



NRO NC

RIPE 90 BoF

Keeping Up With the Times: Updating ICP-2

12 May 2025

Overview

- ICP-2 Review: Background, Process and Timeline
- The Principles Consultation
- Introducing the draft “RIR Governance Document”
- Open Discussion

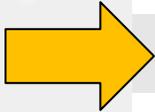
What is ICP-2?

- Internet Coordination Policy 2
- Document that provides criteria for recognizing new RIRs
 - Examples
 - Sufficiently large proposed service region
 - Support of local numbering community
 - Technical capability
- <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/new-rirs-criteria-2012-02-25-en>

ICP-2 Timeline

(New RIRs under ICP-2)

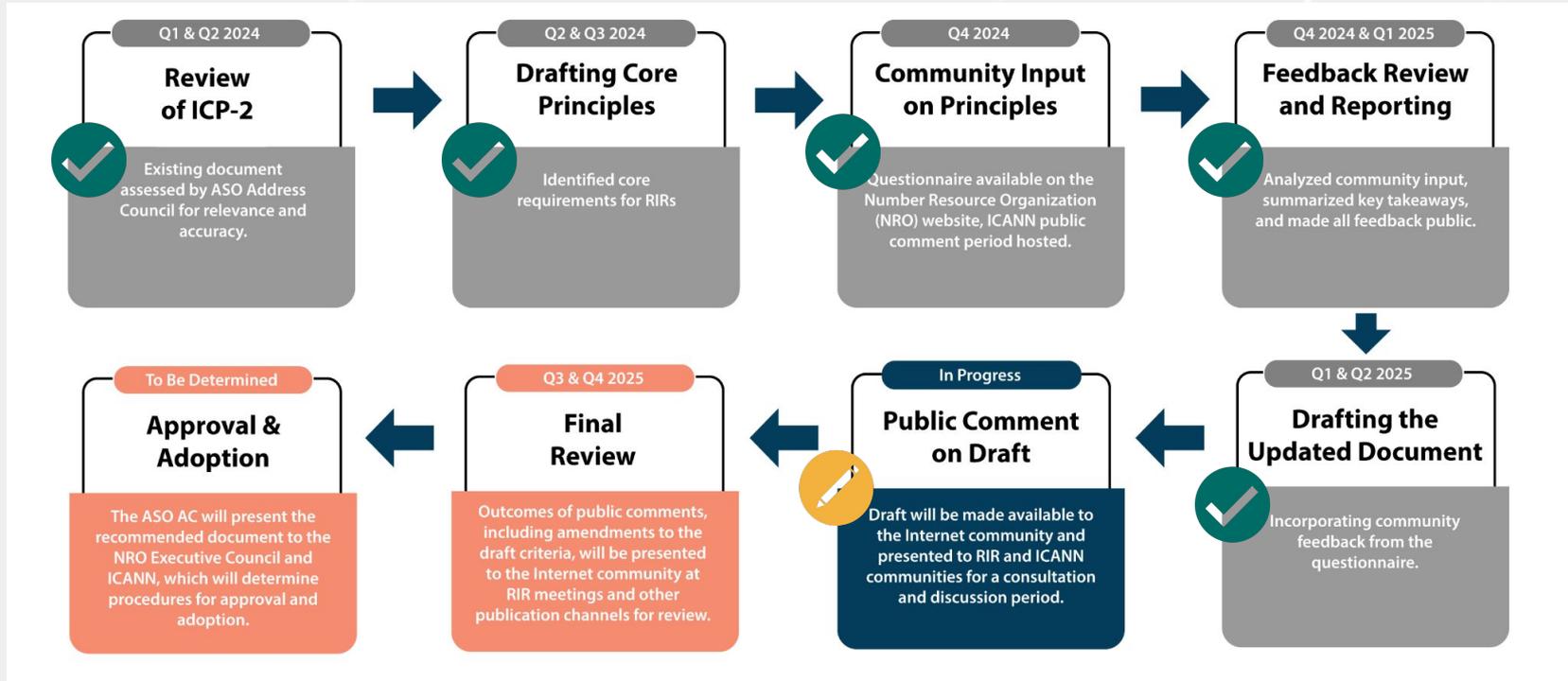
1992	RIPE NCC established
1993	APNIC established
1997	ARIN established
1998	ICANN established
2001	ICANN adopted ICP-2
2002	LACNIC established
2005	AfriNIC established



Why revisit ICP-2?

