
GAC Meeting with the ASO

Session 3

Session Objective

The GAC will be meeting with the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) to discuss public policy matters of mutual interest and particularly on matters pertaining to the governance of the RIR system, including the criteria for the (de)recognition of Regional Internet Registries (ICP-2).

Current Status and Recent Developments for discussion at ICANN85

In August 2025, the ASO published an updated draft of the Regional Internet Registry Governance document successor to the ICP-2 Criteria for Establishment of New Regional Internet Registries. A [public comment](#) proceeding remained open until 7 November 2025. This document is a second draft of the initial “Governance Document for the Recognition, Maintenance, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)” that was out for public comment until May 2025. If adopted by ICANN and the RIRs, the RIR document would supersede and replace the Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2) document.

The ASO Address Council (ASO AC) held a workshop in November 2025 to review the feedback received during the public consultation period. On 6 February 2026, the ASO AC published a [status report](#) which is an outcome of this workshop. An updated [ICP-2 review timeline](#) was also published.

As the next step, the ASO AC will offer an ICANN85 Prep Week webinar at 18:00 UTC on 25 February 2025 and engage with the ICANN community groups, including the GAC, at ICANN85 and the numbers community during the first RIR meetings in 2025.

At ICANN85, the GAC and the ASO will follow up on ICANN84 discussions including the list of key issues and updated timeline. The GAC will discuss potential next steps to address the comments received by government stakeholders and further opportunity for GAC to contribute to the development of this new governance document.

This process was introduced to GAC members during the [ICANN81 public meeting in Istanbul](#). Prior to the ICANN83 session in Prague, GAC members had the opportunity to be briefed by the ASO during a [webinar](#) dedicated to the RIR Governance document (ICP-2) draft public comment process. The GAC had a [joint meeting](#) with the ASO at ICANN84.

Background

The ASO is one of ICANN's three Supporting Organizations (SOs) that reviews and develops recommendations on Internet Protocol (IP) address policy and Autonomous System Numbers (ASN) and advises the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the operation, assignment, and management of IP addresses and ASNs.

The ASO does not develop policy relating to Internet number resources itself but rather ensures that the [Global Policy Development Process \(GPDP\)](#) has been correctly followed in each Regional Internet Registry ([RIR](#)) region.

- **ASO and NRO**

The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) and the Number Resource Organization (NRO) are two separate bodies. While they are closely linked, they each have distinct responsibilities.

The [NRO](#), as the coordinating body for the five RIRs, fulfills the role, responsibilities and functions of the ASO. These functions and responsibilities are outlined in the [ICANN-ASO Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#).

The NRO provides secretariat support for the ASO, acts as a coordinating mechanism for the five RIRs and participates, as the ASO, in the [ICANN Empowered Community](#).

- **ASO Address Council**

The ICANN-ASO MoU states that the ASO shall have an Address Council ([ASO AC](#)) consisting of the 15 members of the Number Resource Organization (NRO) Number Council (NRO NC).

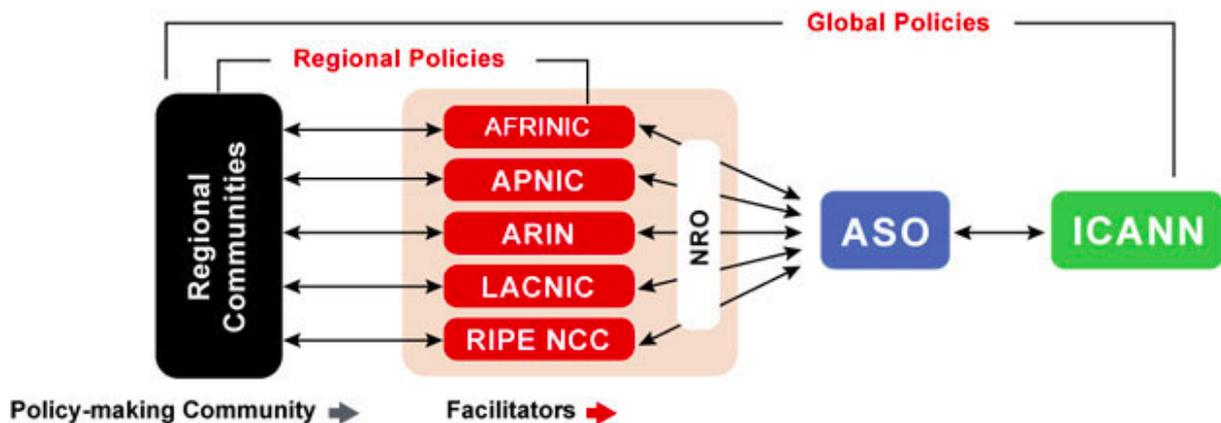
Among other activities, the ASO AC oversees the [GPDP](#), provides recommendations to the ICANN Board on the management of IP address space and the recognition of new RIRs, and [appoints Directors](#) to serve in the ASO's two seats (Seat 9 and Seat 10) on the ICANN Board.

Each of the five RIRs appoints three members to the ASO AC. Each RIR's community appoints two members and one member is appointed by the RIR's Executive Board.

While similar in name, the ASO and the ASO AC are distinct groups and have separate responsibilities.

- **Global Policies on Internet Number Resources**

Global policies govern how Public Technical Identifiers ([PTI](#)), the organization charged with performing the [IANA functions](#), issues Internet number resources to the Regional Internet Registries ([RIRs](#)). The RIRs then distribute these Internet number resources to their members according to the [regional policies](#) developed by their respective communities.



- **Updating ICP-2 Criteria for Establishment of New Regional Internet Registries**

On 25 October 2023, the Number Resource Organization Executive Council (NRO EC) [asked](#) the ASO AC to establish and manage a process to propose updates to the Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2) document, in consultation with each of the RIR communities, to provide the RIR system with greater accountability to the Internet community.

On 08 October 2024, a [first public comment](#) was submitted soliciting community feedback on the ICP-2 version 2 principles document. Subsequently, the ASO AC proceeded with a full version of a proposed revised ICP-2 document based on the feedback received in order to present that document to the same stakeholders for further feedback.

On 14 April 2025, the [public comment proceeding](#) on Governance Document for the Recognition, Maintenance, and Derecognition of RIRs was launched and set forth the

- Rules and criteria for recognizing new RIRs
- Operating obligations and requirements of RIRs
- Rules and criteria for derecognizing RIRs

In September 2025, the NRO NC developed a [Summary of Differences and Rationale for Changes](#) document to explain the major differences between the two versions, explaining why certain suggestions did not make their way into the second draft.

On 28 August 2025, the [public comment proceeding](#) on the Second Draft of the RIR Governance Document was launched and the proceeding closed on 7 November 2025. A summary report from this public comment is available [here](#). In addition, a [Community Input Report](#), prepared by the NRO, was published on 2 February 2026.

On 6 February 2026, the ASO AC published a [status report](#) about their RIR Governance Document drafting work.

If adopted by ICANN and the RIRs, the RIR Governance Document would supersede and replace the [Internet Coordination Policy 2 \(ICP-2\)](#).

Document Administration

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