
COPENHAGEN – ASO/NRO Public Session
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ICANN58 | Copenhagen, Denmark

FILIZ YILMAZ:

The NRO EC Chair to complement the picture and give an update from the RIRs and look into a bit post IANA Transition work, what they are dealing with nowadays. The real last item will be on recent topic Accountability. In one of the regions, RIPE region, we will have an update from Nurani Nimpuno on the subject recent activity, why did it come to surface and what's being done there. And we will conclude with an open mic session.

But like I said, we want this to be interactive as much as possible so the speakers have strict instructions to leave at least 10 minutes for questions and answers for their slotted times so you can always ask questions after the presentations specific to those and if there are still remaining items you would like to raise, that can be done on the open mic time slot.

Moving on. So who are we? What we do? As I said, my name is Filiz Yilmaz and I Chair the Address Support Organization Address Council. You may hear about us as in NRONC as well. In the inflation of this community and the love of the acronyms, we just thought that will be just appropriate to add another one but there is some historical context for the ASO AC which points in fact which is Address Support Organization Address Council, and

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then in time we also regionally we started using Number Resource Organization Number Council as well. So if you go to the regional communities you may hear us about as NRONC.

Okay, so that's good to know but what is it really? As you may all be aware – and I don't know if there are any newcomers in the audience other than... No? Okay. Oh, there is one. Great. In fact, one more. Oh, and don't even pretend, okay.

The “N” in ICANN – the last “N” – is for “numbers.” It stands for numbers. ICANN is Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, as you know, and we are that last “N” in fact. ICANN is very much known as the namespace and facilitator domain name policy facilitator, but there is some numbers going on in this part as well and we are those.

So if you look at a little bit historically to add context to what this is, ASO was a response to creation of ICANN, in fact. One should remember numbers community, so those users of Internet Protocol numbers – AS numbers – they are unique identifiers. The community that is revolving around them, they predate ICANN as well as some of the RIRs, and Regional Internet Registries are those organizations who came about as organizations to manage the registration of these numbers together with their – under the alignment with the policies developed by their communities.

So this is an important part to remember when ICANN was created, of course, that already established system how registration is done for these unique protocol numbers which actually you need to have to run a proper Internet, there was a necessity to connect that to the newly established ICANN. And so there comes the “N” in ICANN in a nutshell. Of course, there’s more to that but I think for the purposes of this presentation, it is enough to say that.

So first when this connection was made and seemed to be necessary, this was done by signing an MoU in 1999 with the existing RIRs by then, three of them, and after the establishment of NRO, RIRs became five in time and there was an establishment of NRO to govern all of them or bring a voice for them. That entity signed the latest MoU in 2004.

So who are these?

North America as you see the blue part there is ARIN. They facilitate the policy development over there for their numbers community and manage the allocation of Internet Protocol numbers.

RIPE NCC is the yellow part. That corresponds to Europe and Russia and Central Asia.

Then APNIC for Asia Pacific – South Asia and Pacific regions.

AFRICA for Africa.

And LACNIC for the Latin America – You see the red part.

Initially, as I said, there were three of them – ARIN RIPE NCC and APNIC – the other regions were taking services from those three. Along to time they established got more mandate from their regional communities and they were established as legal organizations as well.

Now ASO AC Scope and Structure – Our main mandate is to coordinate global Policy Development Process. I will talk about global policies in a minute but in a nutshell here, those are the policies that govern the practices [that] IANA needs to allocate resources to the RIRs. So in our regional Policy Development Process, each region has to deal with the same policy and then has to adopt that and it is our job then to make sure that that process was applied and run through from A to Z.

The other part is defining procedures for the selection of individuals to serve on the ICANN bodies as well as the ICANN Board. So we select two seats of the ICANN Board and we provide advice to ICANN Board on number resource allocation policies whenever is needed.

We are 15 people. In fact, all of us except two are here in the face-to-face meetings we are conducting in this ICANN meeting.

There are three of us from each region and two of us are elected by our communities and one is appointed by the RIR Board.