- 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 de-recognition of an RIR that can no longer adequately provide for the needs of its numbering community

ICP-2 Review Timeline



Proposed Principles to Update ICP-2 (*completed*)

Core Principles and Consultation

The ASO AC drafted proposed principles that would form the basis of updating ICP-2. The principles were shared with the RIR and ICANN communities for feedback from 8 October to 6 December 2024.

ICANN Public Comment: 14 responses received

RIR Questionnaire: 298 responses received

The responses were analysed, and a summary report of the RIR Questionnaire was published in February 2025. Input from both processes was used to inform the drafting of the document.

ICP-2 Principles Consultation Report



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

Authority

Any proposal to recognize a Candidate RIR or to derecognize an RIR must originate from the NRO EC after a majority vote in favor of the proposal. ICANN shall have final authority to decide whether to adopt the proposal, subject to ICP-2, provided that ICANN has first consulted with and given substantial consideration to the input of each RIR.

Summary of the comments received

- Comments in support of the principle highlighted the following:
 - There is a need for a balance of authority between the NRO EC and ICANN
 - The input from other stakeholders needs to be included such as RIR communities or the ASO AC, the GAC and RIR communities and members
- Comments also raised concerns with the principle, namely:
 - The role of the NRO EC needs clarity, there is the possibility of becoming gatekeepers
 - The existing RIRs might have a conflict of interest with the establishment of new RIRs
 - Giving ICANN the final authority could contradict the independence of the RIRs, ICANN might gain a lot of power
- Others felt that ICANN has a global oversight role and hence its involvement is appropriate
- The role of all stakeholders and the processes behind should be transparent
- Multistakeholder involvement of the RIR community is indispensable

Sample Comments

“This principle establishes a clear and balanced approach to RIR recognition and derecognition. It empowers the NRO EC to initiate proposals based on community consensus, while granting ICANN the final authority to ensure global consistency and adherence to ICP-2 principles. This division of authority safeguards the stability and integrity of the internet’s numbering resources.”

“A candidate RIR will emerge always for part(s) of any of the 5 service regions, so i see a clear conflict of interest in the ability of RIRs voting about it.”

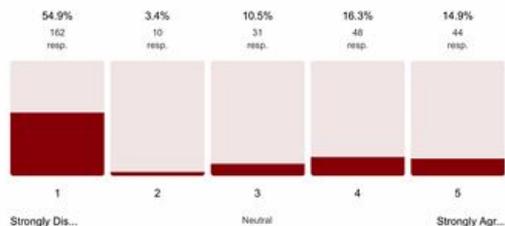
“Consensus among and within the RIR community under consideration should also be considered.”

Numerical Rating

Authority

295 out of 298 answered

2.3 Average rating



Incorporating Community Feedback

- All the comments received were **reviewed** and **categorised**:
 - Did they pertain to the principle itself, the phrasing of the principle or the future implementation of the principle?
 - The comments were clustered around the main issues they addressed e.g. the role that ICANN plays, concerns about due process, need to rehabilitate an RIR prior to a possible derecognition
- These concerns were **summarised** and **added to a working sheet**:
 - The NRO NC discussed the concerns raised
 - Depending on the feedback, we decided whether it was within scope and if we wanted to address it in the draft “RIR Governance Document”

How We Used Community Feedback in the Draft

- **Clarified** the role of the community - *an RIR decision implies a corresponding process that is necessary according to the RIR governance model*
- **Addressed** procedural concerns about the recognition and derecognition procedures- *added a provision for appeal and ICANN's review process respectively.*
- **Aligned** the requirements with common privacy and corporate governance requirements
- **Elaborated** where necessary to address questions about the principles

Input focused on implementation of the principles will be considered when developing implementation procedures.



