2025-January-21: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference

FINAL

Date: Tuesday, 21 January 2025, 11:00 UTC

Attendees

Executive Council:

Hans Petter Holen (HPH)	RIPE NCC	Chair
John Curran (JC)	ARIN	Vice-Chair
Ernesto Majo	LACNIC	
Jia Rong Low (JRL)	APNIC	Treasurer

Observers:

Nirmal Manic (NM)	AFRINIC
Pablo Hinojosa (PH)	APNIC
Jeremy Harrison (JH)	APNIC
Richard Jimmerson (RJ)	ARIN
Michael Abejuela (MA)	ARIN
Ignacio Estrada (IE)	LACNIC
Eduardo Jimenez (EJ)	LACNIC
Simon-Jan Haytink (SJH)	RIPE NCC
Athina Fragkouli (AF)	RIPE NCC
Hisham Ibrahim	RIPE NCC

Secretariat:

German Valdez (GV)	NRO Secretariat
Laureana Pavon (LP)	Minutes

New and Updated Action Items

New Action Item 250121-1: Each CEO to talk to their PACG teams to figure out the problem statement for incorporating the NRO, pros and cons, etc. and see if there is consensus on having establishment of the NRO as a priority.

New Action Item 250121-2: The EC to meet f2f with the PACG in Seattle, with the establishment of the NRO on the agenda.

New Action Item 250121-3: GV to make sure that this year's donation to the IGF is made well ahead of the meeting in Oslo, make sure that the NRO is recognized on the IGF website, and preferably get good placement in the IGF Oslo exhibition hall.

New Action Item 250121-4: Each CEO to provide the name of those who will be part of the project team preparing common messaging for both WSIS+20 and IGF Oslo. HPH to lead these efforts.

New Action Item 250121-5: JC to review if someone from ARIN staff can participate of the"How it works Session" during ICANN82

New Action Item 250121-6: GV to reach out to the GAC and offer to meet with them during ICANN 82.

New Action Item 250121-7: The EC to review the ASO procedures for Empowered Community Actions to see if they make sense or whether it would be better to have the option to make these decisions via email instead of holding a teleconference.

New Resolutions

R-20250121-1: The NRO EC resolves to approve the 2025 NRO budget |

R-20250121-2: The NRO EC resolves to support through the NRO budget the travel of the two ASO AC Vice Chairs to ICANN82

Agenda

1.- Welcome

2.- Agenda Review

3.- AFRINIC Update

a) AFRINIC Gift Cards

4.- ICP-2 | ASO AC Monthly Report

a) Update last developments in ICP-2 Review

    5.   **ASO Travel Approvals**

a) Approval ASO AC f2f Meeting ICANN83 Prague CZ

b) ASO AC Chair Participation ICANN 82 Seattle.

6.- 2024 Expenses and 2025 Budget |

7.- PACG Joint NRO Efforts Proposals

a) Proposal for Establishing the NRO |

b) Unified Messaging and Effective Collaboration on Competent Authority and Intellectual Property Rights Holders Engagement

c) WSIS+20 Positioning and IGF Oslo Coordination

8.- ICANN 82 and NRO EC f2f Meeting Preparations

9.- Handling Empowerment Community Actions

10.- RIR CEO Updates

11.- Minutes Review

- 2024-December-17: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2024-November-12: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
- 2024-November-11: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending LACNIC, RIPE NCC)

12.- Next Meetings

a) Tuesday 18 February 2025 Teleconference

b) 10-11 March f2f Meeting in Seattle USA (ICANN 82)

c) Tuesday 18 March 2025 Teleconference

d) Tuesday 15 April 2025 Teleconference

13.- Open Actions Review

14.- AOB

15.- Adjourn

Minutes

1.- Welcome

HPH welcomed everyone at 11:02 UTC.

2.- Agenda Review

HPH suggested changing the order of the agenda items to begin by discussing item #6 (2025 Budget). All agreed.

6.- 2024 Expenses and 2025 Budget

SJH ran through the NRO 2024 actual expenses and 2025 Budget, presenting the highlights while sharing the spreadsheets on screen. He noted that the goal for today is to obtain approval of the NRO EC of the 2025 Budget, which is based on the 2024 actuals.