I put this here to explain the regional versus global policy process. Everything was regional, as you see, and this diagram is a result of a study between the ASO AC, NRO and the ICANN contractors at the time, and you can find this on our website. It looks a bit crowded but it's a good one-pager to explain you a complex system in a way.

So every RIR have their own Policy Development Process with its own details, and when there is a [matter], as I said, an allocation policy that needs to be changing or that needs to be put in place which governs the allocation of resources from IANA – they have a new name now, PTI – and to the RIRs, then that policy needs to go through all the five regions, be developed and reach consensus within the regions, each of them, and then once that is stamped by – okay, this whole process is done now, they are all in agreement, then it will come to us. ASO AC's mandate starts there. We are not to make the policy. We are to review the process.

So then it comes to us and then we will be able to look at the process and say yes, everything was applied to the book, everything was done correctly, and then we make a recommendation to the ICANN Board so that they can proceed

with the implementation of that global policy, which at this stage they will instruct IANA to implement it and start application of it. So it comes back [to what] you see as the blue arrow down at the bottom coming back to RIRs means that it will put in practice being applied to all RIRs.

Now, like I said, regional policy developments are not the same in their structure. There can be differences. There can be details that differ from each other because they are put in place considering the regional differences which can be many and by the regional number communities themselves. However, having said that, we are all in agreement on certain principles that these PDPs should be governing.

What are they? All of them are consensus based decision making processes, so they work around the concept of consensus and any decision that is made comes within a bottom-up fashion. The policy changes are the results of initiatives or the concerns from the members of the community. The other two very important principle, which in fact had been very much in discussion in the recent years within the accountability conversations in the ICANN for as well, openness and transparency. They're open to everybody so you don't have to sign a contract with anyone to discuss about the policies in the regions or participate to those policy discussions. All you need is often just an e-mail address, to be honest with you. And all

community processes are transparent which means that everything is meticulously documented.

With that, RIRs help us. The RIRs' responsibility in these Policy Development Processes is to facilitate it and help the community develop these policies around these principles. Often they are seen as the [Secretaria] from the community's side.

That concludes my short presentation to set the context here to tell you who we are and what we do. Are there any questions, comments, at this point, contributions?

No? Okay. Then I will ask john to continue with his RIR or NRO update with the RIR perspective. Thank you.

JOHN CURRAN:

Good afternoon. I'm John Curran. I'm the President and CEO of ARIN. I'm also the CEO of the five RIRs, make up the five members of the Executive Committee of the Number Resource Organization. You know the Number Resource Organization as the ASO, so I'm here as the NRO Chair, a duty that rotates among us to give an update. [It'll] be a fairly short update about what we've been doing.

We're predominately involved in execution, involved in keeping the Internet Number Registry System operating. We don't do the

policy. We don't do the Board appointments. Those are all things done by the Address Council.

One slide. Go ahead.

Here's what we've been doing this year. With regards to the IANA, we had an IANA Transition which was wonderful and so now IANA – the operator for the IANA Numbering Services – is the PTI organization. We contract with ICANN. ICANN subcontracts to PTI and PTI is the same people we know who had been doing the job all these years but because we have a contract, it's necessary to have some performance measures and work on reporting so we're doing that.

Our agreement with them also calls them to be reviewed via an IANA Functions Review Committee which we've stood up and that's actually they met earlier and they're working on the review process, how we review the IANA performance to make sure it's operating as we expect. So that's pretty important stuff because it's post-transition.

The ASO Independent Review – as some of you might be aware or maybe even have been spoken to by [Mc] Tim or Tom, we have a ASO Independent Review that's done every five years where we hire an Independent Reviewer to come out and look at how effective ASO is within the ICANN family. And that's underway now.

We put together a RFP. We worked with the Board Committee and ended up giving a contract to ITEMS for that, and they're out here doing interviews this week. Hopefully we'll see some results later this year about things that might be done to improve.

ASO AC operational procedures – the ASO AC has procedures on how they do things and we have to review and approve them and we're sometimes late in doing that. We're not quite late. We're doing it later this week because we're meeting tomorrow but we have a lot of things on our plate, but we're working on approving a new set of ASO AC operational procedures that are a little clearer.

