

**ICANN | ASO**

Address Supporting Organization

## **ICANN 86 | Webinar**

**RIR Governance Document: Approaching the  
finishing line**

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**Andrei Robachevsky**



# ICANN ASO AC (Address Council)

What is it?	The Address Supporting Organization (ASO) was established by ICANN to advise on Internet number resource policy
How is it organized?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 members (3 from each RIR region)</li><li>• In each region - two are elected, one is appointed by the RIR</li></ul>
How long do members serve?	Varies by region
What does it do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advises the ICANN Board</li><li>• Oversees the Global Policy Development Process</li><li>• Appoints two members to the ICANN Board (seats 9 &amp; 10)</li><li>• Appoints one member to the ICANN Nominating Committee</li></ul>
When does it meet?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly virtual meetings</li><li>• Annual in-person meeting</li></ul>
Focus of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Conduct ICP-2 Review process</b></li><li>• <b>Conduct election for Seat 9 of the ICANN Board</b></li><li>• <b>Monitor and support Global Policy Development Process</b></li></ul>

# 2026 ASO AC Members



Saul Stein\*  
(AFRINIC)



Kevin Blumberg\*  
(ARIN)



Alyssa Quinn  
(ARIN)



Amy Potter  
(ARIN)



Akinori  
Maemura\*  
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Nicole Chan  
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Devesh Tyagi  
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Esteban  
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(LACNIC)



Jorge Villa  
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Ricardo Patara  
(LACNIC)



Hervé Clément\*  
(RIPE NCC)



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Bürger  
(RIPE NCC)



Andrei  
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\* Appointed by RIR Board

# Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)



# Functions of an RIR

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- Manage and distribute Internet Number Resources:
- IPv4 and IPv6 addresses
  - Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs)



- Maintain directory services including:
- Whois, Whoas, and routing registries
  - Provide reverse DNS



- Support Internet infrastructure through:
- Technical coordination
  - Community-driven policy process
  - Training and capacity building

# The Number Resource Organization

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- The Number Resource Organization (NRO) is the coordinating body for the five **Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)**
- It serves as the Address Supporting Organization at ICANN
- Part of the Supporting Organizations (SO) since 1999
- Charged with reviewing and developing recommendations on Internet Protocol (IP) address policy and advises the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the operation, assignment, and management of IP addresses

# Why revisit ICP-2?

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

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

# ICP-2 Review Project

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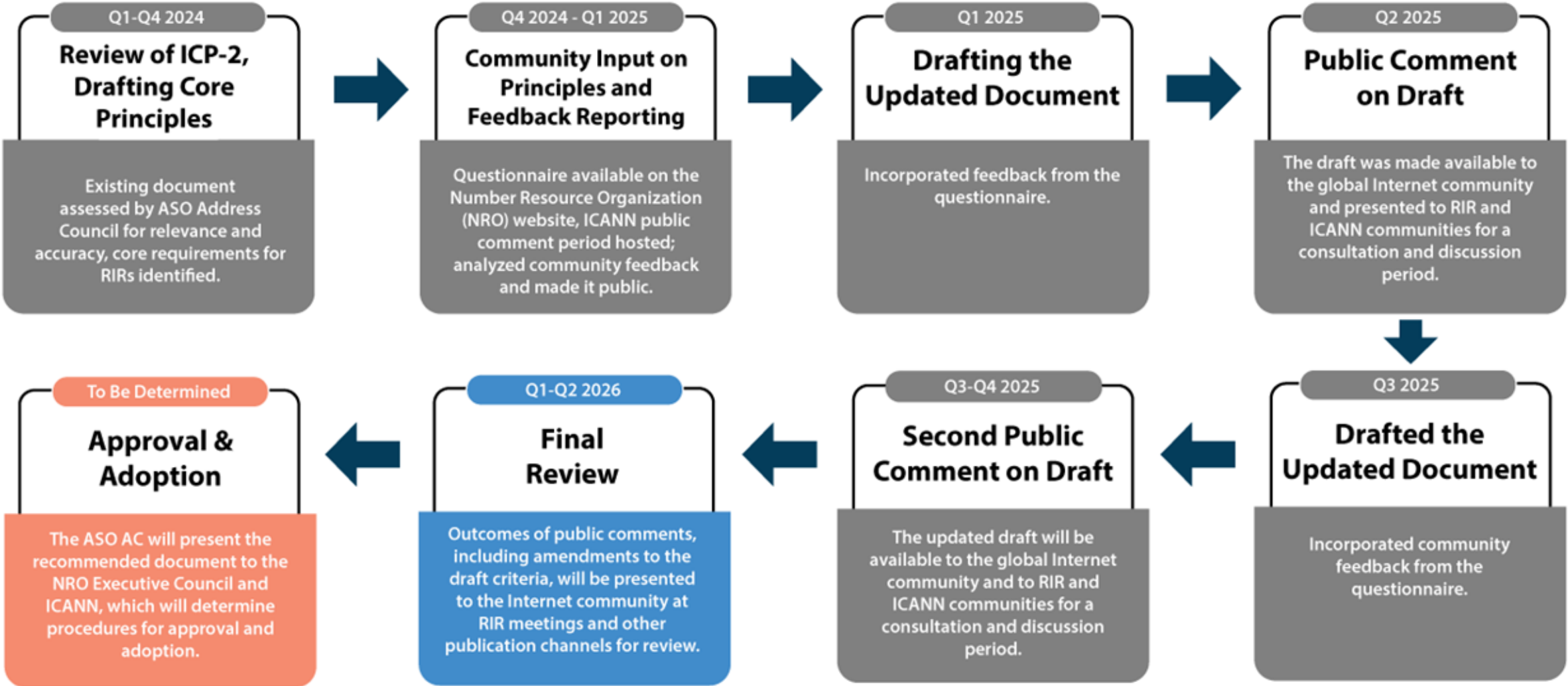
On 25 October 2023, the NRO EC\* asked the ASO AC to help with two tasks aimed at strengthening the RIR System:

