

# ICANN

---

## Cover Letter for ASO Proposal

Submitted by ARIN, RIPE NCC, and APNIC

(July 23, 1999)

---

23 July 1999

Esther Dyson

Chair, ICANN Interim Board

Dear Ms Dyson,

We have pleasure in submitting to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) the attached proposal relating to the formation of an ICANN Address Supporting Organization (ASO).

This proposal is being submitted to ICANN by the existing Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), namely the American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN), the Reseaux IP Europeens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC), and the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC).

The proposal is the outcome of consideration of the role of ICANN and the role of the ASO and the Address Council undertaken by the RIRs, their Boards or Executive Committees, and their membership at large, and also includes the incorporation of comment arising from a series of ICANN-sponsored public ASO discussion meetings through the past 12 months.

There are a number of aspects of this proposal that we would like to draw to ICANN's attention.

- The proposal does not include the incorporation of a separate entity for the ASO. The mechanism proposed to establish the ASO is by the means of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ICANN and the set of ICANN-approved RIRs. In this we are following the organisational structures adopted with the DNS Support Organization and the Protocol Support Organization.

- The proposal envisions the ability of ICANN to approve further RIRs in the future, and proposes that such bodies add their signature to the ASO-enabling MoU following ICANN's approval. An appendix to the proposal indicates a number of criteria that we consider to be integral to an adopted process of approving further RIRs.

- The proposal establishes an Address Council as the means by which the ASO will conduct its business, and proposes that each RIR signatory to the MoU be permitted to appoint 3 individuals to this council.

- The Address Council is responsible for the appointment of three Directors to the ICANN Board.

There are a number of salient features of this proposal that we would also like to draw to ICANN's attention.

#### 1. Open and Transparent operation of the ASO

- The Address Council will host a General Assembly once per year, and will permit open participation to all interested individuals.

- All discussions of ASO business will be reported on a publicly archived mailing list.

- Meeting announcements, agendas, and minutes will be made publicly available in a timely fashion.

- Address Council members shall be selected following an open call for nominations of interested individuals to serve on the Address Council, using an open and transparent procedure.

- All communications between ICANN and the ASO will be made public on the ICANN/ASO web site.

#### 2. Separation of the functions of policy determination and implementation

- No member of staff of an RIR is eligible to serve on the Address Council or to be appointed to the ICANN Board.

- We note that policies of the existing RIRs are not determined by the staff of the RIRs, but are set by the members of the RIRs. The individuals involved in this process of membership-determined policy are not chosen through some random or arbitrary process, but are the duly designated representatives of their respective companies. Furthermore, these RIR policies include the holding of at least one annual policy development meeting, open to all interested parties to both observe and comment. In delegating functions and responsibilities to RIRs within the ASO,

control of any of the ASO functions is not being passed to a closed or unrepresentative process.

- We recommend such measures as being a vital component of ICANN consideration relating to the approval of any additional RIRs.

### 3. Industry participation

- We note that no additional means of Internet Service Provider (ISP) representation is provided within the proposed ASO structure. Given the open nature of participation in the process of policy determination, and the structure of the RIRs as a industry-based membership organisation, we are of the view that industry is well represented and, importantly, well balanced, within the RIR policy forums. Furthermore, we are of the view that any additional measures of inclusion of additional representation of any particular industry sector within the ASO has the potential to bias the operation of the ASO to assume positions supportive of only one sector of a broader constituency of consumers of Internet address space.

### 4. At Large Participation

- We note the explicit provision for At Large participation in the affairs of ICANN is through the selection of members of the Board by the At Large ICANN constituency. We also note the ability of interested individuals to observe and participate in the activities of the ASO and the Address Council through the General Assembly, the open nominations process, and through the open policy development meetings hosted by the RIRs. In consideration of these factors, no specific At Large membership of the Address Council is included in this proposal. However, we note that this does not preclude the processes adopted by the RIRs to appoint At Large nominations to the Address Council.

In conclusion, we recommend this ASO proposal to ICANN, and invite both ICANN and all other interested parties to consider and comment on this proposal through the adopted ICANN procedures.

Submitted on behalf of

the [American Registry for Internet Numbers](#) (ARIN),

the [Reseaux IP Europeens Network Coordination Centre](#) (RIPE NCC), and

the [Asia Pacific Network Information Centre](#) (APNIC).

by their respective Boards and Executive Committees.