Joint RIR activities – the RIRs use the NRO project to coordinate our activities so when we do something that the community sees in one place or in a harmonized manner, it's often work that we've done as the NRO to make all the RIRs produce the same result. For example, the joint NRO statistics that we give presentations on, we're working on improvements there including the Joint Statistics Files.

RPKI Trust Anchor – we're busy working on a revamp of how we do the Trust Anchor so it's less fragile with transfers between organizations. The NRO website is something we look to refresh this year we hope to get done to make things easier to find and put information out there in a way you can look for it.

ICANN – we seem to do a lot with ICANN. We’re involved with the new gTLD Auction Proceeds, the Accountability Work Stream 2 activities, Empowered Community Administration, the GAC Public Safety Working Group, the Internet Technology Health Identifiers initiative. We work with ICANN because, as was said earlier, the “N” in ICANN is about numbers and when they have initiatives that might affect the community, we try to make sure we’re represented somehow. And so it’s been fairly busy.

That’s actually my entire update. So at this point I’ll take questions on the NRO Update. There’s 10 items here. There’s got to be a question.

Elise?

ELISE GERICH: I’ll ask a question. Could you tell me who’s on the NRO EC right now?

JOHN CURRAN: The five RIR CEOs are on the NRO EC. You actually can’t find that on the website. Good reason that we’re doing the revamp. So it would be Paul, myself, Axel, Alan, and Oscar – right there. Sorry.

ELISE GERICH: You have a line-up there.

JOHN CURRAN: We're lined up. If you aimed at one of us you'd probably hit us or the other. So it's real convenient.

We'll get that on the website. It's interesting. We put it in the reports that we give at all the RIR meetings and we even say who's who and what officers we have. None of that's on the website so add that to the list of what to put out there.

ELISE GERICH: Thank you.

JOHN CURRAN: Thank you. Any other questions?

Yes.

[TOM MACKENZIE]: Actually, there is a mention somewhere on your website because I just looked up while you were talking the Number Resource Organization Executive Council. I just Googled it and there is a page with all your photos.

JOHN CURRAN: That's wonderful. I wonder if that's linked to anywhere.

[TOM MACKENZIE]: Perhaps it's not the most intuitive navigation, but if you Google it there is a page which says who you are.

I think as a reviewer, I think that was helpful because I think one thing that I realized even though I've looked at you as a community before, but one of the difficulties when looking at you is that you are the ASO AC when you're at ICANN but at all other times, that same body is the NRO NC. And that sort of difficulty for –

JOHN CURRAN: It's worth talking about. The NRO was the five RIRs working together and we have two bodies – the EC, which is the Executive Committee of the NRO and the Number Council which is the elected body that works on global resource policy. Those change their name when working within ICANN. We basically have hats that have different... and it becomes the ASO and the ASO Address Council.

The reason for that is because we're defined independent of this organization. When we work within ICANN they wanted us to be a Supporting Organization so we're a Supporting Organization and we're the Address Supporting Organization. But independent of that, the NRO does many coordinational things

outside the scope of ICANN. The work with ICANN is work on global policy. That's the scope of the activities and the Board appointments to support the same thing.

FILIZ YILMAZ: One more question?

[TOM MACKENZIE]: Last question. Is it correct that the ASO AC is the 15-member Council, and I've understood that, but in your language is it correct to say that the ASO – when you're talking about the ASO – that you are in effect talking about the leaders... I mean the NRO EC?

JOHN CURRAN: Great question. The ICANN Bylaws are pretty clear. The last version, if I run back say 12 months to avoid the most recent IANA reformation change of the Bylaws, it was a one-word sentence that said, "The NRO shall perform the role, function, and responsibilities, the ASO shall be performed by the NRO." That was the one line. Now it says, "The ASO is the organization mentioned in the MoU between ICANN and the NRO."

So it is true that there's things within the ICANN body that we discuss things like ICANN budget because the NRO makes a

contribution to that. It has nothing to do with address policy. It's done by the Executive Committee. So the NRO Executive Committee is also the one that guides the ASO.

However, probably the vast majority of what we do at ICANN up until the last year or so has all been global policy work, and that, the ASO AC is the one that's most visible in the ICANN community.