At JRL's request, HPH explained the reason for the RIR voluntary contribution to ICANN.

The NRO EC discussed and adjusted various lines of the budget, and then the following resolution was passed:

The EC voted and unanimously approved the following resolution:

R-20250121-1: The NRO EC resolves to approve the 2025 NRO budget. |

3.- AFRINIC Update

NM shared that the Official Receiver has until June to hold elections for the AFRINIC board. The OR has informed members that the election will be conducted per the bylaws. Right now, everything has to be channeled through the HR manager, who is the point of contact with the OR.

HPH suggested inviting the OR to our meetings.

a) AFRINIC Gift Cards

Not discussed.

7.- PACG Joint NRO Efforts Proposals

a) Proposal for Establishing the NRO |

HMI said that the PACG had prepared three topics/documents to present to the NRO EC: 1) Proposal for Establishing the NRO, 2) Unified Messaging and Effective Collaboration on Competent Authority and Intellectual Property Rights Holders Engagement, and 3WSIS+20 Positioning and IGF Oslo Coordination. He then proceeded to go over the first of them.

EJ recalled that the decision to establish the NRO has gone multiple times to the legal team, as there are many legal implications.

HPH said that there is no rush for a solution, that the topic is simply being put on the agenda.

In JC's opinion, the political concerns that have been raised are primarily perception problems. Perception problems are usually addressed through communication and outreach, not structural changes. He does not see this as a pressing priority, perhaps the EC should take some time exploring the concerns that are driving this and possible solutions instead of jumping to incorporation as the right solution.

JRL replied that he likes to have things documented, so what we need now is to document the different aspects that must be weighed to reach an informed decision. If we document everything in the same place, we can go to our boards and say: "we looked at it and this is our recommendation." In his opinion, the starting point is good and it's worthwhile discussing and documenting the issue.

EM added that incorporation is a very complex project and would require much discussion and information. In his opinion, incorporation would be the project if we believe it is the best way to prepare/develop the system for the next era. So, having a discussion with the PACG is relevant, but not the main goal for this year. However, we do need to think about it in the long term, perhaps include it in our strategic plan.

HPH thinks that it's valuable to put the topic on the table again. He also agreed with JC's point about communication.

EM suggested that perhaps our staff require some clarifications and we can share common messages with RIR staff.

New Action Item 250121-1: Each CEO to talk to their PACG teams to figure out the problem statement for incorporating the NRO, pros and cons, etc. and see if there is consensus on having establishment of the NRO as a priority.

After having discussed this internally and among themselves, and considering that the PACG is meeting in Seattle, the EC can meet f2f with the PACG for an hour and talk to them about this.

JC observed that while he would not normally put NRO incorporation on the table without it coming up as a result of an NRO strategic planning session, but if the PACG is saying "we have a problem that we need your help with," we can't ignore that fact. We need to hear and understand what the problem driving the request is, and how we can help the PACG.

New Action Item 250121-2: The EC to meet f2f with the PACG in Seattle, with the establishment of the NRO on the agenda.

HPH added that, while the EC probably doesn't have time for a strategy review in Seattle, we need to go back to the strategy and see how we take it from here.

In response to the various comments, HMI clarified that documenting the matter is part of the PACG's call for action, that incorporation is not the top priority, that the top priority is rather getting the RIRs recognized for the role that they play in the ecosystems, which echoes throughout the other messaging. Part of this could be the communication element.

b) Unified Messaging and Effective Collaboration on Competent Authority and Intellectual Property Rights Holders Engagement

HMI then moved on to the second document prepared by the PACG: Unified Messaging and Effective Collaboration on Competent Authority and Intellectual Property Rights Holders Engagement.

 HMI mentioned the talk topics the PACG would like to focus on this year:

- The need for unified messaging and joint positioning (engagement with Cas, LEAs and IPR holders)

- Integrating PACG and PSCG efforts

- Moving beyond ICANN-centric Public Safety engagements

- PACG feedback and path forward.

JC agreed that the PACG should take on this work, try to produce some messaging and see if there is a common core among RIRs to agree on. It's very worthwhile and he supports this activity, but he doesn't think that the PACG should aim for 100% as we don't probably don't have 100% overlap in messaging and approaches among the RIRs.

