

AFRINIC WEBINAR SERIES

Introduction to the AFRINIC Policy Development Process (PDP)

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AFRINIC
The Internet Numbers Registry for Africa



<https://twitter.com/afrinic>
<https://www.youtube.com/afrinic>
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AGENDA

1. Explain why resource policies matter.
2. Explore the AFRINIC Policy Development Process
3. Gain Insights into AFRINIC Policy Implementation
4. Explain how to participate in policy discussions





Understand the why of
resource policy

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

Bottom-up
self-governance
structure for setting
local policies

Procedure for
development of
resource management
policies

Open and transparent
procedures accessible to
all interested parties

Fair representation of all
constituencies within the
region

Annual policy
development meeting
and public archived
mailing lists for policy
discussions

AFRINIC Internet Number Resource Policies

Internet Number
Resources Management
Policies

Guidelines for resource
management and
services offered by
AFRINIC

Developed by the
AFRINIC Internet
Community (PDWG)

Developed through the
AFRINIC Policy
Development Process
(PDP)

Implemented if they
reach consensus within
the community and
ratified by the AFRINIC
Board

AFRINIC Internet Number Resource Policies

Applicable to organisations
operating networks as
Resource Members

Applicable to organisations
planning to obtain public IP
Resources to connect
users/customers to the
Internet

Consolidated Policy Manual

AFRINIC Consolidated
Policy Manual

Repository of ratified
and implemented
policies

Evolves to adapt to new
situations and policy
proposals



Policy Development Process Steps

Policy Development Process

AFRINIC PDP

Historical development and updates

2004 - Transitional Process
2007 - Update.
Implemented in 2008
2010 - Update .
Implemented in 2010

Current version is a documented policy (Section 3.0 of the CPM)

Follows the bottom-up principle

Policy and amendments require consensus within the community and ratification by the Board

Policy Development Process

Steps for proposing,
deliberating, and
adopting policies

Based on rough
consensus

Each RIR has its own
process with similarities
& variations

The PDP Principles

Bottom-up
principle

Openness in
policy
development

Transparency
through
documentation
and accessibility

Fairness in
resource
distribution

Policy Development Process - Key Steps

Proposal based
on a problem
statement

Discussion

Consensus
Determination

Ratification

Implementation

Incorporated in
Policy
Manual(CPM)

Individual(s)
from AFRINIC
Community

Policy
Development
Working group

Policy
Development
Working Group | 2
Chairs

AFRINIC Board of
Directors

AFRINIC Staff

AFRINIC Staff

The Policy Development Working Group

Author a policy proposal

Discuss a policy proposal (agreements, merits, disadvantages, enhancements)

Online discussions (email address and mailing list subscription)

In-person discussions
(Public Policy Meetings)

May contribute in individual capacity or on behalf of their organisation(Resource Members)

The Policy Development Working Group

Chaired by 2 Co-Chairs
selected by the
community

Current Co-Chairs:
Vincent Ngundi (Kenya),
Darwin Da Costa
(Angola)

Supported by AFRINIC's
Policy Liaison Team
Madhvi Gokool & Brice
ABBA from AFRINIC

Conflict Resolution

In case of disagreement
with the PDWG Chairs
decisions, discuss with
them

Use of appeal
mechanism

Recall of PDWG Chairs

Roles of the PDP Co-Chairs

Moderate RPD mailing
list discussions

Determine rough
consensus in public
policy meetings

Initiate and terminate
final reviews of
proposals

Report outcomes to the
AFRINIC Board

Publish minutes of public
policy meetings

Building & Determining Consensus

Section 3.0 of the CPM

The objective of the PDP is to:

- Provide ample opportunity for participation and comment by all interested parties;
- Establish widespread Internet community consensus.

Section 3.4.2 of the CPM

- The Chair(s) determine(s) whether rough consensus has been achieved during the Public Policy Meeting.

