

Response to ICANN's Call for Public input on "Draft Proposal, Based on Initial Community Feedback, of the Principles and Mechanisms and the Process to Develop a Proposal to Transition NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions"

Response from the Number Resource Organization (NRO)

8 May 2014

The Number Resource Organization (NRO), representing the 5 Regional Internet address Registries (RIRs), has considered ICANN's Call for Public Input in relation to the transition of IANA stewardship, and the associated scoping document, which are located at:

- i. <http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/iana/transition/draft-proposal-08apr14-en.htm>
- ii. <http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/iana/iana-transition-scoping-08apr14-en.pdf>

We have also considered other contributions, in particular that of the IAB, which is located at:

- iii. <http://www.iab.org/wp-content/IAB-uploads/2014/04/iab-response-to-20140408-20140428a.pdf>

The NRO offers the following comments in response to these documents:

1. We acknowledge the proposed scope[ii] of the transition proposal, which excludes IANA policy development processes, the question of the IANA operator, and any issues which are not within the scope of IANA functions. We emphasize that such questions remain important and should continue to be discussed independently of any IANA stewardship transition proposal. At the same time, the transition proposal should in no way limit the future solutions or options which are available in any of these areas.
2. The NRO supports the guiding principles and mechanisms as proposed in [i]. We agree that these are consistent both with established norms for such processes within our communities, and with the large majority of inputs received so far from the ICANN community.
3. The NRO agrees that the ICANN Board should respect and adopt the outcome of the entire development process, as reported by the "Steering Group", without a vote; providing that the process has been conducted in accordance with the scope, principles and mechanisms as proposed.

4. Finally, the NRO supports the comments from the IAB[iii], and in particular we agree:

- That each of the 3 communities of interest in IANA functions be offered the primary responsibility to produce respective transition plans, in accordance both with their own established processes, and with the defined scope, principles and mechanisms. In the case of the IP addressing community, encompassing 5 regional communities, there are well-defined coordination mechanisms existing at the regional and global levels, which would be applied with complete transparency on this process.
- That the “Steering Group” act and be referred to as a coordinating group with the primary role and responsibilities as proposed by the IAB.
- That the “Steering Group” operate on the basis of rough consensus, rather than voting.

We offer this input as a constructive contribution to this process, and we look forward to ICANN’s final proposal for the process of developing the transition proposal. However regardless of that proposal, the NRO and RIRs will undertake comprehensive consultations within our own communities over the coming year, in an effort to reach broad consensus on stewardship arrangements which will best ensure the future stability, security, transparency and integrity of IANA functions, particularly in relation to IP addressing.

About the Number Resource Organization (NRO)

The Number Resource Organization (NRO) is the coordinating mechanism for the five Regional Internet address Registries (RIRs). The RIRs ensure the fair and equitable distribution of Internet number resources (IPv6 and IPv4 addresses and Autonomous System (AS) numbers) in their respective regions. The NRO exists to protect the unallocated Internet number resource pool, foster open and consensus-based policy development, and provide a single point of contact for communication with the RIRs.

The five RIRs are:

- AFRINIC, <http://www.afrinic.net> – Africa
- APNIC, <http://www.apnic.net> – Asia Pacific
- ARIN, <http://www.arin.net> – Canada, many Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the United States
- LACNIC, <http://www.lacnic.net> – Latin America and the Caribbean
- RIPE NCC, <http://www.ripe.net> – Europe, Middle East, and Parts of Central Asia