After some discussion about the work of the PSCG and the PACG, EM observed LACNIC has a small staff, so the people are the same in both groups. Perhaps we could handle some public safety issues through the PACG, this is the situation for LACNIC. The main idea is that we have a coordinated approach to public safety

After some discussion, the consensus was that the PACG would take the lead on this.

c) WSIS+20 Positioning and IGF Oslo Coordination

As for the third topic and document (WSIS+20 Positioning and IGF Oslo), HMI shared that WSIS+20 is just a few months away so it's important to align our messaging and prepare in advance. There is value in creating concise handouts and cheat sheets for governments, written messaging to clarify the role we play and how critical it is for the Internet. Next steps: the CEOs should let the PACG who from their teams would like to participate in this effort and coordinate closely with the CCG.

HMI added that the RIPE NCC has agreed to take the lead on this effort by identifying and drafting key messages and will work on this as a project with the interested PACG members.

As for IGF Oslo, HMI noted that there is strong support for aligning objectives and exploring opportunities to participate as the NRO. Potential contributions include coordinating and submitting workshop proposals to the NRO, engaging in targeted discussions, and side events to reinforce our role in global IG. The RIPE NCC has volunteered to lead the coordination of these efforts. Next steps: the CEOs should let the PACG know who from their teams would like to be part of this effort and coordinate with the CCG.

For the record, HPH noted that the NRO does contribute to the IGF as the NRO, but that was not recognized on the IGF website prior to last year's IGF. To make sure that this year's donation gets in well ahead of the meeting in Oslo, he asked for the following action item:

New Action Item 250121-3: GV to make sure that this year's donation to the IGF is made well ahead of the meeting in Oslo, make sure that the NRO is recognized on the IGF website, and preferably get good placement in the IGF Oslo exhibition hall.

JC then noted that we need common messaging for both WSIS+20 and Oslo to make sure we are all saying the same thing.

HPH said he was happy to take the lead, but would like to have named participants from the other RIRs, not necessarily now, but he would like to have a project team explicitly out there.

EM suggested that the NRO could take advantage of having a Norwegian chair and have him be part of a prominent panel at IGF Oslo. This is something we need to think about and EM is happy to receive input from PACG on this.

HMI replied that last year we worked with the Saudi government to get some workshops on day zero at the IGF, the plan is to do something similar this year in Oslo. PACG has identified that it would be better to do submit proposals as the NRO rather than individual RIRs, particularly if we want to submit a workshop on RPKI.

New Action Item 250121-4: Each CEO to provide the name of those who will be part of the project team preparing common messaging for both WSIS+20 and IGF Oslo. HPH to lead these efforts.

4.- ICP-2 | ASO AC Monthly Report

a) Update last developments in ICP-2 Review

GV shared the latest developments from the ASO AC:

- The ASO AC has formed two specific working groups, one to analyze the responses received for the global RIR survey and the ICANN survey, the second to work on drafting the new version of ICP-2. Because of the tight deadline, both groups are working in parallel. Both WG are working with the support of the legals, and the target is to discuss this during APNIC 59 and have the document ready to present to the NRO EC in Seattle.

- The ASO AC will have their official f2f meeting on 28 February and 1st March 2025 during the APNIC meeting in Malaysia, where they will be supported by the CCG and the legal team.

AF added that the subgroup working on the report on the questionnaire wants to have something ready by 5 February and send a version to the EC by 10 February. Their goal is to have the report published one week prior to the APNIC meeting. The CCG is working closely with the AC on presentations, key messages, FAQs. We are also working on the procedure used for the ICP-2.

HPH noted that the RIPE NCC has allocated time for Ulka to help with this and he's asked if there is need for the other RIRs to contribute. If the other RIRs want to have a named staff member also working on this, please do so, as he does not want to monopolize this. Please discuss this internally with your people.

EM noted that the the CCG will meet in Malaysia and their main purpose will be to work on messaging related to ICP-2.

5. **ASO Travel Approvals**

a) Approval ASO AC f2f Meeting ICANN83 Prague CZ

GV explained that during their last meeting the ASO AC had suggested asking for the EC's approval for a second meeting during the ICANN meeting to be held in Prague in the month of June. The timing of this meeting fits in with their timeline for their work on ICP-2.