FILIZ YILMAZ:

Any other questions for John? Otherwise I have a question, John.

On your slide, you mentioned ASO AC Operational Procedures for NRO. That is normally in the context of ASO AC works on procedures how to appoint appointees to various ICANN bodies if we are asked as well as our own procedures for approval and so we go to NRO AC for that. But you also mentioned improvements. Did I misunderstand that? NRO AC is not really working on the ASO AC procedures for improvements but NRO AC is there to approve and stamp the procedures to be put in place. Can you clarify that?

JOHN CURRAN:

Literally approving/ratifying the procedures. The ASO MoU is very clear. Actually it's not in the ASO MoU as it turns out. It's in the NRO MoU that defines the [NRO]. It says that, "The Number

Council shall have operating procedures. They should be ratified by the Executive Committee.” So we’re ratifying [those] but in the process of ratifying them, we get questions and comments that we’re penciling in in the process and that process hopefully will finish tomorrow when we meet all day. But yeah, we’re responsible for ratifying your procedures, not writing them or improving them.

It would be very hard for us to improve your procedures since we don’t live through your work and your meetings. You do.

FILIZ YILMAZ:

I just wanted to make sure that we clarified that point, yes. We do the work. I’m kidding.

Any other questions?

No? I will thank you, John. And I will then smoothly turn to my left and give the mic to Nurani Nimpuno who is going to give an update on accountability discussions at RIPE region.

Nurani, we are pretty ahead of the schedule and the time, so you can take your time and go as much into detail as you like. Thank you.

NURANI NIMPUNO: Thank you. My name is Nurani Nimpuno. I'm one of the members on the ASO Address Council, a representative in the RIPE region, and I will attempt to speak a lot slower than John in my presentation since I've been given a lot of time.

To be clear, this is not a presentation about any work that the ASO AC is carrying out. This is just really an update from one of the regions, the RIPE region, and about some of the work that goes on separately from the ASO AC in a task force that was initiated in the community.

Next slide please.

Just to set the scene a little bit, the RIR community says they've evolved over the last 20 or so years and they really started out as informal gatherings and in some cases it was, for example, the RIPE region started out by having some of the academic networks and the network operators get together to discuss common issues. What's interesting about the RIPE community is that it actually preceded the RIR. So it started as a community effort. There were people who had joint interests who needed to discuss things to work together as operators and they started meeting.

So the very first RIPE community meeting was actually one of a loose, informal gathering of volunteers and it wasn't until that gathering, so to speak, grew that people said, "Well, maybe we

should have one of these Regional Internet Registries here and maybe we should have a Secretariat that allocates addresses in our region.”

So they were very informal gatherings, very trust-based interactions, and very unwritten processes. And that were the foundations really for this bottom-up, consensus-based decision-making that we have today in our region. The consensus-based decision-making was something that signified the technical community in general.

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Over the years, the Internet ecosystem grew and there were clearly more stakeholders created, more players, and the many different interests that wanted to be heard. And with this, the RIR communities grew as well. I would say that throughout that process the principles of the RIR communities got strengthened – the openness, transparency, bottom-up, inclusiveness – but the community also realized that maybe we need to formalize some of these things. Maybe we need to document how we make decisions. Maybe we need to have fixed periods for comments, for example, which we didn’t have in the very early days. So a lot of those procedures and Policy Development Processes have now been documented and clarified for the community.

Next slide.

With that, I would say that the RIPE community, if we're focusing on that, is a lot more structured but it's still very informal, actually. Compared to other communities I think actually compared to the ICANN community it is still very informal. So we do have clear processes and procedures but we don't necessarily have a piece of document for every single potential scenario that we might be challenged with in the community. So there's still very much that informal trust-based interaction.

As the IANA Stewardship Transition came upon us, so to speak, the RIRs all started a process of consultations within their communities. All the five RIRs did that separately and gathered information and feedback from their communities through mailing lists, through meetings, etc. The team that was put together – the CRISP Team – was tasked with putting together a proposal for the IANA Stewardship Transition. And it was clear actually in those consultations that the RIRs had the trust of the communities and the CRISP proposal reflected that trust, and it very much embodied these numbers community principles.

