

ICANN | ASO

Address Supporting Organization

RIR Governance Document

(Revised)



About the 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 election for Seat 10 of the ICANN Board • Monitor and support Global Policy Development Process • Conduct ICP-2 Review process

2025 AC Members



Kevin Blumberg*
(ARIN)



Nick Nugent
(ARIN)



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Hervé Clément*
(RIPE NCC)



Constanze
Bürger
(RIPE NCC)



Andrei
Robachevsky
(RIPE NCC)

*Appointed by RIR Board

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

ICP-2 Review Timeline (Principles Document and Consultation)

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 Doc
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 April 2025	ASO AC published draft ‘ RIR Governance Document ’ and launched community consultations
28 August 2025	ASO AC published revised draft ‘RIR Governance Document’ and launched community consultations

For your reference

ICP-2 Principles Consultation Report



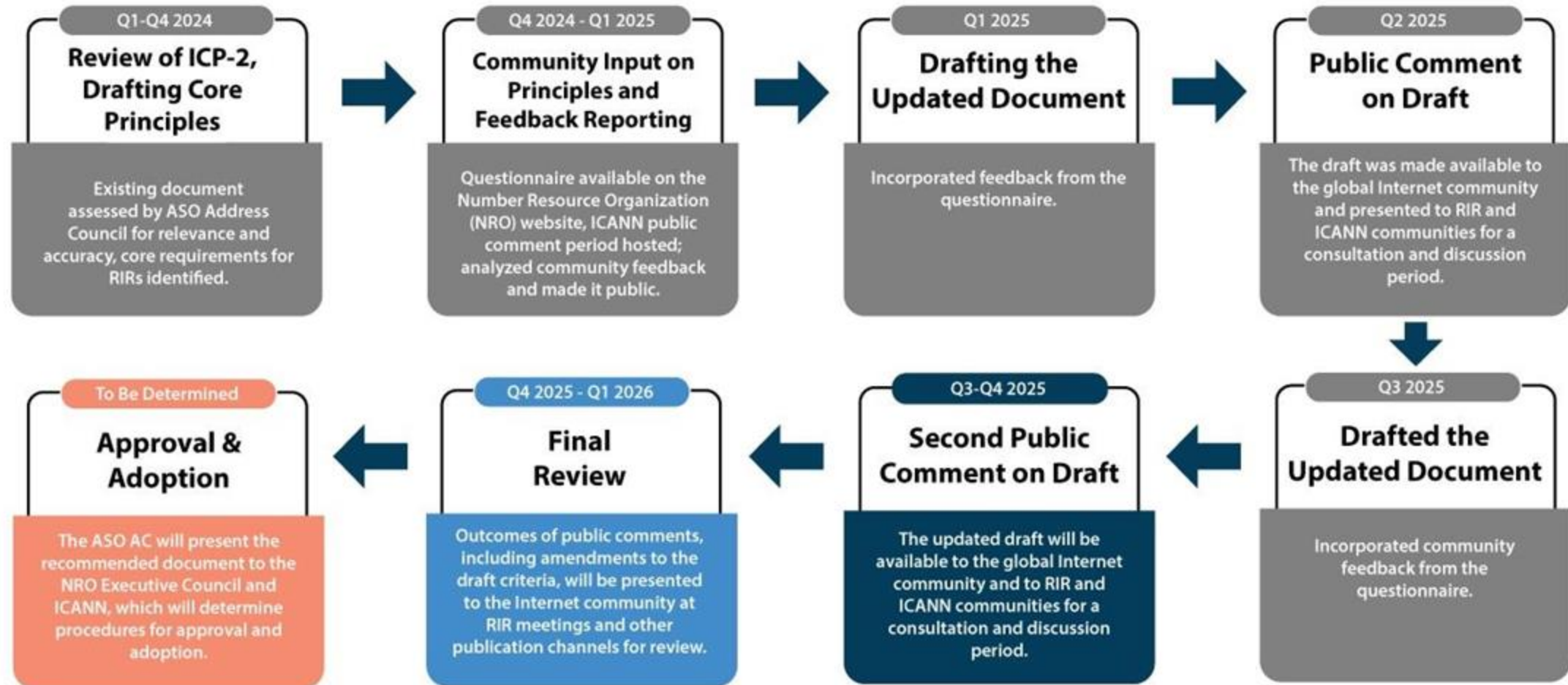
<https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/icp-2-principles-questionnaire-report-and-data/>

Draft RIR Governance Document



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

ICP-2 Review timeline



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

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

Supporting Documents

Redline of changes –

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

Rationale – <https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/RIR-Governance-Document-v2-Summary-and-Rationale.pdf>

FAQ – <https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/faq/>

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.
- ~~(i)~~(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.
- ~~(i)~~(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.

Rationale

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)

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

Your feedback is vital! Feedback can also be submitted via **ICANN's Public Comment**.

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

Revised RIR Governance Document

The revised RIR Governance Document represents a detailed update to the original draft, with the overarching goal of strengthening the RIR system.

