

Established in October 2003, the Number Resource Organization (NRO) is a coordinating mechanism for the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) to act collectively on matters relating to the interests of the RIRs. The NRO provides global industry partners and other interested parties with a single point of contact for communication with the RIRs.



## Goals

- To protect the unallocated Internet number resource pool
- To promote and protect the bottom-up policy development process
- To act as a focal point for Internet community input into the RIR system

## Composition

The NRO consists of the five RIRs. Each RIR's Director or Chief Executive Officer is part of the NRO's Executive Council (EC). The EC's five positions rotate annually. The positions in 2009 are: Chairman: **Adiel A. Akplogan** (AfrINIC); Secretary: **Axel Pawlik** (RIPE NCC); Treasurer: **Raúl Echeberría** (LACNIC); Members: **Paul Wilson** (APNIC) and **John Curran** (ARIN).

## NRO Mailing Lists

The NRO's activities are announced on the [nro-announce@nro.net](mailto:nro-announce@nro.net) mailing list. Anyone may subscribe to this list. Subscription information and information about other NRO mailing lists is available online at [www.nro.net/interact](http://www.nro.net/interact).

## Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)

RIRs register and distribute Internet number resources (IPv4 and IPv6 address space and Autonomous System (AS) Numbers) provide tools and services to their local Internet communities and work together on joint projects as the NRO.



**AfrINIC:** Africa

**APNIC:** Asia Pacific

**ARIN:** Canada, many Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the United States

**LACNIC:** Latin America and the Caribbean

**RIPE NCC:** Europe, the Middle East, parts of Central Asia

### The RIRs:

- **Provide services** related to the technical coordination and management of Internet number resources
- **Participate in Internet community** meetings and events
- **Operate as autonomous, not-for-profit** membership-based organizations
- **Facilitate policy development** by their members and the Internet community via open meetings and mailing lists
- **Are governed** by member-elected Executive Boards
- **Publish publicly accessible documents** about their activities

RIRs charge fees for services or membership, not for Internet number resources themselves. Internet number resources are a shared resource, available for use by anyone who needs them. Internet number resources are provided on a non-permanent basis for legitimate use.

The RIRs do not coordinate their fees. Each RIR community sets its own fees and charging schemes.

An RIR's membership generally consists of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telecommunication organizations, large corporations, academic institutions, governments and regulators.

## Policy Development

### Policy and the NRO

The Internet community develops and approves the policies that guide the distribution of Internet number resources. The NRO and RIRs facilitate this process of bottom-up policy development. RIRs administer regional policies and facilitate their creation using established and open policy development processes. Working as the NRO, the RIRs provide input to ICANN's Address Supporting Organization (ASO), which then reviews and develops recommendations on global policies for ratification by ICANN's Board of Directors.

### Regional Policies

RIRs operate in an open, self-regulatory manner, facilitating participation in policy development by any interested party. This ensures that the policies that direct Internet number resource management are defined by those who need and use the resources. The RIRs ensure that policies are consensus-based and that they are applied fairly and consistently. The RIR framework provides a well-established combination of bottom-up decision-making and global cooperation that has created a stable, open, transparent and documented process for developing Internet number resource distribution policies.

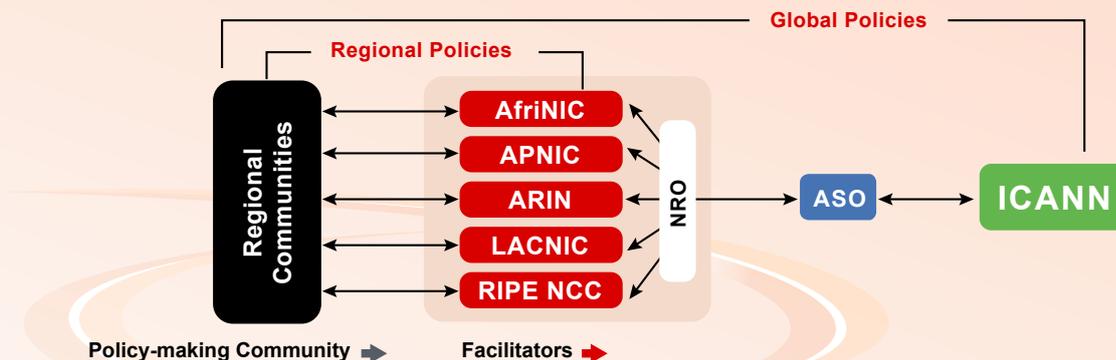
Any individual may submit a policy proposal. Each RIR holds public meetings where policy is discussed and proposals are developed. Public mailing lists allow anyone in the Internet community to participate in the policy development process even if they cannot attend the meetings. Each RIR's policy related documents are maintained on the individual RIR websites. The NRO publishes a comparative overview of all policies in use in the RIR system. This document is updated quarterly. To see the RIR Comparative Policy Overview, see

[www.nro.net/documents](http://www.nro.net/documents).

### Global Policies

Anyone may submit a global proposal. For global policies to be accepted, they must be ratified by each RIR community. The NRO Executive Council (NRO EC) then refers the coordinated proposal to the ASO Address Council (ASO AC). The ASO AC then reviews the process by which the proposal was developed and, under the terms of the ASO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), passes it to the ICANN Board of Directors for ratification as a global policy.

## Policy Development Process



## Community Meetings

Each RIR holds open meetings and member meetings within its region. Anyone can attend open meetings. Attendance policies at member meetings vary by RIR and are explained on each RIR's website. All upcoming RIR meetings are listed on the NRO website at [www.nro.net/meetings](http://www.nro.net/meetings). Upcoming meetings include:

- 5-9 October 2009: **RIPE 59**, Lisbon, Portugal
- 21-23 October 2009: **ARIN XXIV**, Dearborn, Michigan, USA
- 21-27 November 2009: **AfrinIC 11**, Dakar, Senegal
- 24-28 May 2010: **LACNIC XIII**, TBA
- 1-5 March 2010: **APNIC 29**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

NRO Home Page:  
[www.nro.net](http://www.nro.net)

NRO Statistics:  
[www.nro.net/statistics](http://www.nro.net/statistics)

NRO Memorandum of Understanding:  
[www.nro.net/documents/nro1.html](http://www.nro.net/documents/nro1.html)

NRO Mailing Lists:  
[www.nro.net/interact](http://www.nro.net/interact)

AfrinIC:  
[www.afrinic.net](http://www.afrinic.net)

APNIC:  
[www.apnic.net](http://www.apnic.net)

ARIN:  
[www.arin.net](http://www.arin.net)

LACNIC:  
[www.lacnic.net](http://www.lacnic.net)

RIPE NCC:  
[www.ripe.net](http://www.ripe.net)

ICANN Address Supporting Organization:  
<http://aso.icann.org>

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September 2009