Policy Development Process Documentation Review and Recommendations

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APNIC Policy Development Process Community Consultation
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Documentation review

- As requested by the Policy SIG Chairs and the APNIC EC

- At APNIC 48 and APNIC 49

- Review by an external consultant

- Policy Development Process (APNIC-111 v002) ✔

- SIG Guidelines (Unnumbered) ✔

- APNIC Internet Numbers Resource Policies (APNIC-127 v008) ✔

Review Scope

- Comparison with current practice

- Review of community inputs / proposals
  - Since APNIC 33
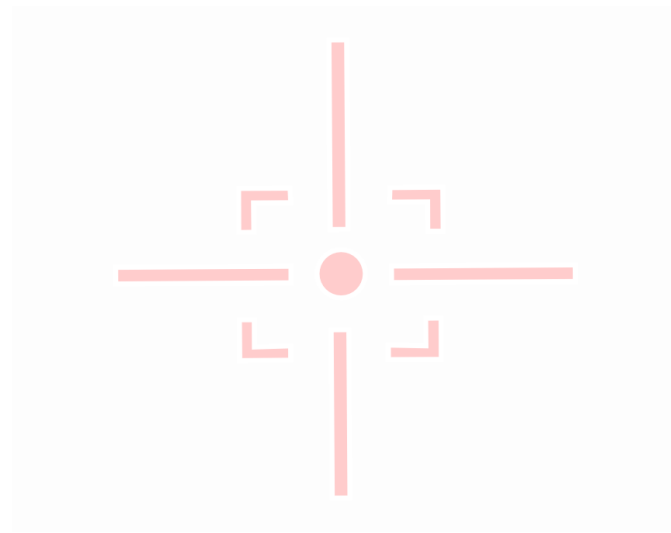
Output of the review

- Recommended changes
  - make documents match current practice
  - clean-up of typos, incorrect links, references and sections
  - restructure and renumber

- Review of undecided community proposals that would result in change to current practice

Changes to names

Original Name (used in current documents)	Current Practice (Recommended)
OPM / Open Policy Meeting	APNIC Conference
AMM	AGM/AMM
(Policy) SIG session / meeting / Forum	Policy SIG - Open Policy Meeting (OPM)

Changes to phrase

- The phrase "substantial objections" is used in the PDP

- Recommended to bring it into line with SIG Guidelines "major objections"

Who can participate in the PDP?

- Current documentation
  - Anyone may attend the meetings and participate in discussions and the decision making.

- Recommendation
  - Anyone with an interest in the management and use of Internet number resources in the Asia Pacific may attend the meetings and participate in discussions and the decision making.
    - In consistent with the Policy SIG Charter

Mailing list and remote participation

- Inclusion of mailing list discussions in the assessment of consensus is (and always has been) the current practice

- Use of Confer
  - Electronic consensus measurement is an equivalent to the physical 'show of hands'

- Recommendation
  - To make explicit that mailing list and electronic 'show of hands' is included in the consensus determination

Consensus Measurement

- An electronic participation platform is required to meet the accessibility expectation in the bottom-up consensus process

- Recommendation
  - To investigate a suitable platform for use of ongoing electronic consensus measurement
  - Secretariat staff explicitly excluded from consensus call
  - Provision for remote participants in the "show of hands"

General Agreement vs Rough Consensus

- Community proposal to adopt the "Rough Consensus"

- APNIC model being confused with IETF's "rough consensus"
    - IETF's discussion of technical solutions differs substantially from policy discussions. Noted at APNIC 38

- These two models are not the same
    - IETFs RFC7282: An unsatisfied person is not sufficient to break rough consensus
    - APNIC: An unsatisfied person with a "major objection" is enough to break consensus. The model requires that "everyone consents to the decision" and that it is "acceptable to all participants"

- Adopting the 'rough consensus' model may work for APNIC
    - Community must accept change to "major objections"

- Not recommended as an editorial change in the current document
    - Amendments would represent a change in policy

New version/withdraw/abandon proposal

- Community proposal to expire a proposal in "six months"

- In current practice
  - Policy SIG Chairs require an author to incorporate community feedback before re-presenting the proposal
  - New proposal text must reflect community feedback
  - Policy SIG Chairs decide to abandon a proposal after three (3) unsuccessful OPMs

- The recommendation is to adopt current practice

- Amendments would represent a change in policy

Consensus at the Member Meeting

- Some argue that the AGM/AMM consensus is redundant
  - Only one SIG (the OPM) decides policy
  - APNIC Members should not be given elevated status over the broader community

- Some Members argue
  - The APNIC Membership has a stewardship role
  - The second consensus is a desirable failsafe

- This issue is black and white: You either do, or you do not, require consensus in the AGM/AMM.

- The recommendation is to adopt current practice

- Amendments would represent a change in policy

Appeals Process

- Community proposal to adopt an "Appeals Process"

- The EC is not the correct body to overrule a Policy SIG Chair.
    - It might conflict with its responsibilities under the PDP

- Procedures for overruling a Chair already exist in the SIG Guidelines and PDP

- The recommendation is to adopt current practice

- Amendments would represent a change in policy

Recommendation for PDP document

- Simplify Table of Contents

- Reference Community Code of Conduct

- Include Chairs script for consensus decisions

- Move the following sections from SIG guidelines to PDP under Appendices
  - Basic steps in the consensus decision making process
  - Guidelines for presenting a policy proposal
  - Presentation outline (proposal template)
  - Guidelines for informational presentations

What's next…

- Call for editorial comments
  - APNIC Secretariat will release a public draft of the document and issue a call for comments
    - Announcement and drafts will be posted to
      - APNIC website
      - PDP document draft to Policy SIG mailing list
    - Comment period will be one month

Interested parties may…

- Object to the wording provided by the Secretariat

- Suggest further improvements to any aspect of the documents (editorial only)

- Request that an additional call for comment be made if substantial revisions are required

THANK YOU!