Key changes include:

- **Title:** Small change to the title of the document
- **Preamble:** Expanded, explaining the goals of the document
- **Implementation Procedures:** Reference to separate “Implement Procedures” document that may provide further implementation details on any obligation

Revised RIR Governance Document

Key changes (continued):

- **Recognition/Derecognition:** Additional protections in Recognition and Derecognition procedures for affected RIRs, including the possibility for a candidate RIR to be recognized on less than the unanimous approval of the 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 responsibilities to an 'Emergency Operator'

Title, Preamble, and Roles and Implementation Procedures



Title

Previously: 'Governance Document for the Recognition, Maintenance, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries'

Now: 'Governance Document for the Recognition, Operation, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries'

Rationale

- 'Operation' better describes the nature of the operational requirements in the document

Preamble

Change

- Longer preamble that clearly defines the document's purpose and goals

Rationale

- Provide more context for the document and explain how its provisions are intended to advance certain goals

Implementation Procedures

Change

- New Section 1.3 notes that the the RIRs and ICANN may jointly develop specific additional procedures to implement the RIR Governance Document ('Implementation Procedures')

Rationale

- Address the community concern that additional details or procedures will need to be developed around certain general obligations in the RIR Governance Document

Note

- The Implementation Procedures cannot contradict or override any terms of the RIR Governance Document

Recognition and Derecognition



Recognition

Change

A candidate RIR may be recognized on less than unanimous support by the existing RIRs if an independent third party appointed by ICANN determines that a single RIR has made a material error of fact or provided an inadequate justification for its recommendation not to recognize the candidate RIR

Rationale

- There was concern that an RIR could object to recognizing a new RIR for inadequate or illegitimate reasons
- We provided a mechanism to overrule a dissenting RIR while protecting the need for RIRs to ensure that they are not forced into business relationships with new entities that may not be lawful in their jurisdictions

Derecognition

Change

- Provided additional protections for an affected RIR in the derecognition process:
 - **Proposal:** Minimum requirements for derecognition proposal
 - **Response:** Opportunity for affected RIR to publicly respond in writing
 - **Transparency:** ICANN must publish the reasons for its decision

Rationale

It is important to ensure that the derecognition process is transparent, faithful to the requirements of the RIR Governance Document, and protective of the rights of the affected RIR

Derecognition Proposal

Changes

- New threshold of 2,000 members or 25% of the members of an RIR, whichever is lower, to initiate the derecognition process
- Also allows for ICANN to initiate the derecognition process (but derecognition still requires RIR approval)

Rationale

- Different RIRs will have different numbers of members and different criteria for becoming a member
- Allowing ICANN to initiate derecognition provides additional neutrality

Audits



Initiation (ad hoc audits)

Change

An ad hoc audit of an RIR can be requested by:

- The other RIRs by majority decision (previously required unanimity)
- 2,000 members or 25% of the members of the RIR, whichever is lower (new)
- ICANN (new)

Rationale

Provide additional mechanisms to catch problems early on

Frequency (periodic audits)

Previously: General requirement for RIRs must undergo period audits

Now: Frequency is specified: each RIR must be audited at least once every three years

Rationale

- Provide more specificity around frequency of periodic audits
- Ensure that problems are identified early on

Emergency Continuity (New)



Emergency Continuity

New

- Mechanism to quickly and temporarily transfer an RIR's responsibilities to an 'Emergency Operator' in urgent situations
- Requires unanimous agreement of other RIRs and ICANN
- Must be time-limited, publicly justified, and followed by a community consultation

Rationale

Need to ensure continuity of service in emergency situations that don't involve derecognition or situations in which derecognition is being pursued but may take a long time

Emergency Continuity Protections

New

- **Rationale:** ICANN must publish rationale and scope of Emergency Continuity and initiate community engagement process as soon as possible
- **Limitation:** Emergency Continuity cannot exceed 90 days (unless formally renewed)
- **Postmortem:** RIRs and ICANN must conduct post-event review, publish report, and provide community feedback process

Rationale

- Ensure that Emergency Continuity process is accountable and does not become a substitute for derecognition
- Ensure lessons from Emergency Continuity are documented and RIR and ICANN communities remain engaged

Miscellaneous



Rectification

Changes

- Each amendment to the RIR Governance Document must specify a grace period to become compliant
- Three-year grace period to become compliant with any obligations that were not already contained in ICP-2 after adoption of the RIR Governance Document

Rationale

- Ensure clarity by requiring grace periods to be clearly specified in any amendment
- Provide current RIRs with the time necessary to align their processes with the RIR Governance Document

New Section on Dispute Resolution

4.1(q) Dispute Resolution

- Require each RIR to provide a fair and effective adjudicative mechanism for members to enforce their rights against the RIR

New Section on Good Faith

2.8 Good Faith

- Explicitly states that ICANN and all RIRs will act in good faith and with fair dealing under the RIR Governance Document
- Requires all actions to be undertaken promptly and within reasonable timeframes

Reminders

Feedback on this
Consultation must be
submitted by **7
November 2025.**

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

Please share constructive feedback that is specific to this document.

We are particularly interested in hearing your views on whether this draft addresses questions and concerns with the previous draft.

This document does not address the implementation of the RIR governance framework; comments on implementation will be considered out of scope.



Questions?

Thank You