR must maintain and publish comprehensive records of its governance, activities, and finances in a timely and accessible manner. The RIR's Governing Body must provide mechanisms for its Members to ask questions, provide input, and receive timely and meaningful responses to legitimate questions.

~~(k)~~(l) **Performance:** An RIR must provide stable, reliable, secure, accurate, and accountable RIR Services using such standard protocols and specifications as may be adopted by the NRO.

~~(l)~~(m) **Continuity:** An RIR must maintain and follow continuity and redundancy procedures ~~and~~ to maintain the availability of its RIR Services. An RIR must regularly, and subject to appropriate escrow or data protection controls, share such records, data, Regional Policy implementation procedures, and systems with an Emergency Operator sufficient to enable ~~another RIR or entity designated by the other RIRs~~ the Emergency Operator to perform its RIR Services, if necessary.

https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/RIR-Governance-Document-v2-deltas.pdf

Resource: Rationale Behind the Changes

Recognition (Material Improvement)

Background: The criteria set forth in Section 3.1 are necessary conditions for a candidate RIR to be recognized, but they are not sufficient. That is, a candidate RIR may not be recognized unless it meets all of those criteria, but just because a candidate RIR meets all of the criteria does not mean it will automatically be entitled to recognition. As set forth in Section 2.5 (Coordination Limitation), because each additional RIR will increase the complexity of the Internet numbers registry system, as each RIR will need to work with the new RIR and vice-versa, the number of RIRs in the Internet numbers registry system is expected to remain small.

Changes: To clarify when a candidate RIR might not be recognized, despite otherwise meeting all the necessary criteria for recognition, we added a new clause to Section 3.1, which explains that a candidate RIR will only be recognized if doing so would materially improve the functioning of the Internet numbers registry system relative to the then-existing state of affairs.

Relevant Sections: 2.5, 3.1(f)

https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/rir-governance-document-version-2-summary-of-differences-and-rationale-for-changes/

Community Consultation (Version 2): 28 August – 7 November 2025

- RIR communities
- Archived discussions: Community Engagement webpage

https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/community-engagement/

- ICANN Public Comment

https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/second-draft-of-the-rir-governance-document-28-08-2025

- RIR Governance Document (Version 2) Second Consultation Summary Report

https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/ICP-2-Round-2-Consultation-Summary.pdf

Where are we now?

Second Community Consultation Feedback Review

- NRO NC workshop held at LACNIC (Montevideo, Uruguay) to review community feedback
- All substantive issues are captured
- Q1 Status Report published to provide transparency and track drafting progress based on feedback received
  - Highlights topics still requiring discussion (‘In progress’)
  - Where an approach has already been agreed (‘Drafting’)
  - Those topics that have already been addressed or are out of scope and require no change

The ASO AC is planning to finalize the document by Q4 2026

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Status Report Q1

https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/RIR-Governance-Document-Version-2-Status-Report-Q1-2026.pdf

RIR Governance Document Version 2: Status Report Q1 2026

Topics ‘In progress’

Recognition Review (Independent Third Party)

Background

- If the existing RIRs do not unanimously recommend recognition of a new candidate RIR, the candidate RIR may request an ICANN recognition review, potentially conducted by an independent third party

Feedback

- The document should prescribe minimum attributes of the independent third party
- Whether the qualifications for the third party should be in the implementation details instead of the RIR Governance Document
- ICANN may wish to evaluate whether it wishes to use a third party

Status: In progress

- Requires input from ICANN clarifying their role in the process

Recognition (Unanimity minus one)

Background

- Current version allows for recognition of a Candidate RIR with one dissenting RIR under certain conditions

Feedback:

- Conflict of interest among multiple RIRs
- Existing RIRs will be required to cooperate with any new RIRs
- Recognition process should account for effective coordination and cooperation
- Possibility that an RIR may be unable to act or take decisions on recognition

Status: In progress

- Discussions on whether the current thresholds and processes are adequate on a range of scenarios

Derecognition and Ad Hoc Audit Thresholds

Background

- Can be initiated by any RIR or group of RIR; a group of members of the impacted RIR (25% of RIR's total membership of 2,000, whichever is lower); ICANN