1. **ICP-2 Implementation Procedures:** Review and advise the NRO EC on its draft procedures for validating and addressing ongoing RIR compliance with ICP-2 ('Implementation Procedures')
2. **Strengthen ICP-2:** Revise ICP-2 to make the RIR system more accountable to the Internet community

Read more about the NRO EC at: <https://www.nro.net/about/executive-council/>

# The ICP-2 Review Process Explained

In 2023, the ASO Address Council began reviewing Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2), which was developed in 2001 to set criteria for the establishment of new Regional Internet Registries. The review is needed to ensure the criteria remains relevant, accurate, and aligned with today's Internet landscape. Review of ICP-2 is an open and transparent consultation process, allowing participation from across the global Internet community.



# ICP-2 Review Timeline

8 Oct 2024	ASO AC published a proposed set of 24 'core principles' to be included in the next version of ICP-2 ( <b>'Principles Document'</b> )
8 Oct – 6 Dec 2024	Public consultation on the ICP-2 Principles Document
Dec 2024 – Feb 2025	ASO AC reviewed community feedback on ICP-2 Principles Document received during public consultation
24 Feb 2025	ASO AC published ICP-2 Questionnaire Summary Report ( <b>'ICP-2 Principles Consultation Report'</b> )
14 Apr – 27 May 2025	ASO AC published ' <b>RIR Governance Document</b> ' ( <b>Version 1</b> ) and launched community consultations
30 July 2025	ASO AC published ' <b>RIR Governance Document</b> ' <b>First Consultation Summary Report</b>
28 Aug – 7 Nov 2025	ASO AC published ' <b>RIR Governance Document</b> ' ( <b>Version 2</b> ) and launched community consultations
2 Feb 2026	ASO AC published ' <b>RIR Governance Document</b> ' <b>Second Consultation Summary Report</b>
6 Feb 2026	ASO AC published <b>Q1 Status Report</b> 'In progress' and 'In drafting'
<b>8 May 2026</b>	ASO AC published <b>Status Report May 2026</b> 'In progress' and 'In drafting'

# Core Principles and Consultation

- The ASO AC drafted proposed principles that would form the basis of updating ICP-2
- Principles were shared with RIR and ICANN communities for feedback from 8 October to 6 December 2024
  - ICANN Public Comment: 14 responses
  - RIR Questionnaire: 298 responses
- 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 'Governance Document for the Recognition, Maintenance, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries' (RIR Governance Document)



<https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/ICP-2-Questionnaire-Summary-Report.pdf>

ICP-2 Principles Consultation Report

# RIR Governance Document: Version 1

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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
- Formalizes governance structures
- Strengthens operational requirements
- Clarifies roles, responsibilities, and procedures



<https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/rir-governance-document/>

**'Governance Document for the Recognition, Operation, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries' (RIR Governance Document Version 1)**