Introducing the Draft “RIR Governance Document”

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

Draft “RIR Governance Document”



[https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/
rir-governance-document/](https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/rir-governance-document/)

The draft “RIR Governance Document” represents a comprehensive update to ICP-2, introducing detailed governance structures, operational requirements, and procedures for the full lifecycle management of RIRs, all developed through extensive community consultation. The draft document:

- Clarifies scope and lifecycle management
- Formalises governance structures
- Strengthens operational requirements
- Clarifies roles, responsibilities, and procedures

Clarified Scope and Lifecycle Management

Original ICP-2 (2001): Focused primarily on the criteria for the establishment of new RIRs.

RIR Governance Document (2025): Clarifies the scope to encompass the entire lifecycle of RIRs, including:

- **Recognition:** Criteria and processes for recognizing new RIRs.
- **Operation:** Ongoing obligations and requirements for RIRs to maintain recognition.
- **Derecognition:** Establishes procedures for the potential derecognition of RIRs that fail to meet specified criteria.

Formalisation of Governance Structures

Original ICP-2: Outlined principles such as neutrality, impartiality, and bottom-up policy development but lacked detailed governance structures.

RIR Governance Document: Introduces more detailed governance requirements, including:

- **Member-Controlled Governance:** Majority of an RIR's governing body must be elected by its members.
- **Corporate Governance:** Requires RIRs to adhere to good corporate governance procedures.
- **Anti-Capture Measures:** Requires RIRs to implement controls to prevent any single entity or group from gaining undue influence over an RIR.



Strengthened Operational Requirements

Original ICP-2: Emphasized technical capabilities and the provision of registration services.

RIR Governance Document: Expands operational expectations to include:

- **Audit Obligations:** RIRs must undergo regular audits by external and independent auditors to ensure compliance.
- **Transparency:** Requires comprehensive public documentation of governance, activities, and finances.
- **Continuity Planning:** Mandates procedures and redundancies to ensure service continuity, including the ability for another RIR to assume services if necessary.

Clarification of Roles, Responsibilities, and Procedures

Original ICP-2: Provided general guidelines while only implying the roles of various organisations.

RIR Governance Document: Clearly delineates responsibilities:

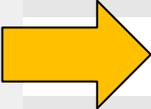
- **RIRs:** Must initially approve any proposal to recognise or derecognise an RIR.
- **ICANN:** Exercises final authority to approve or reject proposals, following consultation with RIRs.
- **Procedures:** Specifies procedures and approval thresholds for proposals.

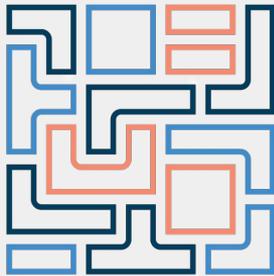
Guidance for Feedback

- Please share feedback that is specific to this draft
- We are particularly interested in hearing your views on the new requirements in the draft
- Whether the draft provides sufficient clarity regarding the ongoing obligations of an RIR and the remediation steps if the obligations are not met
- This document does not address the implementation of the RIR criteria; comments on implementation will be considered out of scope
- Constructive comments are highly appreciated

ICP-2 Review Timeline (reminder)

The Draft “RIR Governance Document” Consultation

14 April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft “RIR RIR Governance Document” published• RIR consultations in each region and ICANN Public Comment proceeding launched
 27 May 2025	Public consultation closes
9-12 June 2025	ASO AC will review feedback received
September 2025	The revised “RIR Governance” document will be published
Q4 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final review and revision of updated document• Begin NRO and ICANN approval and adoption process



Open Discussion