---

[Click here for the ASO proposal submitted](#)

<https://archive.icann.org/en/aso/aso-proposal-23jul99-cover.htm>

# ICANN

---

## ASO Proposal

Submitted by ARIN, RIPE NCC, and APNIC

(July 23, 1999)

---

Proposal for an MoU-based Address Supporting Organization  
within the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

July 23, 1999

### 1. Definition of the ASO.

#### a. Purpose.

The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) will be a consensus-based advisory body within the ICANN framework.

#### b. Components.

The ASO will establish a "Address Council" and host an annual open meeting (known as the "General Assembly" (described below)).

#### c. Creation through a Memorandum of Understanding.

Arrangements regarding the ASO are to be reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among ICANN and the group of ICANN approved regional IP address registries (RIR). RIRs are approved by ICANN and it is assumed that ICANN will insist that they must satisfy a set of objective criteria before ICANN will approve them. (see Appendix A) After ICANN has accepted a proposal for an ICANN ASO, including the RIR criteria, a meeting, open to all ICANN approved RIRs will be held to develop the MOU.

Additional RIRs may join in signing the MOU after they have been approved by ICANN.

## 2. The Address Council.

### a. Members.

Each RIR signatory of the MOU will select three [3] individuals to the Address Council using the following process:

(i) Annually the RIR will issue a public call for nominees to the Address Council at least 90 days before the RIR's policy meeting. Any individual can submit a nomination to the RIR.

(ii) The due date for this call shall be 30 days before the meeting.

(iii) The nominees must be individuals.

(iv) A list of all nominees who agree to run for the Address Council must be posted on the RIR's web page at least 15 days before the meeting along with a statement from each nominee who wishes to make one.

(v) Selection of the RIR's members of the Address Council will be made via an open and transparent procedure. The individuals selected for the Address Council must not be staff members of the RIR.

### b. Term.

The term of Address Council members will be 3 years. Removal will be pursuant to procedures established through the MOU. (Initial terms will be 1, 2 and 3 years to provide initial conditions for staggered terms.)

### c. Powers/Duties of the Address Council.

#### i Appointment of ICANN Directors.

The Address Council is responsible for the selection of three [3] Directors to the ICANN Board (By-laws, Art. V, Sec. 4(iii)). The initial directors would have terms of 1, 2 and 3 years (By-laws, Art. V, Sec. 9(d) Ninety days prior to the General Assembly meeting ICANN and the Address

Council will conduct an open call for nominations for any potentially open ASO seats on the ICANN board. The list of nominees generated by this call will be posted on the ICANN/ASO web site and retained until the next General Assembly meeting and will be included in the list of individuals that the Address Council will consider to fill any openings which arise in the ASO seats on the ICANN board. In addition, each RIR signatory to the MOU is entitled to nominate candidates by procedures of its own choosing. ICANN will notify the Address Council when there are any open positions in the ASO seats on the ICANN board. The Address Council will then select the ASO appointees to the ICANN board from among the list of nominees generated by the open call and the nominees put forth by the RIR signatories by a means of its own choosing.

ii Qualifications of ICANN Directors.

a) No more than 1 ASO-appointed Director may come from the same geographic region. (This proposal assumes the regions defined in the ICANN by-laws.)

b) No ASO-appointed Director may serve simultaneously on the Address Council.

iii Role of ICANN Directors.

The Directors appointed by the Address Council will not represent the ASO on the Board, but will function as full Directors of ICANN. (By-laws, Art. V, Sec. 8)

iv Advisory Role.

The Address Council will advise the Board of ICANN on matters referred to the Address Council by the ICANN Board. As per the ICANN By-laws, only matters relating to the specific responsibilities of the ASO (see below) will be so referred. This advice will be developed as detailed below for other policies.

d. Address Policy Development.

The ICANN bylaws assign to the ASO the responsibility for the development of global policies relating to the following areas:

- i Definition of global policies for the distribution and registration of Internet address space (currently IPv4 and IPv6);
- ii Definition of global policies for the distribution and registration of identifiers used in Internet inter-domain routing (currently BGP autonomous system numbers); and
- iii Definition of global policies concerning the part of the DNS name space which is derived from the Internet address space and the inter-domain routing identifiers (currently in-addr.arpa and ip6.int).

The ASO advises ICANN on the operation of the DNS root name servers with regard to the subset of the DNS name space mentioned above.

Specifically this responsibility is limited to the above and does not extend to the business practices or local policies of the RIRs except as needed to ensure that the RIRs meet the approved criteria for ICANN approved RIRs. The RIRs are responsible to their own members and in most cases this must be their prime responsibility.