# Version 2: Key Changes

- **Title:** Minor change to the title of the document
- **Preamble:** Expanded, explaining the goals of the document
- **Implementation Procedures:** Reference to separate 'Implementation Procedures' document that may provide further implementation details on any obligation
- **Recognition/Derecognition:** Additional protections in Recognition and Derecognition procedures for affected RIRs, including the possibility for a candidate RIR to be recognized on less than the unanimous approval of existing RIRs
- **Audits/Proposals:** New criteria for RIR members or ICANN to request ad hoc audits or propose derecognition
- **Emergency Continuity:** New 'Emergency Continuity' procedure to temporarily transfer an RIR's responsibility to an "Emergency Operator"



<https://www.nro.net/icp-2-rir-governance-document-v2>

**'Governance Document for the Recognition, Operation, and Derecognition of Regional Internet Registries'**  
(RIR Governance Document Version 2)

# Community Consultations

## RIR Communities and ICANN Public Comment

### Version 1

- Community Consultation 1:  
14 April – 27 May 2025
- Summary of comments report:  
<https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/RIR-Governance-Document-Consultation-Summary-Report.pdf>

### Version 2

- Community Consultation 2:  
28 August – 7 November 2025
- Summary of comments report:  
<https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/ICP-2-Round-2-Consultation-Summary.pdf>

# Second Community Consultation Feedback Review

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- NRO NC workshop held at LACNIC (Montevideo, Uruguay) to review community feedback
- All substantive issues are captured
- Q1 Status Report published to provide transparency and track drafting progress based on feedback received
  - Highlights topics still requiring discussion ('In progress')
  - Where an approach has already been agreed ('Drafting')
  - Those topics that have already been addressed or are out of scope and require no change



<https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/RIR-Governance-Document-Version-2-Status-Report-Q1-2026.pdf>

**Where are we now?**



# ICANN 85 activities

- GAC
- ALAC
- RSSAC
- ICANN Board
- ISPCP
- Two public sessions

Key concerns raised	Summary of response
Audit procedures, remediation timelines, SLA criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Governance document establishes high-level principles.</li><li>● Specific audit processes, timelines, and SLA-like criteria will be defined in the implementation phase.</li></ul>
Role, transparency, public interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Governments are recognized as important actors within the Numbering Community.</li><li>● Their continued engagement is expected and welcomed.</li></ul>
Multistakeholder governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● In the recognition and derecognition, and in the ongoing obligations the RIRs remain accountable to their members and the numbering community. Also, in the implementation of its responsibilities, ICANN will have to follow its own processes as necessary, which are multistakeholder in nature.</li></ul>
Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The governance document is global and high-level, applicable to all RIRs.</li><li>● Each RIR remains an independent legal entity within its own jurisdiction.</li></ul>
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● A “final version” of the final text is expected in Q3–Q4 2026.</li></ul>
Adoption and implementation of the document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Detailed processes, implementation steps, and resource allocation still need to be developed.</li><li>● Successful adoption and rollout will require close, timely cooperation between ICANN and the RIRs.</li></ul>

# ICANN 85 activities

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- Ten working group sessions to discuss the open issues
- Status Report May 2026 published



<https://www.nro.net/policy/internet-coordination-policy-2/rir-governance-document-version-2-status-report-may-2026/>

The ASO AC is planning to finalize the document by Q3 2026

# Topics 'In Progress' and 'Under drafting'



# Recognition Threshold

## Background

- **Previously unanimity minus one**
- Current version allows for recognition of a Candidate RIR with one dissenting RIR under certain conditions

## Feedback

- Conflict of interest among multiple RIRs
- Existing RIRs will be required to cooperate with any new RIRs
- Recognition process should account for effective coordination and cooperation
- Possibility that an RIR may be unable to act or take decisions on recognition

## Status: Decision

- Agreement that the process:
  - Should require a supermajority threshold (unanimity requirement is too strong)
  - Must consider possible conflicts of interest

## In progress

- Discussions ongoing on ICANN's role in the process

# Recognition Review (Independent Third Party)

## Background

- If the existing RIRs do not unanimously recommend recognition of a new candidate RIR, the candidate RIR may request an ICANN recognition review, potentially conducted by an independent third party

## Feedback

- The document should prescribe minimum attributes of the independent third party
- Whether the qualifications for the third party should be in the implementation details instead of the RIR Governance Document
- ICANN may wish to evaluate whether it wishes to use a third party

## Status: In progress

- Requires input in writing from ICANN clarifying their role in the process
- Lowering recognition threshold could remove need for recognition review process
- Under discussion with ICANN

# Emergency Continuity (Initiation and Renewal Procedures)

## Background

- Procedures requires unanimous agreement of all other RIRs and ICANN

## Feedback

- Concern that emergency measures could be extended without enough oversight
- Unanimity requirement may be too high
- Add clear criteria for extending Emergency Continuity procedure
- Concern that 90 days may be inadequate to recover from the emergency situation