HPH recalled that the EC had already approved two ASO AC meetings for this year.

All agreed so this second meeting was approved.

b) ASO AC Chair Participation ICANN 82 Seattle.

It was observed that Hervé Clement had suggested participating along with his co-chairs, Nick Nugent and Esteban Lescano.

After some discussion and considering that this is a very particular year, all voted in favor of approving travel for the three ASO AC chairs to the ICANN 82 meeting in Seattle supported by the NRO EC Budget.

R-20250121-2: The NRO EC resolves to support through the NRO budget the travel of the two ASO AC Vice Chairs to ICANN82

8.- ICANN 82 and NRO EC f2f Meeting Preparations

GV spoke to the Schedule for the NRO at ICANN 82 Seattle while sharing it on screen and updating it live according to suggestions from the CEOs.

GV observed that he is now part of the ICANN planning group and hopes this will help improve the preparation of our work at ICANN.

HPH asked JC if he would like to volunteer to help with the How It Works session. JC replied that he will figure out who will be going and have someone do that.

HPH shared that they have material they use for the How it works sessions which was developed by Leslie and GV and was updated for Puerto Rico and Istanbul.

HPH suggested proactively reaching out to the GAC and offering them an update.

All agreed.

New Action Item 250121-5: JC to review if someone from ARIN staff can participate of the"How it works Session" during ICANN82

New Action Item 250121-6: GV to reach out to the GAC and offer to meet with them during ICANN 82.

9.- Handling Empowerment Community Actions

JC observed that we received an Empowered Community Approval Notice, did a consultation among all the RIRs, but failed to respond.

GV confirmed that we failed to have the EC meeting for the decision (required by our procedure). It was a combination of the beginning-of-the-year dates/holidays and not having someone on duty to keep an eye on that.

JC replied that the good thing was that the other empowered community constituents had approved it, so the threshold was reached, but he did have some questions about this. Empowered community acts an essential safety mechanism on ICANN governance, and we agreed to be part of that, so it's pretty important that we do a better job next time. Although it is not a big thing, we definitely want to fix it. He added that one of the other empowered

communities had asked him about this, so he apologized and said that it had been a logistical issue within the NRO.

HPH asked the Secretariat to make sure that Empowered Community actions and notifications are included in the Secretariat's standard items and suggested the following action item:

New Action Item 250121-7: The EC to review the ASO procedures for Empowered Community Actions to see if they make sense or whether it would be better to have the option to make these decisions via email instead of holding a teleconference.

At EM's request, GV shared the list of current NRO/ASO appointees to various ICANN groups and bodies: https://www.nro.net/accountability/aso-and-icann-accountability/participation/

10.- RIR CEO Updates

EM:

- Request: LACNIC is working on our strategic planning and normally ask our stakeholders their expectations. EM will email the others a brief questionnaire that LACNIC has already used in the past, as LACNIC would like to receive their opinion about how LACNIC can improve its work as an RIR.

HPH:

- We are starting the process for the next strategic plan, seeking to have it in place for the RIPE meeting in May 2026.

- Following the strategic plan, we are also looking at a five-year operational plan.

JC:

- The board has asked to have a 3-5 year strategic plan, which we are looking at doing starting in May (we've usually had yearly strategic plans).

- We're starting something similar to what EM mentioned (gathering stakeholder input).

11.- Minutes Review

- 2024-December-17: Minutes NRO EC Teleconference - DRAFT (Pending APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC)
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HPH suggested that those with pending meetings try to approve them

12.- Next Meetings

a) Tuesday 18 February 2025 Teleconference

b) 10-11 March f2f Meeting in Seattle USA (ICANN 82)

c) Tuesday 18 March 2025 Teleconference

d) Tuesday 15 April 2025 Teleconference

No issues were brought up with the dates above.

13.- Open Actions Review

Skipped for lack of time. HPH will follow up on this with GV.

14.- AOB

15.- Adjourn

After thanking everyone for going almost 20 min over the anticipated time, HPH adjourned the meeting at 13:19 UTC.