We talk about RIR communities. We talk about the number community. But those are really the different terms for the same things. I think in the ICANN context we often talk about number

community a little bit more than RIR community to emphasize what our part in the ICANN structure is.

What we found was incredibly encouraging when interacting with other stakeholders was that the number community was really often held up as an example of good community-driven governance and that was very encouraging for us to see.

Next slide please.

As you know, with the IANA Stewardship Transition there was also this process of ICANN accountability that was started up in the ICANN community. And because we are member of that community as an ASO we participate in ICANN, we also saw it fit for us to contribute to the process. We're very happy to share our community experience from the number community with the rest of the ICANN community, but we weren't necessarily active contributors advocating a particular model. Our main objective was really to contribute to trusted, accountable ICANN. It was very much seen that the RIRs and the numbers community, we have our own separate structures and we have our own accountability mechanisms.

Thanks.

And this was something that was said throughout I guess this larger accountability process in the ICANN community, that you

can't have trust without accountability but you also cannot have accountability without trust. This was something that we also felt strongly in the numbers community that you don't necessarily solve accountability by adding more processes or more documentation. There needs to be an established trust to start with. And we found that we had that trust in the RIRs and that was very encouraging.

Next.

But as we had some very competent and very dedicated members of our community who participated in the ICANN Accountability Work Stream 1 process, that also sparked some discussions in our own. So Athina Fragkouli who is a RIPE NCC staff member, was one of the ASO representatives in the ICANN Accountability discussions. She brought these discussions back to the community and she also said, "Are there things we can learn from this process? We are different. We have our own structures." The RIR's accountability was not questioned in the IANA Stewardship Transition. We did not feel a need to put the transition on hold and first sort out any accountability challenges. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't have a healthy debate about it in our own community.

From that, the community decided to start a task force that was formed in October last year at the last RIPE meeting, and the

task force was tasked with looking at the community accountability. Not necessarily to look at the RIPE NCC because RIPE NCC is a membership organization and it has members who can vote on what Board members we want to have or what membership fees we want to have, etc. but to actually look at the community and the community accountability.

Next.

So we came together and actually Filiz Yilmaz who's the Chair of the ASO AC, also elected Chair of the Accountability Task Force, and we've come together a few times to discuss the scope of our work and try to work out a work plan and we came up with this scope for the task force and it's very much trying to obviously strengthen the accountability but also to look at where are there gaps and certainly in documentation. If you claim to be transparent as a community, you also want to make sure that you have things documented, that maybe you do enough outreach, and that people also feel you can make it easy for people to participate in your processes. So it's really an effort of looking at what can we do better in the community.

Next.

And so far we have met a few times. We have not yet, because there's a fairly new group, come out with any recommendations but our plan is to, we've shared the scope with the RIPE

community and we are working on a work plan and we hope to deliver a first report at the RIPE meeting in May this year. I should also say that it is the task force that consists of community members but we have some fantastic support from the RIPE NCC staff as well and they have already actually done some great work in helping identify gaps in how we can be better at communicating with the outside world but also are there gaps in documentation or in processes, etc.

This was just an effort to give an update that we're doing this work in our community and hopefully we'll have a little bit more to update you on next time. And with that, I will end with that quote.

Thank you very much. Are there any questions?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Thank you very much, Nurani. My name is [inaudible] for the record. You are working now on accountability of community of RIPE and then what kind of documentation will be delivered for the next RIPE meeting in Budapest? Is it some rule or framework? I am really curious about that. Do you have any answer?

NURANI NIMPUNO:

I can certainly answer that and Filiz, feel free to jump in as well.

It's not necessarily trying to add rules to the community, but we're looking at so the rules of participation in our community, are they actually clear? Are they documented? Are they easy to find? There might be some rules that are semi-unwritten. Are they such then maybe we should define them or maybe they are defined but not clearly documented? So it's really an effort to look at how we can not add any rules to the community but to be clear about the rules of the game to make it easier for others to participate and to make sure that everyone's actually, that we're all playing by the same rules, so to speak.