Building & Determining Consensus

RFC 7282 (On Consensus and Humming in the IETF)

- RFC developed for the IETF, an environment similar to ours
- Provides a guide to building & determining consensus

Moderation of Policy Proposal Discussions

- Identifying objections & contentious issues regarding the policy proposal
- Tracking open issues yet to be addressed by the Author(s) and participants

Building Consensus

- Direct the PDWG towards the areas that are contentious
- Encourage participants to focus and seek consensus on such areas
- Ensure that concerns raised through the AfriNIC impact assessment are addressed

Building & Determining Consensus

- Determining consensus is a process
- Objective is to always aim for rough consensus, if not consensus
- Rough consensus is not built/determined through a VOTING mechanism
- Rather by ensuring that all objections/concerns are adequately addressed
- Look/seek consensus throughout the process (for each contentious issue)
- No VOTING mechanism applied at any point in time (avoid “vote stuffing”)
- 100 people for and 5 people against might not be rough consensus
If a minority of participants have a valid objection, that objection must be dealt with before rough consensus can be declared
- 5 people for and 100 people against might still be rough consensus
As long as there are no valid objections that have not been addressed

Process of Building & Determining Consensus

Moderate Policy Proposal Discussions

- Identify objections/contentious issues
- Track open issues that are yet to be addressed

Build Consensus

- Direct PDWG towards open issues
- Encourage PDWG to focus & seek solutions to these issues
- Leverage on impact assessment to address open issues

Determine Consensus

- Focus is to ensure that all open issues have been addressed
- Looks/seek consensus throughout the process
- No voting (to avoid vote stuffing)
- 100 people for & 5 against might not be rough consensus
- 5 people for & 100 against might be rough consensus

Public Policy Meeting (PPM)


Annual meeting for
policy proposal
discussions

Authors present their
proposals

AFRINIC staff presents
impact assessment

PDWG members in
attendance discuss
proposals

Outcome: rough
consensus or further
discussion



Gain Insights into AFRINIC Policy
Implementation

Implementation

Procedures
& Processes

AFRINIC systems
(WHOIS, myafrinic, RPKI)

Website/User Manuals

Implementation

Once concluded, applies to all Resource Members and organisations requesting for resources

Resource Members may receive notifications of non-compliance

Experience a change in behaviour when using the existing systems

Implementation

Timelines for
implementation in the
PDP

Community is notified if
additional time is
required at the time of
the impact assessment

Policy Implementation
Experience Report



WHY SHOULD
YOU CARE?

How to Form Part of the AFRINIC Community

Participation
through RPD
mailing list
subscription

<https://lists.afrinic.net/mailman/listinfo/rpd>

Review and
discuss policy
proposals

Guidelines for
participating in
discussions

Sharing
situations,
support,
opposition, and
enhancements

Why should you participate in the PDP?

Opportunity to contribute to and propose policies

Fixing network operator problems through consensus

Compliance with implemented policies is crucial

Ensure proper resource management to avoid delays

Avoid Learning about policies at the time of submitting resource requests

Have a better understanding error messages and non-compliance notifications

Global Policies

Governance of issuing
Internet number
resources by PTI

Discussing global
policies at each RIR

Documented on NRO
website

<https://www.nro.net/policy/global/>

Policies that Have Reached Consensus

#	Proposal Summary	Draft	ID	Date	Status	Remarks
1	AFRINIC Number Resources Transfer Policy	D3	AFPUB-2020-GEN-006-DRAFT03	2021 Nov 22	Consensus	Awaiting Ratification by Board
2	RPKI ROAs for Unallocated and Unassigned AFRINIC Address Space	D3	AFPUB-2019-GEN-006-DRAFT03	2021 Apr 19	Ratified	Awaiting Implementation
3	Abuse Contact Policy Update	D7	AFPUB-2018-GEN-001-DRAFT07	2021 May 17	Consensus	Awaiting Ratification by Board
4	Policy Compliance Dashboard	D2	AFPUB-2021-GEN-003-DRAFT02	2021 Nov 9	Consensus	Awaiting Ratification by Board

Poll questions

- In which year was the first AFRINIC PPM held? 2002/2004/2005/2006 (at the end of slide 21)
- Where was the first AFRINIC PPM held ? South Africa, Egypt/Senegal (at the end of slide 21)
- In which year was the first resource policy developed? 2000/2004/2005/2006 ((at the end of slide 21)
- Is consensus a vote ? Yes/NO (at the end of slide 21)
- Are you currently subscribed to the rpd mailing list? yes/no (at the end of slide 30)
- If not subscribed, do you plan on joining the rpd mailing list? yes/no (at the end of slide 30)

Thank You For Your Support and Attention.

Should you have any question in this
regard,
please feel free to contact us

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