## Status: Decision

- Simplifying initiation mechanism; threshold to initiate will not require unanimity
- Allows for affected RIR to initiate an Emergency Continuity for themselves
- No limit for renewals
- Text will allow the Emergency Operator to take a staged approach in providing the affected RIR Services

## In progress

- Clarification of ICANN's role

# Derecognition Threshold

## Background

- Can be initiated by:
  - Any RIR or group of RIRs;
  - A group of members of the impacted RIR (25% of RIR's total membership or 2,000 members, whichever is lower);
  - ICANN

## Feedback

- Range of comments:
  - Lowering the threshold
  - Anti-capture mechanisms added

## Status: No change

- Derecognition is final recourse and threshold is deliberately high

## Decision:

- No change to derecognition threshold
- Audit threshold separated from derecognition process

# Audits

## Background

- Can be initiated by:
  - Any RIR or group of RIRs;
  - A group of members of the impacted RIR (25% of RIR's total membership or 2,000 members, whichever is lower);
  - ICANN

## Feedback

- Range of comments:
  - Lowering the threshold
  - Anti-capture mechanisms added

## Status: Drafting

- Frequency of audits updated to once every five years
- Agreement that 'regular' audits and 'ad hoc' audits have a different scope
- 'Ad hoc' audit renamed 'Compliance Review'
- Definitions of 'Ad hoc' audit and 'Compliance Review' will be included in the next version

# Ad Hoc Audit (renamed Compliance Review)

## Background

- Reviewed criteria for initiating compliance reviews

## Feedback

- Balanced approach required to initiate compliance reviews

## Response

- Requests for compliance review must follow good-faith resolution efforts, clearly identified governance provisions, and demonstrate urgent, material issues

## Status: Drafting

- Criteria to request a compliance review will be specified

# Document structure

## Background:

- Same issue is addressed across multiple sections

## Feedback:

- Document is too complex and would benefit from restructuring

## Status: Under drafting

- Document will be restructured for improved flow and clarity

# Transition and Continuity

## Background:

- Smooth transfer of services and operations of Derecognized RIR to an interim or successor entity as directed by ICANN

## Feedback:

- Article should address transition in more detail, to ensure communities remained engaged during the transition and to protect the rights of affected resource holders

## Status: Drafting

- NRO NC will add text outlining requirements for a transition plan that ensures continuity of services and protection of resource holder rights

# Audit Obligations

## Background:

- Actions to be taken following an audit not specified in relevant sections 2.4 and 4.2

## Feedback:

- Document does not explicitly oblige an RIR to act following publication of an audit report

## Status: Drafting

- RIR obligations regarding audits to be clarified

# Derecognition (Audit as a part of Derecognition)

## Background:

- Derecognition process does not include an audit as one of the necessary steps.

## Feedback:

- Audit be a mandatory part of the process

## Status: No change

- Document requires an RIR to be audited no less than once in three years
- It is possible that the derecognition process is triggered after an RIR has already failed one or multiple audits – including an audit requirement could further delay the process
- Article 6.2 already creates an obligation to help and rehabilitate an RIR before any derecognition processes

# Derecognition (Rehabilitation as a part of derecognition)

## Background:

- Article 6.2 requires efforts to be made to rehabilitate a non-compliant RIR before derecognition, however rehabilitation is not listed as a step under the derecognition process under Article 2.3(b)

## Feedback:

- Need to include rehabilitation as a step in the derecognition process

## Status: Drafting

- Text will be amended to include the obligation to attempt to rehabilitate an RIR before further derecognition steps are taken

**This week**



# ICANN 86 activities

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- 15 working group sessions to finalize the RIR Governance Document
- ASO Information Session, Thursday, 11 June 2026  
14:45–16:00 (CEST)

Looking ahead



# ICP-2 Review Timeline (Upcoming)

## The revised draft RIR Governance Document Process

Q1 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status Report Q1 2026 shared at APNIC 61 and ICANN 85</li><li>• In-person working group to start drafting final version of the RIR Governance Document at ICANN 85</li></ul>
Q2 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status Report May 2026 shared at ARIN 57, LACNIC 45, and RIPE 92</li><li>• In-person working group to continue drafting final version at ICANN 86, 8-11 June 2026</li></ul>
Q3-Q4 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final version of the Document will be delivered to the NRO EC</li><li>• Final version presented in the RIR meetings and ICANN 87</li></ul>
Q4 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin NRO and ICANN approval and adoption process</li></ul>





Questions?

# Thank You