It's important as well, it's important for everyone who participates in the community, it's important for people who want to come in, but we also found it's important to actually communicate to those stakeholders [or those] communities that are outside of our little group. If you are part of our community, the rules might be very clear but it's important for us as well to share that with the rest of the world. I hope that answered your question.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you very much.

NURANI NIMPUNO: Thank you.

FILIZ YILMAZ:

Yes, I would like to add few points on that and answering [inaudible] specific question – what is to be expected at the RIPE meeting maybe as well.

As Nurani explained, we just started our discussions and we came off with a rough work plan where the first step is a stock taking exercise. So we are working on a list of areas, “Okay, this is a subject and how much of it is covered? How much of it is A) is it covered? Is it an issue? B) Is it documented already in our system? And then C) If it is documented, is it enough? Maybe it needs improvement.” So after this stock taking exercise there will be an analysis of for each category in these terms.

Once we know there are – once we not know but once we think as a task force – that we identified those areas where there might be more work needed, then the next step will be coming up recommendations how to bridge that gap and that will be documented.

So coming back to your question what can you expect at the RIPE meeting next time – is basically a status report where we are on that work plan. I am suspecting we will already have a good idea of the stock taking exercise so we can say these are the areas we are looking and then we will be asking our

community to also review that and advise if we are missing anything maybe they will have points to add or to leave.

Eventually, I believe this will be a living process and [that document] may continue evolving over time either way. So part of it that stock taking will continue while we will be coming up in certain [lessons] or recommendations have to be reached the gaps.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you very much. That's really [perfectly] answer to my question and fortunately I am coming to Budapest for the RIPE meeting and I really expect that. Thank you.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Well in the name of transparency, if you cannot be there in person, they will be recorded of the session and whatever be produced they're all published anyways and our meeting minutes are also published and mailing list is open to everybody, too.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you for clarification. Thank you.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Okay. I guess Nurani made it very clear how we are approaching our regional accountability measures within RIPE. We are here throughout the whole week. If you have questions feel free to corner us. Yes, but I will just open the open mic but let's start with you then, [inaudible].

[TOM MACKENZIE]: Sorry. It really is just a kind of just a little invitation really as part of the review that we're conducting that, as most of the people I think in this room will be familiar with the functioning of the ASO within ICANN, we would invite you to take part in the survey that we're running as part of the review process and that can easily be accessed on the following URL which is: items.fr/asoreview. It's not a very long survey but we would welcome any thoughts that you might have about how any aspect of the ASO could be improved. That's the main purpose of the review process obviously. Thank you.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Thank you for that nod. Any other points, comments, any questions you would like to raise?

Yes, Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

I just wanted to mention that perhaps [both] ask if it should be appropriate to perhaps consider sharing policy updates in a meeting like this because I think it may be good to even though as I look at the room it looks like we are talking to ourself but at the same time it may be good to have those updates from various regions shared so that not necessarily to discuss the policy because I understand this is not a global policy and each region should be discussing at their own end, but just have an idea of what people are discussing in various regions. Would this be appropriate? Would you consider it as something to do next time? Thank you.

FILIZ YILMAZ:

Yes. Definitely. In fact, we have done this in the past. When we come here over and over again sometimes you like to mix and match, bring different issues or most high topic issues so this time we wanted to focus on the post-IANA Transition landscape plus the recent Accountability Task Force, but you're certainly on spot. We shall bring the regional policy updates. We can do that, look into if we can do that in the next ICANN meeting if we have a session.

The reason I'm saying "if" we have a session is because our face-to-face meetings are programmed to take place in one of the ICANN meetings in a calendar year and this one was that one for

this year. So we have to look into what we are going to do in the next ICANN session. But yeah, thank you for the suggestion. That makes more valuable for us also to hear what is expected to be heard rather than us coming up with topics. Thank you.

Alright. I guess we exhausted ourselves as much as the agenda for the day. It's been a long day for everybody, in fact. Thanks for joining us in this late session. We know after 5:00 p.m. is always a little low energy but we still enjoyed it very much that you make the time for it.

I'll just close the session and let you enjoy the rest of your day. There's even a little bit of sunshine left, I believe, outside if you would like to catch that. Thanks, everyone.

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