Normally, proposals for global policies within the area of the ASO's responsibility will be developed within the RIRs and forwarded to the Address Council for their consideration. In special circumstances the ICANN board can forward a request to develop a new global policy or to review an existing global policy within the area of the ASO's responsibility to the Address Council.

In addition the Address Council may accept, for consideration, proposals for changes to global IP address policy from any interested individual.

In all cases when the Address Council reviews proposals for new global policies or proposed modification to existing policies in this area it will first solicit the opinions of all of the RIR signatories of the MOU and of the public. The Address Council will weigh the results of these solicitations in its deliberations to determine if it will approve the proposal. At least two thirds of the members of the Address Council



must support a proposal for the proposal to be accepted and forwarded to the ICANN board for its consideration.

In any case where the ICANN board has requested that the Address Council develop a new policy within the area of the ASO's responsibility, the Address Council will forward that request to the RIR signatories of the MOU. The RIRs will then be given a reasonable time to propose policies to address the request from ICANN. Any resulting policy will be evaluated as described above. If a RIR decides, after reviewing the request, that the request is unreasonable, it can report that opinion to the Address Council. If the Address Council, after reviewing the responses, decides that the request is unreasonable or inadvisable, it can report that opinion to the ICANN board along with the reasons that the Address Council reached that conclusion.

### 3. Annual Open Meeting. (General Assembly)

#### a. Hosting an open meeting.

The Address Council will periodically host an open meeting ("General Assembly") for promoting discussion and receiving input regarding the work of the ASO. A General Assembly meeting will be held at least once per year, and will permit open participation by all interested individuals.

This annual open meeting will be held in conjunction with a major meeting of one of the RIRs that have signed the MOU, with an effort to hold no two [2] consecutive meetings in the same geographic region.

#### b. Selection of Address Council Members.

Ninety days prior to each annual open meeting, ICANN and the Address Council shall make an open call for nominations to any potential vacancies in the Address Council. The results of this call will be forwarded to each RIR signatory to the MOU for their information. Each RIR signatory to the ASO MOU will be entitled to select three [3] members of the Address Council using the process described in Section 2a.

### 4. Open Proceedings and Documents.

#### a. Communications between ICANN and the ASO.

All communications between ICANN and the ASO will be made public on the ASO web site.

b. ASO Proceedings.

All discussions regarding ASO policy formation will be conducted on or reported on a publicly-archived mailing list accessible through the ASO web site. The schedule for the ASO meetings will be posted 90 days in advance of the meeting date. The agenda for the Address Council and annual open meetings will be posted on the ASO web site at least 30 days before the meetings. The minutes from all ASO meetings will be publicly posted on the ASO web site within 30 days of the meeting. In the unlikely event that the policy formation discussions involve confidential commercial data that was presented in an address allocation process the above disclosures must be done in a way to protect the confidentiality of that data.

5. Review of MOU.

The MOU signatories will periodically review the results and consequences of their cooperation under the MOU. When appropriate, the signatories will consider the need for improvements in the MOU and make suitable proposals for modifying and updating the arrangements and scope of the MOU

6. Recognition.

ICANN will officially recognize the ASO described in this memo as the ASO under the ICANN By-laws Art. 6, Sec. 3

Appendix A - requirements for consideration as a ICANN-approved RIR

ICANN will develop requirements and policies for the approval of RIRs. This proposal assumes that the requirements will include at least:

- 1) That the proposed RIR has demonstrated the broad support of the Internet service providers (ISPs) in its proposed region of coverage.
- 2) That the region of coverage meets the scale to be defined by ICANN considering the need to avoid global address space fragmentation.

- 3) That the proposed RIR's membership includes a significant percentage of the ISPs within the RIR's region of coverage which would get their address assignments from the proposed RIR.
- 4) That the proposed RIR has clearly defined procedures open to all interested parties for the development of its own IP address assignment policies and for the IP address assignment policies that the RIR might recommend to the Address Council for consideration as global policies.
- 5) That these policies include holding at least one annual policy development meeting open to all interested parties.
- 6) That the proposed RIR has clearly defined procedures open to all interested parties regarding ensuring fair representation of constituents within the region of coverage in the policy development process.
- 7) That the proposed RIR has demonstrable capability to effectively implement the RIR global policies referred to in section 2d of this proposal for the entire RIR's proposed region of coverage.