

Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Responses to CCWG WS2 SO/AC Accountability Subgroup Survey Questions

The ASO provides the following responses to the survey questions provided to it by the CCWG WS2 SO/AC Accountability Subgroup. These responses are provided solely in the scope of the ASO function, as performed by the NRO Numbers Council (NRO NC), as it relates to ICANN and the ASO's accountability with regards to that function.

1) Designated Community:

What is your interpretation of the designated community for your AC/SO, as defined in the ICANN Bylaws and shown below? For example, do you view your designated community more broadly or narrowly than the Bylaws definition?

The designated community of each AC/SO, as defined in ICANN bylaws:

ALAC is "the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual internet users"

ASO is "the entity established by the Memorandum of Understanding [2004] between ICANN and the Number Resource Organization ("NRO"), an organization of the existing RIRs"

ccNSO is "ccTLD managers that have agreed to be members of ccNSO"

GAC is "open to all national governments (and Distinct Economies upon invitation)"

GNSO is "Open to registries, registrars, commercial stakeholders (BC, IPC, ISPCP), and non-commercial stakeholders"

RSSAC "members shall be appointed by the Board" to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System"

SSAC members are "appointed by ICANN board" to "advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems."

ASO Response: The ASO is as defined as above; however, the designated community for the ASO is the overall Numbers community which is open and inclusive of any entity or individual that wishes to participate in the Numbers community and the Global Policy Development Process (GPDP). As the GPDP by its nature includes engagement of the Numbers community at the five RIR regions respectively, see: <https://www.nro.net/about-the-nro/rir-accountability#141>.

2) Accountability related policies and procedures:

What are the published policies and procedures by which your AC/SO is accountable to the designated community that you serve? Please include, as applicable:

Your policies and efforts in outreach to individuals and organizations in your designated community who do not yet participate in your AC/SO

ASO Response:

Anybody who would like to be involved with the Internet number resource community in their respective region is welcome to suggest or comment on global policy proposals, be elected to serve on the ASO Address Council (ASO AC), or vote in elections. Anyone is welcome to attend ICANN meetings and come to the ASO session(s). Anyone is welcome to attend RIR events in person or remotely, and participate in policy discussions.

The NRO Number Council (NRO NC) performs the function of the ASO AC. For information on how the NRO NC is constituted, see <https://www.nro.net/about-the-nro/the-nro-number-council>

Further, for information on how members of the NRO NC are elected/appointed from their respective RIR regions, see:

AFRINIC: <https://www.afrinic.net/en/community/ig/nro>

APNIC: <https://www.apnic.net/community/participate/elections/nro-elections>

ARIN: <https://www.arin.net/participate/elections/nronumbercouncil.html>

LACNIC: <http://www.lacnic.net/en/web/lacnic/aso-nro>

RIPE NCC: <https://www.ripe.net/participate/internet-governance/internet-technical-community/nro>

In addition, for information on the individual RIRs, see the RIR Governance Matrix at <https://www.nro.net/about-the-nro/rir-governance-matrix>, specifically Section 1, RIR Bylaws and Operational Documents, and Section 2, Regional Policy Development Processes.

3) *Your policies and procedures to determine whether individuals or organizations are eligible to participate in your meetings, discussions, working groups, elections, and approval of policies and positions.*

ASO Response: The process by which the ASO engages the community is an open, transparent and bottom-up process; and therefore, any entity or individual wishing to participate in the global policy development process is free to do so. For information on the Global Policy Development Process, see:

<https://www.nro.net/policies/global-policies-development-process>

Also, please see the operating procedures of the NRO NC which is available at <https://aso.icann.org/documents/operational-documents/operating-procedures-aso-ac/>.

- 4) *Transparency mechanisms for your AC/SO deliberations, decisions and elections. Please describe not only your disclosure practices, but also any efforts that you make to explain the meaning of released material, so that they are more effectively transparent to a wider range of stakeholders.*

ASO Response: Meetings of the NRO NC are minuted and minutes of each meeting are available at <https://aso.icann.org/meetings/>.

In addition, the operating procedures of the NRO NC are available at <https://aso.icann.org/documents/operational-documents/operating-procedures-aso-ac/>.

To help clarify the work the NRO NC undertakes, an annual work plan is provided to the community. For the current year work plan, see: <https://aso.icann.org/documents/aso-ac-work-plan-2016/>.

To assist members of the community, particular newcomers, in understanding terms that may be used in disclosed material, a glossary is made available at <https://aso.icann.org/about-the-aso/glossary/>.

Further, to assist members of the community, particularly newcomers, in understanding the NRO NC, its processes, and how a community member can be involved in the GPDP, an FAQ is available at <https://aso.icann.org/about-the-aso/aso-frequently-asked-questions/>.

The ASO also maintains mailing lists for dissemination of information and engagement with the community. See <https://aso.icann.org/contact/aso-mailing-lists/>.

- 5) *Does your AC/SO conduct internal reviews of your accountability related policies and procedures?*

ASO Response: Yes, pursuant to the ASO MOU (<https://aso.icann.org/documents/memorandums-of-understanding/memorandum-of-understanding/>) which references Article IV, Section 4 of the ICANN Bylaws (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/bylaws-2012-02-25-en#IV>), the NRO provides its own review mechanisms for periodic review of the ASO.

For the current RFP related to the upcoming review, see:

<https://www.nro.net/news/request-for-proposals-for-consulting-services-independent-review-of-the-icann-address-supporting-organisation>.

In addition, see <https://www.icann.org/resources/reviews/org/aso> for information on current and past reviews.

Most recent completed report is available at <https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/ASO-Review-Report-2012.pdf>.

Furthermore, while not in the scope of these questions related to the ASO and the ASO AC function, please see that the individual RIRs have engaged in Accountability Assessment Reports (see: <https://www.nro.net/regional-internet-registry-accountability-assessment-reports>) and also provide a Q&A document regarding RIR accountability (see: <https://www.nro.net/about-the-nro/rir-accountability>).

- 6) *Were these policies and procedures reviewed and/or updated over the past decade? If so, could you clarify if they were updated to respond to specific community requests/concerns?*

ASO Response: The open, transparent and bottom-up nature of the Numbers Community and how the ASO engages the Numbers Community results in ongoing reviews and updates to policies and procedures with feedback from the Numbers Community.

- 7) *Mechanisms for challenging or appealing elections:
- Does your AC/SO have mechanisms by which your members can challenge or appeal decisions and elections? Please include any links where these mechanisms can be consulted.*

ASO Response: With regard to disputes or appeals of elections of members of the NRO NC, any such procedures are found at the respective RIRs' election procedures.

The process of decisions made by the NRO NC are available in its Operating Procedures document found at <https://aso.icann.org/documents/operational-documents/operating-procedures-aso-ac/>.

- 8) *Any unwritten policies related to accountability:
- Does your AC/SO maintain unwritten policies that are relevant to this exercise? If so, please describe as specifically as you are able.*

ASO Response: The ASO is committed to the open, transparent and bottom-up nature of the multistakeholder model and pursuant to this commitment, the ASO conducts itself accordingly.