

## **APNIC By-laws Reform Consultation 2 – September 2025**

The EC held a [community consultation at APNIC 60](#) and via APNIC talk on the proposal to introduce term limits of three terms for EC members. Below is a sample of the feedback received from the consultation. The [recording and transcript](#) from APNIC 60 and comments on [APNIC-talk](#) are available on the APNIC 60 website.

### **Structure of term limits**

There was general support from those who provided feedback during the session for giving EC members the opportunity to seek re-election at the end of their three terms after a cooling off period of one year.

One community member considered that if terms are to be extended from two to three years, that a hard limit would be appropriate and was not in support of a cooling-off period. They noted that there are enough capable people in the APNIC community to perform the role of EC member and that APNIC should take a different approach to ARIN (American Registry for Internet Numbers) as, unlike ARIN, APNIC has National Internet Registries (NIRs), and some EC members are employed by NIRs.

There was also general support from those who provided feedback during the session for staggered exits of EC members from the EC.

### **Application to current and former EC members**

There was support from some community members for a phased approach involving a grace period of one additional term for existing EC members, or for existing EC members at or nearing the end of their term limit.

Some delegates from an organization in the community, as well as a community member commenting on APNIC-talk, supported the application of term limits only to terms served after the adoption of the new rules.

Two community members considered that waiting another nine years before the term limit applied to the existing EC members would push renewal too far into the future. There was also concern it would result in the loss of too much knowledge at the same time if all members stayed their entire term.

A community member expressed the view that it is difficult to find candidates with technical and service knowledge as well as sufficient institutional governance experience and that losing two or three EC members at the end their nine-year terms may have a significant impact on the organization.

### **ARIN's experience**

Bill Sandiford, Chair of the ARIN Board of Trustees, outlined ARIN's recent experience of introducing term limits of three years for members of the ARIN Board of Trustees

(Trustees) with a two-year cooling off period before they can stand for re-election. He noted that existing Trustees at the time of the introduction of the reforms could seek one further term if they were otherwise at or near their term limit. He sought to reassure the APNIC community that the ARIN Board has had time to prepare for similar reforms to those contemplated by APNIC as, although it has been four years since ARIN introduced the term limits, ARIN was only now experiencing the loss of its first board member due to the limits.

Bill Sandiford expressed the view that ARIN's reforms are expected to work as planned to bring renewal to its Board and allow existing directors to stand for re-election while making it clear that he did not have a view on APNIC's By-law reforms.

### **Other feedback**

A few community members considered that there should be more female participation and participation from small economies on the EC. The establishment of a nomination committee and perhaps an increase in EC numbers to assist with this was also suggested.

One community member suggested increased diversity should encompass broad diversity of thought and asked those in the community to encourage others to participate in meetings and become known by the community so they can be considered as future EC members.

In relation to the loss of former EC members' knowledge and experience, it was mentioned that the EC can encourage them to share their knowledge with the EC after they have left the role.

It was also suggested that a program for potential future candidates to learn more about the expectations of the ECs role would be helpful.