Feedback:

- Range of comments:
  - Lowering the threshold
  - Anti-capture mechanisms added

Response

- Derecognition is a final recourse; threshold to trigger is deliberately high
- No change to these thresholds

Status: In progress

- Discuss whether ad hoc audit threshold should be lower than that for derecognition.
- Ensure ad hoc audits cannot be continuously triggered by disgruntled parties

Emergency Continuity Initiation and Renewal Procedures

Background

- Procedures requires unanimous agreement of all other RIRs and ICANN

Feedback:

- Concern that emergency measures could be extended without enough oversight
- Unanimity requirement may be too high
- Add clear criteria for extending Emergency Continuity procedure
- Concern that 90 days may be inadequate to identify a successor entity

Status: In progress

- Discuss whether thresholds need to be lower that unanimity
- Clearer text for more clarity on procedures for initiating and extending procedure to ensure transparency in decision making for affected communities

Items under drafting

Document structure

Background:

- Same issue is addressed across multiple sections

Feedback:

- Document is too complex and would benefit from restructuring

Status: Under drafting

- Document will be restructured for improved flow and clarity

Transition and Continuity

Background:

- Smooth transfer of services and operations of Derecognized RIR to an interim or successor entity as directed by ICANN

Feedback:

- Article should address transition in more detail, to ensure communities remained engaged during the transition and to protect the rights of affected resource holders

Status: Drafting

- NRO NC will add text outlining requirements for a transition plan that ensures continuity of services and protection of resource holder rights

Audit Obligations

Background:

- The document allows for ad hoc audits and RIR audits no less than once in three years, but does not specify the actions to be taken following the audit

Feedback:

- The document does not explicitly oblige an RIR to act following the publication of an audit report

Status: Drafting

- NRO NC will amend the text to clarify RIR obligations

Derecognition (Audit as a part of Derecognition)

Background:

- Derecognition process does not include an audit as one of the necessary steps.

Feedback:

- Audit be a mandatory part of the process

Status: No change

- Document requires an RIR to be audited no less than once in three years
- It is possible that the derecognition process is triggered after an RIR has already failed one or multiple audits – including an audit requirement could further delay the process
- Article 6.2 already creates an obligation to help and rehabilitate an RIR before any derecognition processes

Derecognition (Rehabilitation as a part of Derecognition)

Background:

- Article 6.2 requires efforts to be made to rehabilitate a non-compliant RIR before derecognition, however rehabilitation is not listed as a step under the derecognition process under Article 2.3(b)

Feedback:

- Need to include rehabilitation as a step in the derecognition process

Status: Drafting

- Text will be amended to include the obligation to attempt to rehabilitate an RIR before further derecognition steps are taken

ASO AC at ICANN 85

ASO AC at ICANN 85

Saturday, 7 March	11:15–12:00	Joint Session ASO and GAC
Sunday, 8 March	10:30–12:00	ASO AC Public Session (1 of 2)
Sunday, 8 March	15:00–16:00	Joint Session: ALAC and ASO
Sunday, 8 March	16:30–17:30	Joint Session: ASO and RRSAC
Tuesday, 10 March	9:00–10:00	Joint Session: ICANN Board and ASO
Tuesday, 10 March	16:30–17:30	How it works: RIRs
Thursday, 12 March	13:15–14:30	Joint Session: ASO and ISPCP
Thursday, 12 March	15:00–16:00	ASO AC Public session (2 of 2) Wrap Up

Looking ahead

ICP-2 Review Timeline (Upcoming)

The revised draft RIR Governance Document Process

Q1 2026	• Status Report Q1 2026 shared at APNIC 61 and ICANN 85 • In-person working group to start drafting final version of the RIR Governance Document at ICANN 85
Q2 2026	• Status Report Q2 2026 shared at ARIN 57, LACNIC 45, and RIPE 92 • In-person working group to continue drafting final version at ICANN 86
Q3-Q4 2026	• Final version of the Document will be delivered to the NRO EC • Final version presented in the RIR meetings and ICANN 87
Q4 2026	• Begin NRO and ICANN approval and adoption process

Questions?

Thank You

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